

● OCTOBER 2013

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS

# SRNS Today

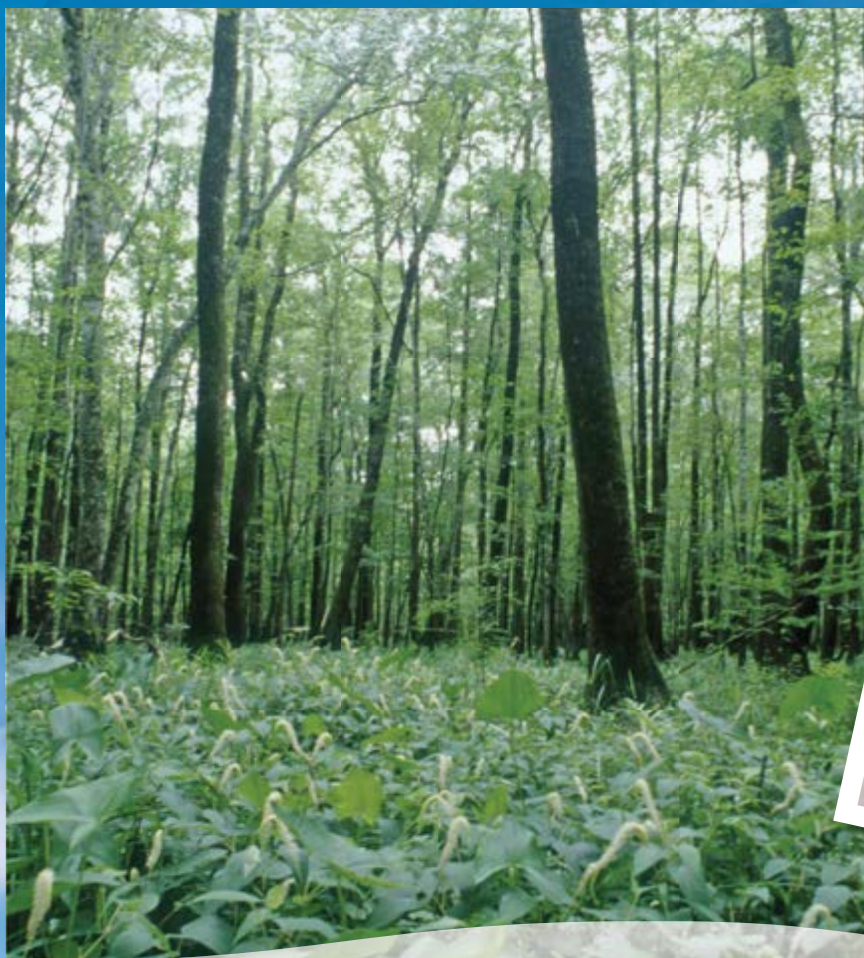


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### Savannah River Site Environmental Report for 2012

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC  
Savannah River Site  
Aiken, South Carolina

SRNS-STI-2013-00024

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# Welcome

to the October 2013 edition of

# SRNS Today



**Dwayne Wilson**  
SRNS President and CEO



October was a month of international recognition for Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, both in project management and in safety.

As you may have read in last month's "SRNS Today," our company was named as one of three finalists for the prestigious Project Management Institute's International Project of the Year award. Our entry detailed the massive American Recovery and Reinvestment Act project at the Savannah River Site. Although an Australian project won the award, it's outstanding to be considered as one of three contenders for this recognition. To view a video about this project, please visit [savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com](http://savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com), and click on the Project Management Institute story under "Top Topics."

In addition, one of our employees — Ernie Williams — received two silver awards from the "Ideas America" international competition. Both of Ernie's awards were based on his innovative suggestions submitted through the SRNS "IDEAS" program. Ernie's ideas improved the transuranic (TRU) waste remediation process and helped eliminate radiological exposure for our employees working on the TRU project. Although Ernie's suggestions took the honors at the competition, hundreds of SRNS employees submit IDEAs, thus making our workplace safer and more efficient.

I'd like to congratulate both the ARRA team and Ernie for their accomplishments.

I hope you enjoy this edition of SRNS Today. As always, thank you for your interest in Savannah River Nuclear Solutions.

