

● FEBRUARY 2026

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



# SRNS Today

**NNSA visits highlight urgency in SRS missions**



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## This month

Site ready to weather storms • Helping pay student loans • Engaging with Augusta University



**Jeff Griffin**  
SRNS President and CEO

# Welcome

to the February 2026 edition of

# SRNS Today

As the year progresses, I'm proud to reflect on the measurable progress SRNS continues to deliver across our mission portfolio.

### On the cover

Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and NNSA Administrator Brandon Williams visited SRS on Feb. 23-24. During his visit, he toured SRTE and addressed SRTE workers, congratulating them on recent operational successes.

SRNS was honored to welcome Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and NNSA Administrator Brandon Williams and NNSA Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs David Beck to SRS this month. Beck visited SRS early in the month to personally view the Site's progress toward pit production and emphasize the importance of urgency and collaboration between SRS and Los Alamos National Laboratory to accelerate this top priority mission for the nation. The Administrator toured several areas of the Site on Feb. 23-24, including SRPPF and SRTE, culminating in an address to Tritium employees, during which he congratulated the workforce on their recent operational successes. SRS is a proud NNSA site, and I'm pleased the Administrator got to see firsthand the amazing work we do each day to support the Nuclear Weapons Enterprise.

The Project Controls Central Group and Surplus Plutonium Disposition Project achieved Earned Value Management System certification, a significant milestone that reinforces disciplined cost, schedule and risk management across our largest capital efforts.

We are equally focused on workforce and industry partnerships. Small businesses received more than \$572 million in commitments, representing 63.3% of total procurements and exceeding federal goals.

These results reflect the expertise, accountability and commitment of the SRNS workforce to mission success. Enjoy this month's issue of SRNS Today.



Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor and HII partnership company, is responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, located near Aiken, South Carolina. The SRNS corporate and community offices are located in the renovated 1912 "Old Post Office" building in Aiken. 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 employees and other stakeholders of the company's operational- and community-related activities. If you have questions or comments, please contact us at 803.952.6131 or visit our website.

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### COMMON ACRONYMS

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) • Savannah River Site (SRS) • Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) Department of Energy (DOE) • National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) • Pit Production Operations and Programs (PPOP) Plutonium Disposition Operations and Programs (PDOP) • Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF) Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) • science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)

# Earned Value Management System certification:

## A milestone in data-driven project management

SRNS has reached a significant milestone, demonstrating its leadership in complex project management. After years of collaboration, SRNS' Project Controls Central Group (PCCG) and the Surplus Plutonium Disposition (SPD) Project achieved Earned Value Management System (EVMS) certification—a contractual requirement set by the NNSA.

The EVMS certification process is no small feat. This integrated system combines essential project elements—scope, schedule, budget, resources and risk management—into one cohesive framework. By facilitating data-driven, real-time decision making, the system ensures that projects stay on schedule and within budget, providing critical transparency and accountability.

Staci Peters, SRNS Senior Vice President of Business Services, expressed pride in the team's dedication. "Earning this certification underscores our team's proven ability to navigate complex projects with precision and efficiency," she said. "The PCCG's dedication and expertise continue to be a driving force behind our success."

The SPD Project was selected for review by the DOE for company certification, as it was the first of three SRNS capital line-item projects scheduled to achieve construction readiness. Since 2021, the SPD Project has been actively involved in the certification process, collaborating closely with DOE and NNSA to meet the rigorous certification standards.

Sam Formby, SPD Deputy Project Director, highlighted the collaborative effort, saying, "Countless hours and tremendous effort from many talented individuals across the SPD Project and PCCG made this certification possible. Over the past four years, the team has navigated significant challenges and always overcame them. Achieving this certification is a major milestone—but the challenge now is to self-govern to maintain the EVMS certification with the highest level of efficiency and effectiveness."

