

● NOVEMBER 2025

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS

SRNS Today



Honoring our heroes
Site event recognizes veterans



SCAN ME

to connect with
our social media

This month

Inspections for dam safety • Environmental Bioassay Laboratory award • Youth Apprentices



Jeff Griffin
SRNS President and CEO

On the cover

SRS welcomes Medal of Honor recipient and retired U.S. Army Captain Florent "Flo" Groberg for a powerful Veterans Day keynote honoring service, sacrifice and leadership.

Welcome

to the November 2025 edition of

SRNS Today

SRNS continued to demonstrate its commitment to excellence, national security and community engagement through a series of impactful events in November. Centerra and SRNS united in honoring the brave men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces on Veterans Day. The key speaker for the celebration was retired U.S. Army Captain Florent "Flo" Groberg, a Medal of Honor recipient, whose inspiring story set the tone for the ceremony.

In addition, the Savannah River Site Fire Department recently hosted DOE complex fire chiefs for a collaborative benchmarking and training event. This three-day visit fostered the sharing of knowledge and best practices, strengthening fire safety measures across the Nuclear Security Enterprise.

SRNS also continued to support the community through partnerships like the Aiken Land Conservancy, contributing \$5,000 toward conservation initiatives, and through involvement with the Titans of Omega Male Mentor Academy. This program empowers young men from grades seven through 12, equipping them with essential life skills and preparing them for future leadership roles.

The Small Business Opportunity Day brought together 400 small businesses and key stakeholders. This event highlighted upcoming procurement opportunities and fostered strategic partnerships that will benefit our mission and the broader community.

Together, these initiatives reflect our commitment to both national security and community development. Thank you, and enjoy SRNS Today.



Savannah River
NUCLEAR SOLUTIONSSM

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) • Department of Energy (DOE)
Environmental Management (EM) • National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)
Pit Production Operations and Programs (PPOP) • Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF)
Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) • Central Savannah River Area (CSRA)
science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)

Urgent call for upgrades

SRS assessment reveals infrastructure demands

SRNS recently hosted a seven-member team from the NNSA Office of Plutonium Pit Modernization (NA-191) and NNSA Management and Budget (NA-MB) Division. The visit focused on evaluating the infrastructure required for PPOP and the utilities that will support SRPPF, emphasizing the urgent need for strategic investments to support NNSA's goal of producing 80 pits per year.

Since 2018, SRS has been tasked with establishing SRPPF and revitalizing the nation's pit production capability—a critical component of NNSA's strategy for nuclear stockpile sustainment. Once operational, SRPPF will manufacture the majority of the plutonium pits for the nation, integral to the U.S. nuclear deterrent to maintain peace around the world.

"In order for SRS to deliver the first production unit by the 2030s, numerous infrastructure and utility upgrades are necessary," said Freddie Grimm, SRNS Senior Vice President, Strategic Planning and Integration. "SRS must construct additional support facilities and temporary and permanent infrastructure to support the incoming influx of SRPPF personnel. This visit demonstrates our commitment to securing the future of our workforce and national defense capabilities while highlighting the urgent need for upgrades."

The NNSA team was assigned to conduct a thorough Pit Production Infrastructure and Utilities Assessment. This assessment examines the condition of SRPPF support facilities and utilities to identify necessary renovation projects and estimate costs for Future Years Nuclear Security Program (FYNSP) planning and funding requests. The FYNSP is NNSA's annual budgeting process, outlining plans and budget requirements for five-year cycles.

Most SRS facilities, now 75 years old, require some degree of modernization. The results of this assessment will provide a solid basis for SRNS to secure essential upgrades that, while not part of the SRPPF line items, are necessary for the success of the pit production mission.

"We are doing everything we can to facilitate a quick and efficient assessment," said Kevin Lancaster, SRNS Senior Program Manager, Recapitalization. "This assessment is crucial for identifying both



BOTH ABOVE: A glimpse of service water distribution pumps that are no longer in service at SRS.

direct and indirect support areas to ensure all necessary upgrades are thoroughly planned and funded. While we are maximizing the use of our current resources by expanding existing infrastructure, our long-term vision includes developing modern, permanent facilities to support our growing workforce and mission scope."

