

# News from the Savannah River Site

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## Continuous Improvement at SRS Leads to Invention of New, Safer Equipment

AIKEN, S.C. February 2, 2015 – Upholding a long tradition of finding new and more efficient ways to work, K-Area employees at the Savannah River Site, working with the Construction and Engineering departments, created a new piece of equipment that reduces the exposure potential and manpower needed to move drums of nuclear materials.

“This is a great example of SRS employees designing a better and safer way to do their jobs,” said Patrick McGuire, DOE Assistant Manager for Nuclear Material Stabilization. “K Area routinely requires moving 9975 shipping packages (drums) from the ground onto metal pallets for storing and transporting. The challenges associated with moving drums that weigh 400 pounds caused facility management to look for a different option.”

In the past, drum carts were used to position a drum on the edge of a pallet, and then the drum was manually slid into place. In order to reduce manpower and safety issues involved with manually positioning these drums, K Area managers requested the construction department design and fabricate a drum-lifting attachment. Used in conjunction with an existing hydraulic lifting frame, the attachment raises the drum approximately four to five inches and sets the drum on a partitioned metal pallet, minimizing employee interaction and reduces exposure. The device also does not damage or otherwise compromise the shipping package/drum.

Construction employees took the requirements given to them by facility management and designed and



*Savannah River Nuclear Solutions created the pictured drum handler to reduce exposure potential and manpower needed to move drums of nuclear materials.*

fabricated an innovative lifting device that met all the facility's needs. Demonstrations have shown that the drum- lifting attachment will allow the placement of drums on pallets safely and efficiently with minimal effort required by the employee performing the operation.

During the fabrication process, engineering oversight was involved to ensure the lifting attachment met all technical and safety requirements.

*Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina.*

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