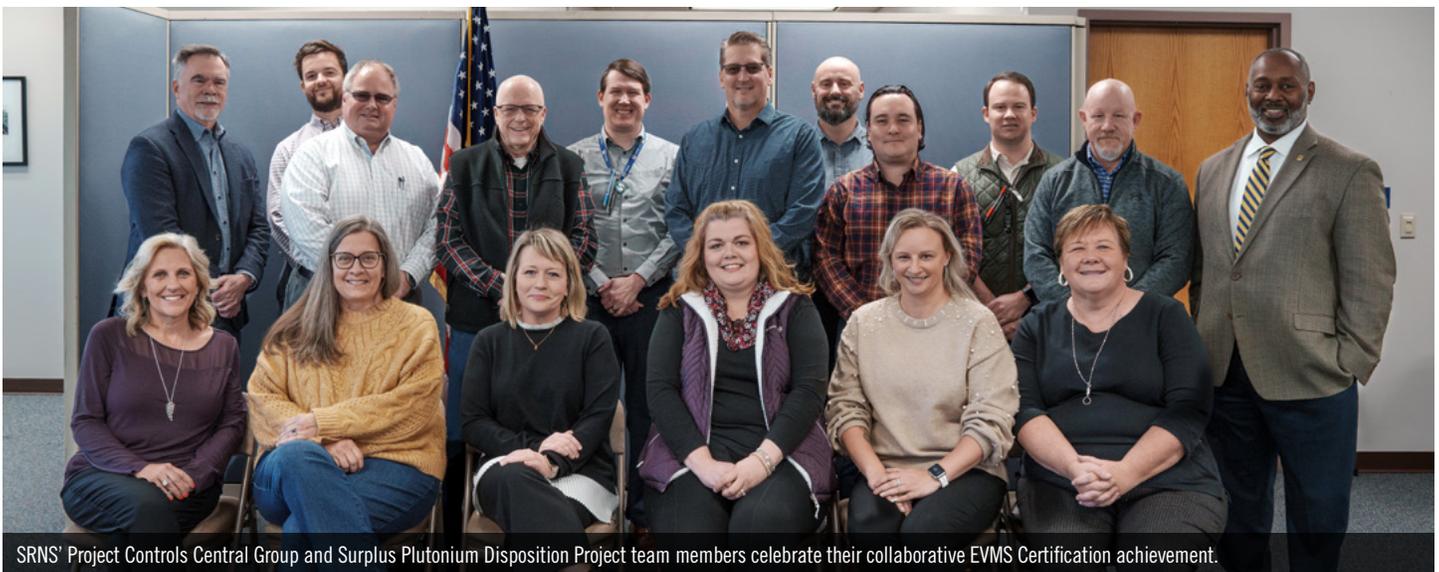


Jeff Griffin congratulates the Earned Value Management System (EVMS) certification team at their recent celebration.

A major breakthrough in the process was the development of an in-house Microsoft Access database by the SPD team, which improved data accuracy and compliance with DOE's EVMS Metric Specification by promptly addressing inconsistencies. Combined with enhanced baseline management processes and frequent, open communication among SRNS team members, DOE reviewers and NNSA staff, this innovation ensured alignment on objectives and data quality, ultimately enabling approval for construction readiness in 2024 and paving the way for SRNS' EVMS certification the following year.

"I'm very proud of the collective team effort that made this achievement possible," said Shannan Lucero, SRNS Project Controls Director. "Well done to everyone involved in this certification journey and thank you for stepping up to the challenge."

The lessons learned and best practices developed along the way have set a high bar for future projects—positioning SRNS to continue driving success on behalf of its partners and stakeholders.



SRNS' Project Controls Central Group and Surplus Plutonium Disposition Project team members celebrate their collaborative EVMS Certification achievement.

# Back in business

## The Site's chemical separations facility returns to uranium recovery

H Canyon is again proving its flexibility and capability to meet the nation's needs, as it switches missions from used nuclear fuel (UNF) dissolution and discard, to recovering uranium for national priorities. The project team also placed concrete for the +15 East slab in mid-February, six weeks ahead of the milestone commitment date. "As the U.S. reinvigorates the nuclear industry base, HALEU (High-Assay Low-Enriched Uranium) is key for advanced reactors and next-generation nuclear plant designs," said Janice Lawson, SRNS Senior Vice President of Environmental Management Operations. "HALEU powers these reactors, which in turn make electricity, a much-needed resource as demand continues to grow. H Canyon can produce HALEU from UNF, giving new life to valuable highly enriched uranium. H Canyon is the only facility of its kind, and SRS is again ready to address the needs of the country."

The recovery mission also supports President Donald Trump's Executive Orders on Reinvigorating the Nuclear Industrial Base and Deploying Advanced Reactor Technologies for Nuclear Security.

DOE has identified 26 metric tons of HALEU in the complex, approximately half of the current need. Most existing HALEU is from recovery and downblending of other highly enriched uranium, which includes material at SRS. H Canyon can produce an additional 19.7 metric tons of HALEU from the uranium contained in 80% of used



H Canyon

fuel stored in the SRS L Area Disassembly Basin and dissolved material currently in the canyon not yet transferred for disposition.

In a past mission, H Canyon dissolved UNF and recovered uranium to produce low enriched uranium for commercial power reactors.

"Producing the material requires facility modifications and the restart of processes," said Lawson. "SRS employees have the experience to get it done efficiently and safely."

Under the new recovery mission, UNF is dissolved in nitric acid, and the uranium is recovered by removing impurities through solvent extraction cycle operations. The uranium is mixed with natural uranium to "blend down" the material to the desired enrichment, then shipped to a conversion facility to be made into fuel.



Four of 11 walls are complete with partial placements completed for two additional walls.

## Solid progress

The Surplus Plutonium Disposition (SPD) Project recently completed the first of two concrete placements for the Dilute Process Area (DPA) first-floor walls. Four of 11 walls are complete with partial placements completed for two additional walls. Concrete placements have also been performed, supporting the future Material Control and Accountability Rooms and Glovebox Exhaust Stack Constant Air Monitor Pad.

These advancements are crucial for the SPD Project's broader mission, as the project will ultimately install three gloveboxes, glovebox rooms and associated airlocks within the existing DPA.

"The successful completion of the first of two concrete placements for the Dilute Process Area first-floor walls marks a significant step forward for the SPD Project," said Brandon Witt, SPD Project Director. "These milestones underscore our commitment to advancing this project while staying aligned with long-term goals and delivering on critical objectives."

# SRS responds to severe winter weather



SRNS Site Services Road and Grounds spreads Ice-Ban on the Site's cloverleaf in preparation for Winter Storm Gianna. Over 100 tons of sand were spread across bridges and steep roadways to improve vehicle traction and prevent accidents.