Visitors gained a deeper understanding of the current state of operational readiness and infrastructure supporting SRPPF and PPOP. Key focus areas included utilities required to support SRPPF, warehousing, machining, classified storage space, administration buildings, and support system analysis. Discussions also included the developing SRS Master Campus Plan, which outlines a vision and roadmap to support the NNSA Enterprise Blueprint over the next several decades.

"PPOP is working closely with our Federal and sitewide counterparts to define specific infrastructure requirements supporting the enduring pit production mission at SRS," added P. Erika Baeza-Wisdom, PPOP Deputy Vice President. "Investments in machining, warehousing, and classified workspaces enable us to maintain responsiveness, resiliency, and flexibility to meet critical national security needs."



NNSA's Office of Plutonium Pit Modernization (NA-191) and Management and Budget (NA-MB) Division tour SRS to get a glimpse into urgent infrastructure and utility needs.



Richard Swygert, Site Infrastructure Engineer, descends into one of four vertical shafts to inspect roughly 600 feet of conduit for mechanical integrity, ensuring that all mechanical parts are in optimal condition at the Steel Creek Dam.

Inspections uphold dam safety

In a significant achievement for dam safety and environmental management, SRNS' Site Services department has successfully completed the five-year, high-hazard dam inspections of the Steel Creek and PAR Pond Dams. These inspections, which included functional testing and preventive maintenance, adhered to rigorous guidelines to ensure safety and effectiveness at SRS.

In addition to these two high-hazard dams, SRNS manages eight low-hazard dams. The Steel Creek Dam, operational since the 1950s for reactor cooling water, contains contaminated sediment. Maintaining the dam and keeping the sediment submerged is not only cost-effective but also beneficial for local wildlife, such as fish or osprey. Each inspection is crucial for ensuring the dams' continued operational safety.

Key figures in the inspection process, Danny Banks of Site Services, Transportation, and Richard Swygert of Site Infrastructure, Engineering, highlighted the teamwork and detailed planning that were essential to the project's success.

"Many different Site Services' groups came together to make this happen, despite challenges of confined space entry and numerous mechanical inspections," said Banks. "The comprehensive inspection required six months of preparation and two days in the field, showcasing SRNS' commitment to safety."

Swygert, with over 30 years of experience at SRS, added, "We completed this inspection on-time, with no injuries, thanks to the extensive planning and preparation from various groups across the Site. These inspections are vital for the ongoing operability and safety of our dams."

Requested by DOE, the inspection required a comprehensive critical lift plan to ensure safe descent into the wells for inspection. At Steel Creek Dam, four vertical shafts, each 80 feet deep, were inspected. Personnel descended at about one foot per minute to inspect over 600 feet of conduit, focusing on mechanical parts and structural integrity.

The project entailed rigorous activities, such as functional testing and preventive maintenance, trial lifts, jib crane inspection and conduit flushing. Detailed inspection tasks included installing and removing bulkheads, draining the Service Gate Well, examining concrete structures, and re-watering the intake tower using pumps.

Beyond the five-year independent high-hazard dam inspections, SRNS conducts potential failure mode analysis, records lake level readings twice a week, carries out monthly walking inspections, and utilizes instruments like piezometers, inclinometers, and weir boxes for performance analysis. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) also conducted a thorough review of Steel Creek and PAR Pond Dams, finding no issues. DOE uses FERC for annual inspections, complementing the continuous monitoring by SRNS.

"The collaborative effort of various work groups is another example of how challenging tasks can be accomplished through meticulous planning and execution," said Randy Keenan, SRNS Director of Site Services. "The outcomes of this critical inspection prove that the dam will continue to perform its function for years to come."

Environmental Bioassay Laboratory receives international recognition

The SRNS Environmental Bioassay Laboratory (EBL) has been internationally recognized as one of the top three labs in the world in the radiotoxicology intercomparison program, PROCORAD, for outstanding performance in actinides analysis in the urine and fecal matrix. This intercomparison program includes participants from 79 laboratories representing 28 countries on five different continents.

EBL boasts a team of leading technical experts specializing in Industrial Hygiene, Radiobioassay and Environmental Radiochemistry and Water Quality methods, ensuring the highest standards of accuracy and reliability. EBL processes approximately 35,000 samples annually, supporting various SRNS organizations such as Environmental Compliance, Industrial Hygiene and Health Physics. EBL also assists Savannah River Mission Completion, Battelle Savannah River Alliance and offsite laboratories such as Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Recently, the EBL was designated as the backup radiobioassay laboratory for the Y-12 National Security Complex, further expanding its critical support services.

