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SRS Shares Tech Innovation to Improve Environmental Cleanup across the Department of Energy

AIKEN, S.C. August 4, 2016 – Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC. (SRNS) continues to develop innovative technologies that improve safety, security and quality; and recently, the company shared one of those new technologies with the Department of Energy's (DOE) Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Portsmouth, KY to help improve environmental sampling methods.

The Environmental Compliance Sampling Collection tool was developed by SRNS' Environmental Monitoring and Information Technology (I.T.) groups to provide real-time data from SRS' hundreds of monitoring wells and sampling locations. This new technology scraps the pencil and paper method that has been the tried-and-true method of data collection since the start of environmental monitoring activities at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

"This new technology saves tremendous time in data collection and information sharing over previous methods. The time saved correlates to cost savings for the tax payer, it is a win-win for all," said Chris Bergren, Director of SRNS' Environmental Compliance and Area Completion Projects Division.

The Environmental Compliance Sampling Collection tool has been so beneficial to SRS that they are



SRNS' Ashley Shull uses the Environmental Compliance Sampling Collection tool to record data from samples taken at SRS.

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now sharing it with other Department of Energy Sites to help modernize business practices and save precious tax dollars elsewhere.

“Now that we have had the opportunity to develop this new tool, test it in the field and confirm its benefits, we are confident that this technology can be of benefit across the DOE complex, starting with the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Kentucky, where it is now being implemented,” said Bergren.

In a Department of Energy Memorandum from Joel B. Bradburne, Portsmouth Site Lead, he credits the DOE Savannah River Operations Office Deputy Assistant Manager for Infrastructure and Environmental Stewardship, Angelia Adams, for her support in ensuring that this new technology is being shared with other sites like Portsmouth, stating that the sharing of technologies across the DOE complex is invaluable.

The new system was also featured at the 2015 Waste Management Conference where it received plenty of attention for its innovation in the field of environmental stewardship.

“To sum up the benefit of this new technology one only needs to look at their smart phone. This new tool is essentially a smart phone for environmental samplers. We no longer have to take notes and go back to desks to transfer data into systems. Now, we are able to upload data wirelessly making the data available instantly, without ever leaving the sampling location. What’s more, we can print labels for samples from the device while in the field, greatly diminishing the risk of human error in logging samples,” said Bergren.

To date, the Environmental Compliance Sampling Collection tool has only been shared with DOE’s Portsmouth Site but Bergren believes its benefits could be useful across the DOE Complex.

“This technology translates into value to the customer and tax payer. Continuous improvement is an important element in remaining cost conscious and quality driven, and that is exactly what this technology provides to organizations who work in environmental compliance and stewardship,” said Bergren.

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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