**T**he SRNS Site Services department implemented a proactive and comprehensive storm response strategy during recent severe winter weather, ensuring operational continuity and prioritizing safety at SRS.

From Jan. 31 to Feb. 2, Winter Storm Gianna brought two to five inches of snowfall, freezing temperatures and hazardous conditions to the area.

“Through careful planning, seamless coordination and on-the-ground execution, the dedicated personnel at SRS ensured the Site’s readiness to face Winter Storm Gianna,” said Randy Keenan, Director, Site Services. “Preparations began well in advance, with meticulous planning and resource deployment by Roads and Grounds and Heavy Equipment, tailored to tackle the storm’s multifaceted challenges.”

In preparation for Winter Storm Gianna:

- Over 10,000 gallons of Ice-Ban, a de-icing chemical, were pre-applied to roads, bridges, barricades, primary travel routes, sidewalks and building entrances to prevent dangerous ice accumulation.
- More than 100 tons of sand were spread across bridges and steep roadways to improve vehicle traction and reduce the risk of accidents.
- The Electrical Operations team deployed portable generators to all SRS fire stations to ensure rapid response capability during potential power outages.
- Site Fire Operations teams inspected and repaired heaters in sprinkler valve houses, isolated and drained vulnerable sprinkler systems and coordinated fire impairments with Fire Protection Coordinators.

Site Services also worked closely with Battelle Savannah River Alliance’s Atmospheric Technologies Group (ATG) and SRS Emergency Services to enhance readiness by leveraging real-time weather briefings, safety sessions and reviews of emergency protocols.

ATG meteorologists provided specific weather forecasts for SRS and the broader CSRA detailing the expected snowfall, freezing temperatures and wind chill values. According to the SRS



Dillon Crozier, Fire System Testing and Maintenance, isolates a post indicator valve.

Meteorological Monitoring Network, the storm brought snowfall of two to five inches in the CSRA, wind gusts of up to 40 miles per hour and temperatures as low as 16°F, with wind chill values between 0 and 3°F recorded on the morning of Feb. 1.

SRS Emergency Services led sitewide safety efforts by initiating severe weather planning and coordinating daily and, in some cases, twice-daily meetings to align resources. During the storm, this coordination enabled Site Services to maintain real-time situational awareness, monitor infrastructure, address road conditions and sustain Site security.

Day and night, dedicated crews worked tirelessly to mitigate the storm’s impact; and they cleared snow and ice from roadways, bridges and barricades to maintain safe travel. Facility inspections identified and addressed potential hazards swiftly, minimizing downtime and operational risks.

“Our teams’ readiness, professionalism and resilience ensured the safety of our roads, facilities and employees,” said Joe Solesby, Site Infrastructure Logistics Manager. “Thanks to thorough planning, strategic resource allocation and the dedication of SRNS personnel, SRS quickly resumed normal operations after the storm. This seamless recovery is a testament to the hard work and commitment of our team, who consistently prioritize safety and operational continuity.”

The Containment Fabrication Facility team completed one of the largest huts ever built for H Canyon's recycle vessel vent fan replacement.



## CFF builds largest-ever containment hut

**S** RNS' Containment Fabrication Facility (CFF) has achieved a remarkable milestone by completing the fabrication of one of the largest containment huts in its history. This initiative exemplified the CFF team's contributions to worker protection, environmental safety and mission success at SRS.

Stretching an impressive 20.5 feet wide, 27 feet long and 14 feet high, the hut features a 5' x 5' airlock door, a roll-up flap door, multiple access ports and several windows designed for visibility and functionality. The hut was used for recycle vessel vent (RVV) fan replacement in support of the Site's H Canyon, the only operating, production-scale, radiologically-shielded chemical separations capable facility in the United States. In the H Canyon Facility, the RVV system functions alongside other ventilation systems, involving fan assemblies and dampers to manage air and gases.

"The CFF provides expertise and experience in containment fabrication to help minimize the spread of contamination to protect the workers and the environment," said Tim Barnes, Manager, Radiological Operations Support Center. "In 2025, we supported many facilities across the Site, fabricating approximately 2,500 containments to help make the mission safer."

### **From concept to creation: Protecting workers and the environment**

At its core, containment fabrication is about safeguarding the lives of workers and ensuring the surrounding environment remains uncontaminated during operations involving radioactive or hazardous materials. The CFF team specializes in creating unique soft-sided solutions, from large-scale containment huts—like the one built for the RVV fan replacement—to intricate glove bags used for smaller, precision-based tasks. Containment huts act as portable enclosures,

minimizing the risk of contamination by isolating hazards and maintaining controlled environments.

CFF planners work closely with engineers, radiological control experts and customers to conduct detailed site walk-downs for every containment project. The proposed design is carefully reviewed by specialists before being sent to the shop floor for fabrication. Skilled craftspeople translate the design into reality using radio-frequency sealing technology and durable materials such as laminated vinyl, nylon and poly-fabrics.

The RVV fan replacement hut took approximately one week to fabricate and presented unique challenges due to its size. The team reconfigured their manufacturing space, relying on creativity and teamwork to overcome logistical barriers. The sealing process required the use of blowers for inflation and an innovative combination of sewing techniques.