## About Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC...

*Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell. Since August 2008, SRNS has been the management and operating contractor for the Savannah River Site, a Department of Energy-owned site near Aiken, South Carolina, including the Savannah River National Laboratory. The SRNS corporate and community offices are located in the renovated 1912 "Old Post Office" building in Aiken, S.C. The primary initiatives of SRNS are national security, clean energy and environmental stewardship. SRNS Today is published monthly by SRNS Corporate Communications to inform our stakeholders of the company's operational and community-related activities. If you have questions or comments, please contact us at 803.952.9584 or visit our website.*

[www.savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com](http://www.savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com)



# Innovative ideas

## SRNS employee Ernie Williams recognized internationally for IDEAS related to transuranic waste process improvements

**A Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) employee was recently presented two international awards during the 71st annual "Ideas America Training Summit" held in Orlando, FL.**

Ernie Williams received a silver level award in both the "Idea of the Year" and "Safety Idea of the Year" categories, providing SRNS with two of only 12 awards presented that day in four categories. Williams is a manager within the SRNS Radiological Protection Department and is currently supporting environmental operations in the H Canyon facility at the Savannah River Site.

"This is such an awesome accomplishment and recognition for Ernie and SRS," said Cynthia Boler-Melton, SRNS Continuous Improvement Manager. "To have a strong employee suggestion program and empower employees to creatively enhance safety and reduce costs is the backbone of a successful company. Ernie is a shining example of the difference that one employee with a great idea can make."

"There are about 20 co-workers of mine at SRNS who contributed in some way to this achievement. Without them, it wouldn't have happened. This really was a team effort."

**Ernie Williams**  
SRNS Radiological Protection Department

Ideas America is an internationally recognized, not-for-profit association serving professional managers and administrators of employee suggestion, innovation and involvement programs. It has been in existence for over 70 years. IA is the only association of its kind that recognizes member and non-member organizations through its awards program for innovative ideas that have been successfully implemented in the work place. This is the first time SRNS has participated in the "Idea of the Year Awards" with Ideas America.

"There are about 20 co-workers of mine at SRNS who contributed in some way to this achievement," said Williams. "Without them, it wouldn't have happened. This really was a team effort."

"The IDEAS Program has been heralded nationally as a Top 10 employee suggestion process by the Center for Suggestion System Development," said Brenda Kelly, SRNS IDEAS Program Administrator. "It has also won other national and international awards for performance, cost savings, and systems management. The program has accumulated savings and cost avoidances totaling more than \$220 million since it was implemented in 1998."



Ernie Williams

### Idea of the Year: Silver Award

#### Borescope Camera Use in TRU Waste Remediation

This IDEA eliminated the need to cut open transuranic (TRU) waste boxes by inserting a borescope camera through a small hole in the box, through which contents are inspected. This innovative process saves time and reduces exposure to radioactive materials, making the process safer for workers.

### Safety Idea of the Year: Silver Award

#### Absorption Media Mesh Bag for Contaminated Liquids

In the TRU waste remediation process, loose absorption media is typically used to absorb liquids found in TRU waste storage boxes. This material is spread over the liquid and allowed time to "soak up" contaminated fluids. Employees, dressed in protective clothing, then enter the high radiation area to remove the absorbent by hand. This IDEA is based on using a commercially purchased mesh bag to contain the absorbent. This bagged absorbent soaks up the liquid and then is removed by remote control using a crane, eliminating numerous safety and radiological exposure hazards for employees.



SRNS helps  
the show  
go on at the  
Carolina  
Theatre



Dr. Ann Carmichael, Dean of USC Salkehatchie, and SRNS President and CEO Dwayne Wilson, recently participated in the reopening ceremony of the Carolina Theatre, now part of the University of South Carolina Salkehatchie campus, in Allendale, S.C. Built in the 1930s, the theater and its marquee were renovated with the assistance of a \$90,000 contribution from SRNS.

SRNS employees donate to Golden Harvest Food Bank

SRNS recently donated \$20,500 in cash and more than 8,000 pounds of food during its annual food drive for the Golden Harvest Food Bank (GHFB). The SRNS food drive is one of the food bank's largest, local fund raisers.

"We're pleased to support Golden Harvest as they strive to end hunger throughout the Central Savannah River Area. With this donation, the employees at SRNS have demonstrated yet again their desire to continue to provide relief for those in need," Dwayne Wilson, SRNS President and CEO.

Wilson added that a significant percentage of the company's large workforce also volunteers time and effort to support many United Way member agencies throughout the greater Aiken-Augusta area.