Accredited by notable organizations such as the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services, the Department of Energy Laboratory Accreditation Program (DOELAP), the American Industrial Hygiene Association Laboratory Accreditation Program (AIHA LAP), and the Mixed Analyte Performance Evaluation Program (MAPEP), EBL has consistently demonstrated its commitment to accuracy and quality. Many of these accreditations have been continuously held for 40 years or more. To maintain these high standards, EBL successfully completed over 29 proficiency tests, performance evaluation blind tests, and interlaboratory comparisons throughout the year.

A key accomplishment this year included the addition of beryllium equipment and laboratory analysis expertise to the AIHA LAP scope of accreditation. This endeavor involved the procurement and installation



of new laboratory equipment, validation testing (including uncertainty estimations associated with inhalable and respirable beryllium fractions along with total air and surface wipes) and dust sample testing. Additionally, the lab successfully passed beryllium proficiency tests necessary for the application submittal.

According to the Manager of the EBL, James Berry, "EBL's far-reaching capabilities benefit both the site workers and the public, protecting their health through measuring radionuclide and chemical constituents for worker exposure while also providing environmental compliance analyses needed for public exposure."

The lab's dedication to quality and improvements in efficiency demonstrates the unique specialized radiochemistry, Industrial Hygiene, and chemical capabilities that are internationally recognized for future missions.

Supporting male mentor academy

SRNS is helping a local organization make an impact on the lives of young men. The Titans of Omega Male Mentor Academy's mission is to help equip young men academically, instill life skills and build character.

The "Titans" receive year-round mentoring in reading, emotional intelligence and career preparation. Through the SRNS partnership, leaders hope that the program builds a pipeline of young men ready to contribute to the broader community.

The Titans of Omega took an enrichment trip to Greenwood, South Carolina, to visit the Benjamin E. Mays Museum.

"Through support from SRNS we can help these young men learn life lessons that can assist in propelling them to the next level," stated Lane Boone, SRNS Principal HR Specialist and Titans of Omega organizer.

SRNS has donated approximately \$3,000 in support of the mentoring program to help reach more young leaders of tomorrow.



Site organizations celebrate veterans



The Midland Valley High School Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps opens the event with the presentation of colors, formally displaying the national and state flags.



Centerra-SRS General Manager Mark Bolton; Retired U.S. Army Captain Florent “Flo” Groberg; and Retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. and SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer Jim Dawkins.

SRNS AND CENTERRA joined together to honor the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces during this year’s Veterans Day celebration. The event brought employees, leaders and veteran representatives together to recognize the courage, commitment and sacrifices of those who have worn the nation’s uniform.

This year’s event featured a keynote address from Retired U.S. Army Captain Florent “Flo” Groberg, a Medal of Honor recipient whose story of bravery, resilience and leadership set the tone for the ceremony.

A graduate of the University of Maryland, Groberg earned a bachelor’s degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice, and a master’s degree in Intelligence with a specialization in Intelligence Management. After completing his distinguished military career in the U.S. Army, Groberg transitioned into the private sector, where he led high-performing teams at LinkedIn and Boeing. Today, he is head of Microsoft Azure’s Global Government Mission.

The celebration event began with a moving presentation of colors by the Midland Valley High School Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. Their participation served as a reminder that the spirit of service continues to thrive among the next generation.

“As a veteran, I know firsthand the weight of service and the pride that comes with it. Veterans Day gives us the opportunity to honor all who have stood watch for our country and to recognize the families who stood behind them,” said Retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. and SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer Jim Dawkins. “To the veterans across our Site, thank you for your courage, resilience and continued dedication to the mission.”

Centerra-SRS General Manager Mark Bolton said, “At Centerra-SRS, we honor and celebrate the brave men and women who have served our nation with unwavering dedication, not only on Veterans Day but every day. Approximately 50% of our workforce are veterans. Their sacrifices and commitment to our freedoms and democracy are an inspiration to all. They are still serving their country by protecting the national security interests at the SRS. We are deeply grateful for their service and remain steadfast in supporting veterans at the Site and within our communities.”



The Medal of Honor is the U.S. Armed Forces’ highest military decoration.