"Building something this large takes teamwork and precision," said Robert Moyer, a 20-year planner at the CFF. "We put our expertise to the test, from scheduling and procuring materials to inflating and testing every square inch for leaks."

The SRS CFF team has fabricated tailored solutions onsite since 2001, complementing the procurement of many supplies and services from external sources. In addition to supporting SRS operations, the facility has extended its expertise, producing containment solutions for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Security and the DOE's Hanford Site.

"The CFF is an indispensable part of the Site's broader effort to ensure safe nuclear operations in support of DOE and NNSA," said Andy Tisler, Senior Vice President, Infrastructure Modernization and Sustainment. "The CFF is an integral part of protecting our workforce from potential hazards, contributing to the safety and success of every mission."

# Maintaining commitment to DOE's strategic goals

Charlie Smith, Director of the DOE's Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP), recently visited SRS for a day of collaboration, Site engagement and strategic dialogue. SRNS has played a key role in integrating small businesses into mission delivery, enhancing supply chain resiliency and leveraging emerging technologies to modernize acquisition practices.

"Today's federal procurement landscape requires the entire DOE Complex to focus on innovation, agility and leveraging small businesses as core partners to achieve meaningful outcomes," said Jay Johnson, Deputy Senior Vice President, Business Services. "We are modernizing our procurement practices to foster greater accessibility, competition and smarter use of taxpayer dollars."

SRNS demonstrated alignment with the four strategic pillars of U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright's call to "Unleash the Golden Era of American Energy Dominance." The tour showcased significant work in nuclear materials management, site cleanup and infrastructure modernization. It also highlighted SRNS' robust small business engagement strategy and the successes of the "small business first" philosophy.

According to Smith, SRNS and DOE OSBP continue to build a dynamic, data-informed and inclusive supplier ecosystem to fuel mission success. "SRNS has done incredible work for the small business community, including recognition with the Dwight D. Eisenhower Award from the U.S. Small Business Administration. It was great to meet the SRNS team and see firsthand how their efforts empower small businesses to support DOE missions," he said.

## FY25 Supply Chain accomplishments

### Sustaining small business performance

- Expanded small business participation at SRS, with over \$572 million in commitments, representing 63.3% of total procurements and surpassing DOE's 50% goal.

### Modernizing industry engagement

- Hosted two "Small Business Opportunity Day" events to strengthen industry partnerships and connect with diverse suppliers.
- Leveraged mentor-protégé partnerships since FY18, awarding over \$208 million to protégé subcontractors and supporting mission-critical scopes.

### Data-driven innovation

- Utilized supplier performance metrics and advanced analytics to drive improvements in on-time delivery, cost efficiency and risk mitigation.
- Implemented the Supplier Risk Assessment and Supplier Portal for real-time small business reporting and enhanced decision-making.

### Expanding small business industrial base

- Fostered a diverse supplier base through strategic measures, transitioning to a Supplier Management focus, which includes strategic planning, supplier evaluation, continuous improvement and performance monitoring.
- Introduced the Supplier Technical Assessment and Validation Program to enhance supplier capabilities and align with executive orders and national security goals.

## SRNS earns 2026 P&I Eddy Award

Marking its third consecutive reception, SRNS was recently honored with the 2026 Pensions & Investments (P&I) Eddy Award. This year, SRNS earned the Eddy Award recognition through a commitment to advancing modern retirement strategies through a Total Rewards lens framework.

For over 25 years, the Eddy Award has recognized best practices in investment and financial education. At SRNS, the Total Rewards framework has led to an increase in 401k/Savings and Investment Plan employer contribution and participant understanding through coordinated governance, targeted communication and education delivery with assistance from Transamerica partners.

According to the SRNS Benefits Administration team, SRNS is significantly helping fund participant 401k accounts through this match increase—which is extremely beneficial to those outside the legacy pension plan.

Over the past year at SRNS, the impact from this education initiative has seen average participant account balances increase by 9.1%, showcasing an improved retirement accumulation. A 40-basis-point increase was also recorded in average participant deferral rates. SRNS employees have responded positively to the enhanced match and learning opportunities by increasing their own contributions rather than relying on employer funding.

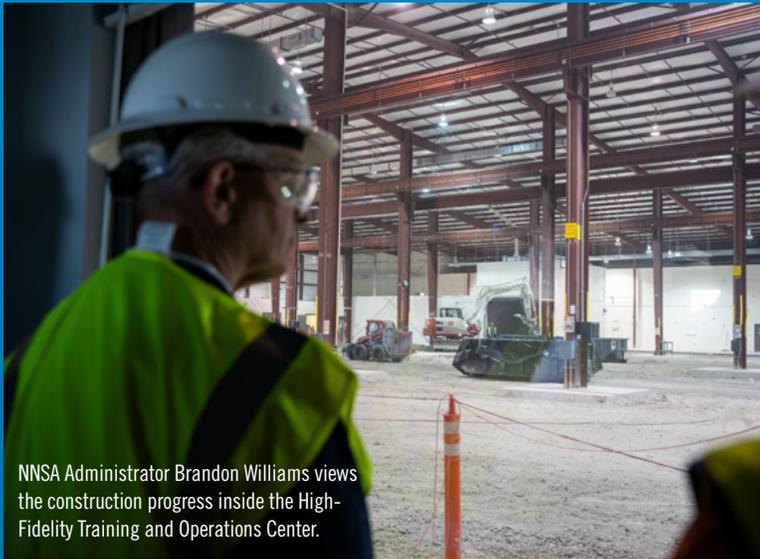
These outcomes were accompanied by sustained engagement and a 96.1% retention rate among enrolled participants, reinforcing the effectiveness of targeting mid-career employees through an integrated Total Rewards approach. Collectively, these results demonstrate how aligning plan design, education and career-stage strategy can drive meaningful behavior change and long-term financial well-being.