Travis McNeal, Executive Director, Golden Harvest Food Bank, was pleased to receive the checks and food. "The poor economy has added an extra burden to our organization's goal to feed those in need," said McNeal. "SRNS's contributions greatly help us and always exceed our expectations. We appreciate the generosity of our friends at SRS."



SRNS President and CEO Dwayne Wilson (left) presents the SRNS campaign check to Cathy Jones, GHFB Special Events Manager, and Mike Gibbons, GHFB Chief Development Officer for Aiken County, while Tim Bolen (far right), SRNS executive sponsor for the campaign, assists.



Photo (left) Mary Booker, an SRNS safety engineer, proudly signs the SRNS 20 Million Safe Hour banner in celebration of the company's recent safety performance milestone. Photo (right) Rick Daggett of SRNS Information Technology, visits a booth hosted by the Local Safety Improvement Teams of SRNS Site Services and Project Management and Construction Services.

Annual Safety Expo offers SRS employees  
a day to renew their commitment to safety



Steve King of the Area Completion Projects Local Safety Improvement Team, entertained visitors while teaching them about personal information security, scams and phishing.

**More than 1,400 SRS employees took the time during October to sharpen their safety and security skills during the annual SRS Safety and Security Expo.**

Sponsored by SRNS, the event was held Oct. 1 and 2 at the Savannah River Applied Research Center.

More than 40 informational booths used games, brochures and demonstrations to attract participants and focus their attention not only on safety and security, but also on environmental stewardship and personal health matters.

Other topics included poison prevention, chain saw safety, theft prevention, Human Performance Initiative tools and cyber security.

In addition to the wealth of information presented, contractor employees were encouraged to register for a door prize—an Apple iPad Mini—also sponsored by SRNS.





Steve Wolfenden, a member of the Global Security team, demonstrates "Radiation Detection and Common Sources" to students from South Aiken High School.

## SRNL hosts students for National Nuclear Science week

In support of National Nuclear Science Week, 50 high school students participated in a visit to Savannah River National Laboratory. Students were given an overview of the history and current operations at the Savannah River Site, followed by the opportunity to interact with researchers from SRNL during a poster session. Dr. Steve Harris, a Senior Researcher at the lab, identified 10 fellow researchers to provide displays and give brief presentations on various nuclear topics. Students were able to ask questions of the researchers and discuss career options that might be considered in the nuclear field.

The SRNS Education Outreach Programs organization selected students from area high schools that have previously participated in the DOE Savannah River Science Bowl academic competition. These students have a demonstrated interest and aptitude for science, technology, engineering and mathematics and could potentially be the SRS workforce of the future.

Following the session at SRNL, students participated in a tour of the Site, including the MOX facilities and the Defense Waste Processing Facility.

## SRTE's Patton honored by Augusta Chapter of American Society of Safety Engineers

Sonya Patton, safety engineer for the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE), is a familiar sight around the Tritium Facilities. Her hands-on approach to safety leadership keeps her out and about in the facilities, watching and guiding personnel toward safety excellence.

That approach produces results: As of this writing, SRTE has surpassed 4.4 million hours without an injury resulting in time away from work, and Sonya has been named the Safety Professional of the Year by the Augusta Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE).