SRNS continues to demonstrate its commitment to those who have served by fostering a strong and visible veteran presence. Today, approximately 700 SRNS employees identify as veterans, representing 12% of the workforce. In fiscal year 2025, 145 veterans joined the company, further strengthening the valued community. Many of these individuals hold key leadership roles, with veterans making up 21% of SRNS leaders who guide teams and major projects across the Site.

“Veterans Day holds a special significance for SRNS and Centerra, serving as a moment to pause and reflect on the freedoms that service members have protected for generations,” said Dawkins. “It’s a day to honor the courage of those who stepped forward when the nation called, and to recognize the resilience, strength and unwavering dedication that define the veteran community. For the Savannah River Site, whose mission is deeply connected to national security, this day carries an even deeper meaning, underscoring the link between military service and the missions that drive our work.”



The Site welcomed six high school students into the 2025 Youth Apprenticeship Program.

New Youth Apprenticeships

SRS recently welcomed six high school students into the 2025 Youth Apprenticeship Program, an integral part of the SRS Apprenticeship School, which includes 29 registered apprenticeships.

“To modernize the nation’s nuclear deterrent, we need a strong and diverse base of national expertise and educational opportunities in specialized technical areas that contribute to this mission,” said Sean Alford, SRNS Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer. “Our program is designed to support STEM disciplines that are critical to NNSA and DOE missions, such as nuclear operations and other technical areas.”

Since its expansion sitewide in 2020, the SRS Apprenticeship School has graduated over 800 apprentices, with 91% successfully securing full-time positions at the Site.

The 24-month Youth Apprenticeship Program is tailored for high school juniors and seniors. Participants earn their diplomas while acquiring practical experience at SRS. This year, the program introduced two new roles: Junior Project Controls Engineer and Junior Business Analyst, increasing the total number of youth apprenticeship options to five.

“This strategic initiative fosters a resilient workforce to meet the Site’s evolving needs,” said Abigail Bowman, SRNS College Partner, Curriculum, and Pipeline Development Lead. “Our youth apprentices are eager to learn, quick to adapt and excelling in their new roles.”

“My family has a long history of working at SRS, spanning four generations,” said McKayla Smith, Business Analyst Youth Apprentice and a senior from Midland Valley High School. “I applied for the program to further my knowledge in business and accounting. In my current role in Accounts Payable, I handle invoices and vouchers, organize basic invoicing; and I will eventually rotate through the department.”

“My computer repair class, mock interviews and resume writing exercises prepared me for this opportunity,” said Carson Williams, IT Youth Apprentice and a senior from North Augusta High School. “My daily work involves computer repair and cybersecurity, and I am currently pursuing my CompTIA Cloud+ certification. I hope to work in cybersecurity or computer engineering, and this experience is an essential step toward achieving that.”

Building tomorrow’s leaders

The impact of SRNS internships

Three dynamic SRS interns are leaving an indelible mark, showcasing the transformative power of SRNS’ summer internship program. Through hands-on experience, these young talents are shaping their futures and contributing to mission delivery. Since its inception in 2009, the program has bridged the gap between emerging talent and meaningful work that benefits the nation.

Christopher Kinard and Emma Kramer, mechanical engineering students at the University of South Carolina Aiken, enhanced the integrity and efficiency of the Site’s Data Centers, Telecom Facilities and Information Technology (IT) equipment. Their tasks included maintaining the physical infrastructure, power systems and cooling systems of the Data Centers; removing abandoned cables to improve performance; and validating layouts and power drawings across 13 telecommunication facilities.

“This experience helped enhance my electrical skills, critical thinking and overall knowledge of power systems,” said Kinard. “Overall, this was an amazing 12-week experience learning from expert IT professionals and getting a taste of working for SRS full-time.”

Jason Manzanares, a mechanical engineering student at USC Aiken, spent his summer fostering strategic partnerships for the PPOP modernization effort. Collaborating with top PPOP operations managers and engineers, Manzanares coordinated a tour of the Rolls Royce Manufacturing facility in Graniteville, South Carolina, gaining insights into high-quality engine and turbine production.

“Our vision is to develop strategic partnerships for efficiency, training and resource development,” said Manzanares. “South Carolina is a manufacturing-friendly state with name-brand companies with elite facilities that SRNS can learn from or utilize for buy-over-build components. These partnerships help SRNS visualize a new path forward and drive our goals of creating a best-in-class pit production facility.”