The P&I Defined Contribution East conference will be held this year on March 15-17 to announce placings at the award ceremony. The awards will be judged by a panel of independent plan sponsors and consultants.

SRNS continues its commitment to the financial literacy and well-being of its employees through providing educational programs and opportunities.

# Brandon Williams makes first visit to SRS

## NNSA Administrator shares national security priorities with SRS workforce



NNSA Administrator Brandon Williams views the construction progress inside the High-Fidelity Training and Operations Center.

Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and NNSA Administrator Brandon Williams made his first visit to SRS in February, touring key facilities and engaging in briefings with leaders from the NNSA Savannah River Field Office and SRNS. Williams was joined by David Beck, NNSA Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs.

A central focus of Administrator Williams' visit was his address to both leadership and the SRS workforce, emphasizing the critical nature of their mission and the administration's focus on modernizing the Nuclear Weapons Enterprise with agility and resilience to field a more diverse, flexible and effective deterrent.

Referring to the SRS workforce, Williams remarked, "You all are the heart and soul of delivering for our national security and for this deterrence mission. I appreciate that you're committed, that you've stayed with it, and that hopefully you see the vision of how important both the tritium and plutonium missions are for our national defense."

Williams congratulates SRTE workers on their recent operational successes.



The visit began at the K Area Complex (KAC), with an overview of the facility's history, ongoing operations and potential future objectives. The discussion included the facility's current dilute and disposal mission in support of the South Carolina Settlement Agreement, the Surplus Plutonium Disposition Project and the facility's storage missions. A key takeaway was KAC's strong history and continued commitment to addressing the nation's security needs with a clear sense of urgency and readiness.

From there, Williams toured SRPPF and the High-Fidelity Training and Operations Center (HFTOC), reviewing the significant progress being made in support of advancing NNSA's plutonium pit production mission. The SRPPF Project involves repurposing an existing structure and support facilities to establish an enduring pit production mission at SRS.

This visit highlighted the priority and urgency for the pit production mission. "We are proud to showcase the significant progress being made across the Site, especially at SRPPF and the HFTOC," said Jeff Griffin. "SRNS looks forward to continued collaboration with our NNSA partners to help strengthen America's strategic deterrent and safeguard the nation's stockpile."

On day two, Williams visited SRTE, delivering remarks at an employee appreciation event celebrating key milestones, including successful completion of the Calendar Year 2025 outage—a pivotal achievement in support of critical mission objectives. The Administrator also visited the H Canyon chemical separations facility and the HB Line, the only processing facility of its kind in the DOE complex, to explore future mission areas.

"Deterrence, urgency and production are the missions I accepted as NNSA Administrator," he said. "I don't know of anywhere else in our enterprise that the production mission is better represented than here in Tritium."

In addition, Williams toured the SRTE processing facilities, gaining deeper insight into the role these facilities play as the nation's primary source of tritium, an essential component for maintaining the nuclear deterrent.



Williams views progress inside the SRPPF Main Process Building with Mike Basham, SRNS Senior Vice President and SRPPF Project Director.

# NA-10 visit strengthens partnerships to accelerate pit production



NNSA Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs David Beck (NA-10) views progress at the SRPPF Project worksite as he speaks with Mike Basham, SRNS Senior Vice President and SRPPF Project Director.

**N**NSA Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs David Beck (NA-10) visited SRS to personally view the Site's progress toward pit production and emphasize the importance of urgency and collaboration between SRS and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to accelerate this top priority mission for the nation.

"It was a pleasure hosting Deputy Administrator Beck, along with other key members of the NNSA leadership team, and I was happy to hear his message highlighting the priority and urgency for the pit production mission," said Jeff Griffin. "We are proud to showcase the significant progress being made across the Site, especially at SRPPF and the High-Fidelity Training and Operations Center. SRNS looks forward to continued collaboration with our NNSA partners to help strengthen America's strategic deterrent and safeguard the nation's stockpile."

Beck and his team hosted a brainstorming session during the visit with stakeholders from across the complex to discuss strategies for acceleration. A similar session was conducted at LANL just a few weeks prior.

"This visit was an important step forward in leveraging and strengthening strategic partnerships, both at a sitewide level and across the broader Nuclear Security Enterprise, to ramp up pit production at SRS and LANL," said Lee Sims, SRNS Senior Vice President, Plutonium Operations and Programs. "As we continue our focus on production, evaluating best practices for driving these key missions forward remains a top priority."



Beck tours the Manufacturing Technology Center at SRS.



SRS hosts key NNSA leaders to view the Site's significant progress toward pit production.

# Prescribed burns safeguard SRS



U.S. Forest Service firefighters conduct prescribed burns across the Site.

SRNS Area Completion Projects (ACP) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) are working together to conduct prescribed burns across 33 legacy waste sites at SRS. This renewed effort marks a return to a practice that involves meticulously planned controlled burns by the USFS to maintain the integrity of these protective structures.