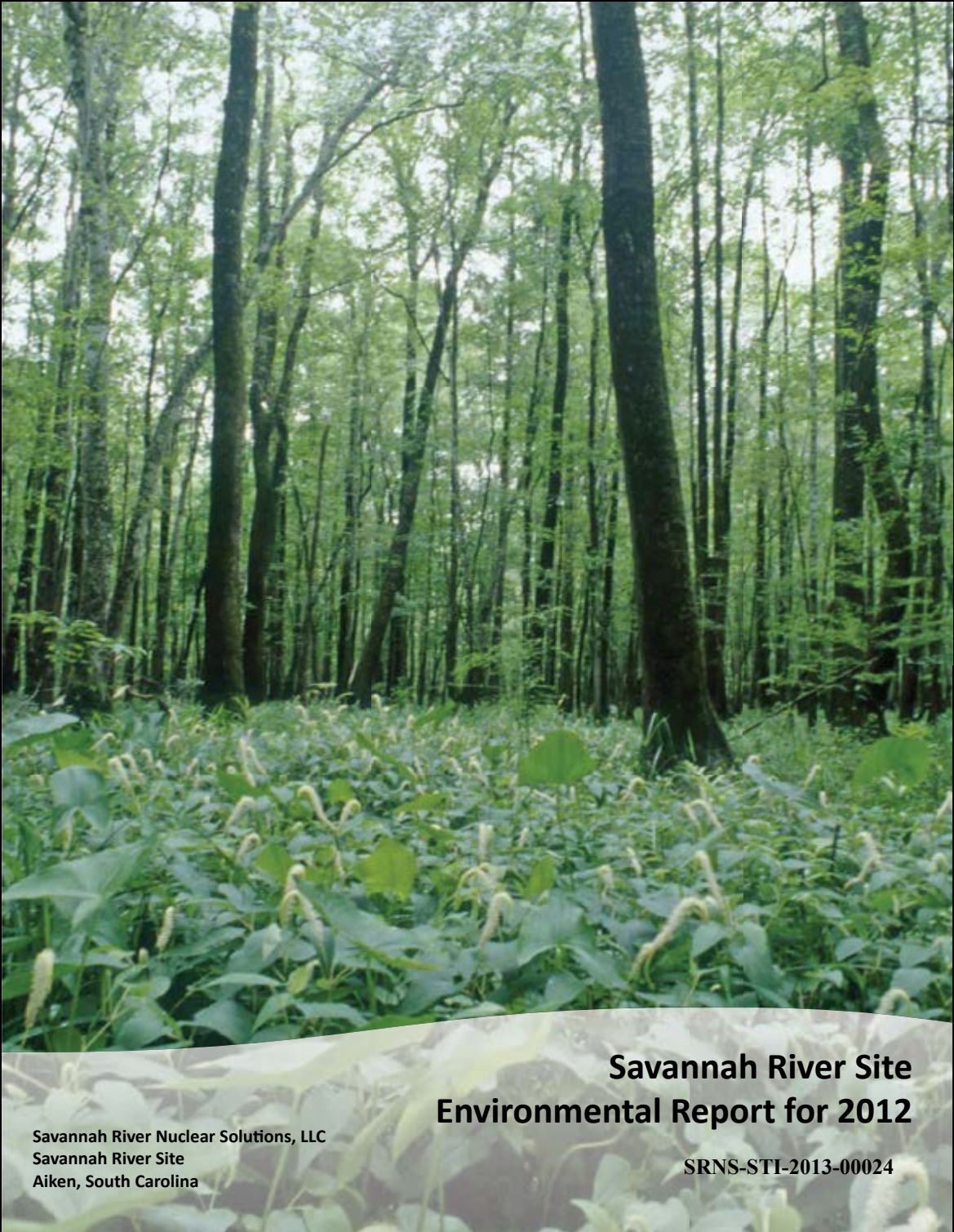
The award recognizes her expertise, her contributions to the safety profession, and her leadership in establishing, maintaining, and improving safety programs. Dave Potocik, SRTE's manager of Radiological and Industrial Safety, calls her a "dedicated, uncompromising safety professional, for whom safety of the worker is the highest priority."

She has served as a safety professional at SRS since 1990, with another 10 years' experience in the commercial nuclear industry prior to that. She is an active member and past president of ASSE.

The ASSE, founded in 1911, is the nation's oldest and largest professional safety organization. Its more than 32,000 members manage, supervise and consult on safety, health, and environmental issues in industry, insurance, government, and education. The Augusta Chapter, formed in 1983, has membership from 19 counties in Georgia and South Carolina.



Sonya Patton



# SRNS Scenes

Data on the Savannah River Site's environmental performance can be found in the Savannah River Site Environmental Report for 2012, which is available to the public and posted on the SRS website at: <http://www.srs.gov/general/pubs/ERsum/index.html>. SRS maintains a comprehensive environmental monitoring program on the Site and in the Central Savannah River Area. During 2012, the Site's airborne and liquid releases to the environment continue to show a long-term decreasing trend and are currently well below health-based standards with minimal impact to SRS employees and the public.



In the world of business, our business is

# safety and security.



Watching out for ourselves.

Watching out for our coworkers.

Focusing on safe and secure performance  
from complex jobs to routine tasks.

A world-class safety and security culture  
to support local, regional and national  
business opportunities.

**Savannah River Nuclear Solutions.**  
**Safety and security in action.**



Savannah River  
**NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS<sup>SM</sup>**

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