These legacy sites consist of waste materials, accumulated since the construction of the Site, that are placed in specially constructed holding areas within the ground and capped with barrier material and soil. ACP conducts routine monitoring and inspection of these sites to not only protect employees and the environment but also to ensure compliance with various regulatory obligations and requirements.

“We are responsible for ensuring the integrity of the Site’s waste units by conducting routine inspections to verify that weather, invasive plants, human and animal activity have not compromised the protective caps, and that vegetation remains healthy,” said ACP Manager Kelsey Holcomb. “Working with the USFS to apply prescribed fire to these caps is critical to removing invasive plants and maintaining the caps’ vegetation structure.”

As of Jan. 23, prescribed burns have been completed at 11 of the 33 legacy waste sites, covering 216 of the 351 requested acres. The remaining 135 acres of legacy waste sites will be incorporated into the USFS’ ongoing 20,000-acre prescribed fire season for the area, which commenced earlier this month. “Leveraging the expertise of the USFS for prescribed burns has allowed ACP to redirect resources to other critical objectives,” continued Holcomb. “This effort is made possible through coordination with USFS, Environmental Compliance and ACP, Centerra, DOE-Environmental Management, the NNSA and the SRS Fire Department.”

## A visit from Joe Wilson

U.S. Congressman Joe Wilson and his staff toured SRPPF and SRTE at the Site on Jan. 29.



ABOVE: Wilson (second from the right) and Mike Basham, SRNS Senior Vice President and SRPPF Project Director (in blue vest), view the surrounding worksite from the third floor of SRPPF, during Wilson’s tour of the Site .

BELOW: Pictured at SRTE are Alex Morris, District Director; U.S. Congressman Joe Wilson; Vernon Robinson, Congressional Affairs Specialist, NNSA; Justin Ahn, Defense Fellow, U.S. Congressman Joe Wilson; Tim Fischer, NNSA Savannah River Field Office Deputy Site Manager; Nick Miller, SRNS Senior Vice President, Tritium Operations and Programs; Bailey McKie, Staff Assistant, U.S. Congressman Joe Wilson; Daniel Ramirez, Military Legislative Assistant, U.S. Congressman Joe Wilson; Leah Grace Blackwell, Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Congressman Joe Wilson; Brooke Samples, DPADA for Production Modernization, NNSA; Erin Harrison, Deputy District Director, U.S. Congressman Joe Wilson; and Martha Ruthven, SRNS Senior Community Relations Specialist.



# Driving urgency in acquisitions



In an effort to streamline procurement processes and enhance efficiency, SRNS Supply Chain Management (SCM) department has successfully established the Field Procurement (FP) Centers of Excellence (COE), leading to quality improvements in acquisition packages and acceleration of procurements.

The Site's transition to full production operations and enhanced strategic procurement capabilities prompted the establishment of the FP COEs, designed to deliver customer-focused support directly within program and project areas. The FP COEs have implemented forecast planning tools, which enable precise planning of critical procurements, achieving a 100% success rate to date and ensuring that no procurement milestones or performance-based incentives have been missed.

"This initiative has strategically embedded individual teams across SRS, co-locating procurement representatives within eight specific mission areas," said Fred Freeman, Senior Director, SCM Planning and Execution. "We've solidified our role as a 'one-stop shop' for our customers with a mission delivery mindset. This team excels in delivering transparent scheduling, planning and project execution, while leveraging strategic procurement methods to identify and capitalize on opportunities for saving both time and costs."

## FY25 accomplishments

- Improved the requisition first pass yield to less than 2% for all requisitions reviewed or created by the COE teams.
- Achieved near perfection (98.6%) in first pass yield statement of work packages, reducing delays for Site customers and improving overall project delivery time.
- Managed over \$30 million in total acquisition for the Calendar Year (CY) 2025 Outage Project, which encompassed ~9,000-line items of engineered equipment, construction bulks and consumables.
- Placed strategic agreements for over 90% of all Surplus Plutonium Disposition General Service commercial procurement requests, managing requisition writing and purchase order awards effectively.

"The SRTE FP COE team was integral to the success of the CY25 Outage. They battled in the trenches day in and day out with the rest of the SRTE team aggressively pursuing solutions to complex problems," said Mike Collins, Former Deputy Senior Vice President Tritium Operations and Programs.

# SRNS helps workers pay off student loans

The SRNS Student Loan Debt Reduction (SLDR) program continues to reach new milestones. As of calendar year 2026, approximately 970 employees are benefiting from the program, and over 118 loans have been paid off through its assistance.

Following its continued success since beginning in 2020, the SLDR program has become a monthly benefit available to all full-service, full-time SRNS employees. The program provides participants with up to \$350 per month to qualifying student loans. As of January 2026, approximately \$7.3 million has been contributed to reduce student loan debt among SRNS personnel.

To date, a 92% retention rate has been recorded of employees who have paid off their student loans while participating in the SLDR program.

Benefits Administration has automated the enrollment process in partnership with various on-site teams. The process has increased efficiency by 89% through utilizing automated communications to inform enrollees of necessary steps, potential errors and the

successful completion of applications.

Senior Human Resources Specialist Torrey Davis stated that, due to automation, working hours to process applications had a recorded decrease from 152 to 29 hours. This allowed Benefits Administration to finish enrollments in December rather than January, leading to an approximate \$10,000 soft dollar savings.

"It's a wonderful program to be involved in. We're helping our coworkers with student loan debt just as they support our missions on-site," Davis said. "Our goal to help our coworkers even extended to the automation process, preventing them from staying late and sifting through thousands of emails. Everyone is helped through this automation."

The SLDR initiative is part of the Total Rewards strategy offered at SRNS. This strategy seeks to provide benefits promoting a healthy work-life balance, improve retention rates of highly skilled personnel and attract new hires.

# WORC grant recipients explore career options



Ross Montgomery, SRPPF Deputy Facility Manager, shares information about a high-precision lathe in the Manufacturing Technology Center.

**T**welve WORC (Workforce Opportunities in Regional Careers) grant recipients, joined by 14 educators and administrators from partner universities and technical schools, recently toured SRS, with a focus on the Manufacturing Technology Center (MTC) and its role in supporting NNSA missions like SRPPF.

The DOE's WORC grant program, managed by the SRS Community Reuse Organization, supports nuclear education and workforce training in the region. In 2024, \$2 million in funding was awarded to higher education partners, helping students in apprenticeships and two- and four-year programs while building the skilled workforce needed for DOE-EM and NNSA missions.

"This visit covered a multitude of areas including state-of-the-art technologies, coding, robotics and industrial process engineering, while also offering insights into apprenticeships, internships and diverse employee experiences," said Tracy Beach, University of South Carolina Salkehatchie STEM Manager. "What resonates most is the Site's commitment to making their workforce happy and productive, with limitless opportunities for career growth."

"The moment we stepped inside the MTC and received a detailed list of job opportunities, it really hit home," said Austin Berninger, WORC Grant Recipient. "Seeing the advanced machining devices up close and learning about the exciting work being done here was eye-opening. It became clear why so many WORC grant recipients are eager to secure a position at SRS."

Taylor Rice, SRNS Education Outreach Programs Lead, highlighted the importance of partnerships with local educators, especially as SRS aims to hire thousands over the next five years to support mission-critical projects.



A WORC grant recipient views a high-precision lathe, which is responsible for disassembling welding items.

"Providing these opportunities ensures educators and students are aware of our workforce needs, career paths and critical mission scopes while fostering a pipeline of well-trained graduates ready to enter our workforce," explained Rice. "This tour showcased cutting-edge technology and the training provided at the MTC, including walk-throughs of the high bays and various equipment."

The newly-constructed MTC addresses a critical training need for SRPPF, which will support the U.S. nuclear stockpile by producing the required number of plutonium pits. MTC operators develop the necessary skills for proficient machining and welding operations in an unclassified, non-nuclear setting, which helps speed up the time required to achieve proficiency.

"An influx of young talent is critical for the long-term success of SRPPF," said Ross Montgomery, SRPPF Principal Technical Advisor. "Our PPO management team frequently conducts tours of the MTC for local students and faculty, aiming to generate excitement and enthusiasm."

# Engaging local universities

In a strategic effort to strengthen human capital engagement with local universities, SRNS' Business Services department recently extended its partnership with Augusta University's Hull College of Business. Led by the Organizational Culture and Enhancement department within Business Services, this initiative supports recruitment pipelines and workforce development across the CSRA.

"We are investing in our people by implementing strategies to enhance recruitment, retention and workforce development," said Brittany Alston, Manager, Organizational Culture and Enhancement. "We have implemented a robust human capital strategy to minimize turnover and forge strong recruitment pipelines."

According to Staci Peters, SRNS Senior Vice President of Business Services, maintaining a high-performing, healthy workforce is vital for delivering operational efficiencies and increasing productivity to meet DOE and NNSA mission demands.

"Business Services is a unique organization with extremely diverse careers requiring various levels of education," Peters explained. "To successfully meet mission requirements, we must identify and prioritize critical staffing needs and implement strategies to attract and retain new talent."

Building student engagement early in their careers helps SRNS address critical staffing needs while promoting long-term retention. Now under the Chief Administration Office, Business Services collaborates with Workforce Services and Talent Management (WSTM) to align recruitment goals, leveraging subject matter experts and alumni networks to connect with college-aged candidates.

"SRNS actively pursues opportunities to strengthen relationships with two- and four-year institutions, whether through formal human resource recruiting efforts or direct engagement by functional subject matter experts. University engagement is essential for building tomorrow's workforce," said Bryan Ortner, WSTM Senior Vice President.

The Augusta University event engaged 125 students, reinforcing SRNS' commitment to preparing future talent for DOE and NNSA mission demands. SRNS has planned similar initiatives with institutions like South Carolina State University, Florida International University and the University of South Carolina Aiken in fiscal year 2026.



To support recruitment and workforce development, SRNS Business Services partners with Augusta University's Hull College of Business.



Chris Wilson, Information Technology Enterprise Operations, Systems Engineer, works on a server in the Site's Central Data Center.

## Network Operations Center upgrade

A two-year modernization effort for the Network Operations Center (NOC) has been completed by SRNS. The NOC is a critical nerve center that monitors and supports the Site's expansive Information Technology (IT) infrastructure.

"This modernization effort improves the NOC's ability to respond quickly and efficiently," said Me'Xandra Walker, SRNS NOC Lead. "These upgrades represent a leap forward in our capacity to defend IT systems and ensure seamless performance."

As the first line of defense for the Site's IT systems, the NOC operates on a 24/7 basis to ensure the continuity, efficiency and security of systems and services within the Site's Data Center, Backup Data Center and Telecommunications facilities.

"Since its inception in the early 2000s, the NOC has been an essential pillar of SRS operations, providing continuous monitoring and first-response management around the clock," said Jackie Starlings, Manager, SRNS Enterprise End User Services. "In January 2026 alone, the eight-person team monitored approximately 2,000 devices and responded to more than 5,400 alerts, reinforcing their role as key guardians of the Site's IT infrastructure."

From handling unplanned outages to detecting anomalies such as infrastructure instabilities, NOC operators provide real-time alerting, escalation and resolution of issues. Their centralized control room is now outfitted with reimagined layouts, advanced hardware and streamlined monitoring tools and dashboards.

"By maintaining readiness for rapid response, improving our infrastructure anomalies detection posture and embracing innovation, the NOC ensures that SRS continues to operate seamlessly and securely, enabling our vital missions for the NNSA and DOE to proceed without disruption," said Bruce Page, Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer. "These strategic enhancements reflect the teamwork displayed across our IT groups to accelerate our various workspaces."

As part of SRNS' broader efforts to modernize and streamline operations across the Site, the upgrades to the NOC highlight IT's dedication to enabling mission success.



**William "Joe" Solesby**

**AT SRNS:** Site Infrastructure Logistics Manager

## THE PEOPLE OF SRNS

William "Joe" Solesby, a seasoned professional with 12 years of experience at SRS, serves as the Site Infrastructure Logistics Manager, a role critical to the success of day-to-day operations. In this capacity, Solesby oversees transportation operations, including centralized trucking, railroads, heavy equipment, roads and grounds, fleet management, fuel operations and portable equipment-related business functions.

Site Services is responsible for maintaining the core systems and infrastructure that keep SRS functioning smoothly. Solesby's work focuses on transportation infrastructure, where he ensures the safe and efficient movement of personnel, materials and equipment. His responsibilities include oversight and maintenance of roadways, bridges and rail systems.

"I enjoy the daily interaction with our work groups and seeing firsthand how our teams support facilities and contribute to the overall mission," he shared. "Watching our crews execute at a high level and taking pride in their work is extremely rewarding. We have expanded our services and evolved the organization's culture to emphasize responsiveness and accountability."

Solesby has held key leadership positions within the Transportation and Excavation organizations, consistently contributing to the Site's ongoing success. Prior to joining SRS, Solesby served as the Transportation Operations Manager for the largest Less-than-Truckload freight company in the United States and as the Regional Command South Transportation Manager for the Department of War/Dyn-Corp International, overseeing all transportation movement operations in southern Afghanistan. He also served both in the U.S. Army and as a Law Enforcement Officer.

A native of Western North Carolina, he enjoys spending his free time working out, hunting, fishing and maintaining his property.

## Celebrating new beginnings

SRNS has launched a recent initiative to recognize parents as they celebrate the newest additions to their family. With an average of 200 employees a year introducing a new family member into their homes, the "Welcome, Baby!" program, launched by the Benefits Administration in January 2026, provides a thoughtful way to congratulate and support employees during this exciting time in their lives.



Stormi Adams and husband James Adams, H Canyon Maintenance First Line Manager, hold their 5-month-old daughter Andie Adams.

The program provides new parents, through both birth and adoptions, with a congratulatory box that includes an SRNS-monogrammed baby blanket, children's book "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?" by Eric Carle, and a personalized letter from Senior Vice President of Workforce Services and Talent Management Bryan Ortner, describing the many benefits and services available to help parents transition into this new phase of life:

- Four weeks of parental leave to spend time with the newborn
- Flexible work arrangements
- Counseling and support through the Employee Assistance Program
- Wellness rooms to provide comfortable space for lactation support

SRTE Protocol Officer Stormi Adams believes that the gift became a symbol for what SRNS stands for as an organization.

"It wasn't just a kind gesture—it became a symbol of the care, support and community spirit they've shown to me and my family," Adams said.

By providing support to employees and celebrating such important milestones, SRNS seeks to cultivate a positive, compassionate culture, one that will retain the talented workforce found on-site for years to come.

"This initiative demonstrates SRNS' commitment to its workforce by promoting a healthy work-life balance and creating an inclusive, family-friendly workplace culture," said Ortner. "Employees have expressed appreciation for this meaningful gesture, noting how it reinforces that SRNS values not only their professional contributions but also their personal milestones."

The program has sent approximately 60 boxes to date.

## FEATURE FRIDAY

The following employees were highlighted as part of the SRNS Feature Friday series on social media.



**Janette Robinson**

Deputy Director of Supply  
Chain Procurement



**William "Joe" Solesby**

Site Infrastructure  
Logistics Manager



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# SRNS

**Supplying products and services necessary  
to maintain the nation's nuclear deterrent**

**Securing nuclear materials to prevent  
unwanted proliferation**

**Developing innovative approaches to deliver  
on our environmental commitments and  
nuclear materials challenges**

**Transforming nuclear materials into assets  
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