“The SRNS Internship Program has excelled in creating employment opportunities that provide real-world, hands-on experiences,” said Bryan Ortnor, SRNS Senior Vice President, Workforce Services and Talent Management. “By offering practical training and mentorship, we ensure interns develop the skills and confidence needed to make significant contributions to SRS missions.”



At the conclusion of this year’s program, 38 interns accepted full-service positions while 25 transitioned into apprenticeship roles.



SRSFD hosts DOE Complex Fire Chiefs for collaborative benchmarking and training

The Savannah River Site Fire Department (SRSFD) had the privilege of hosting Fire Chiefs from organizations across the DOE complex for a three-day visit to SRS. This benchmarking opportunity aimed to share knowledge, compare best practices, and seek out improvements to bolster the efficiency of fire safety measures across the board. Fire Chiefs from the Idaho National Laboratory, Pantex, Y-12 National Security Complex, Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Fermilab were in attendance.

SRSFD led a tour of its fire stations allowing attendees to see the cutting-edge equipment utilized at SRS. The tour provided valuable insights into the unique challenges and safety measures SRSFD has in place to protect the Site and the surrounding community. It highlighted specific uses and functionalities of gear, and emphasized operational readiness. Additionally, Emergency Management personnel provided a tour of SRS' Emergency Operations Center, offering Fire Chiefs further insights into the Site's comprehensive emergency response strategies and coordination efforts.

Fire Chiefs also observed SRSFD's live burn training exercise in Aiken. This provided them with a firsthand look at the Site's rigorous training protocols, designed to create realistic and effective training environments. According to SRSFD Fire Chief Travis Scott, "The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, underscoring the importance of continuous, hands-on training to maintain high levels of readiness and operational excellence among firefighters."

The primary objective of the visit was to benchmark and discuss common challenges and innovative practices within the field. Topics included staffing levels, baseline needs assessments and common training programs, all aimed at standardizing and enhancing response capabilities. The discussions also delved into the unique risks associated with electric vehicles and strategies to mitigate these hazards effectively.

Additionally, Fire Chiefs explored various ways to streamline the qualification and certification process for DOE firefighters, ensuring uniform standards across the board. Another critical topic was fleet standardization, which emphasized the compatibility and interoperability of vehicles and equipment across different sites. They also evaluated the transition from the National Fire Incident Reporting System to the National Emergency Response Information System software to improve data management and reporting efficiency. Updates to the National Fire Protection Association codes were also discussed, along with strategies to mitigate heat stress and enhance firefighter health and safety. The visit concluded with reviews of effective drills and exercise routines, highlighting the importance of maintaining high preparedness levels.

"Gathering with Fire Chiefs from the DOE complex has been invaluable," stated Scott. "The opportunity to share insights, collaborate on common challenges and benchmark our practices strengthens our capabilities and fosters a unified approach to fire safety and emergency response. This visit reaffirms our commitment to continuous improvement and ensures we remain at the forefront of operational readiness and firefighter safety. Additionally, it has fortified our network of fire safety leaders and promises to enhance our collective ability to safeguard lives and property."



"This visit reaffirms our commitment to continuous improvement and ensures we remain at the forefront of operational readiness and firefighter safety."

**Travis Scott,
SRSFD Fire Chief**



Small Business Opportunity Day drives partnerships



Jay Johnson, SRNS Deputy Senior Vice President of Business Services and Chief Contracting Officer, welcomes 400 attendees to the SRNS Small Business Opportunity Day at the DoubleTree by Hilton Augusta.

SRNS recently hosted the Small Business Opportunity Day, bringing together 400 small businesses and diverse suppliers; 25 leading stakeholders from SRS; six mentor protégés; and seven small business resource groups. The event spotlighted upcoming procurement opportunities, strategic partnerships, and capacity-building resources available to potential business partners.

Since 2018, SRS has been tasked with establishing SRPPF and revitalizing the nation's pit production capability, key to the NNSA nuclear stockpile sustainment strategy. As SRNS enters a new era of national defense capabilities while maintaining enduring EM missions, it is essential to build a broad ecosystem of small businesses, diverse suppliers, and industry partners to address the scale and complexity of projects.

During his opening remarks, Jay Johnson, Deputy Senior Vice President of Business Services and Chief Contracting Officer, said, "We are entering a new era with historic levels of activity. Some areas are experiencing gradual increases, while others are seeing steep growth. There's a lot of work to go around, requiring innovation, resources and new capabilities. These efforts create a huge demand for procurement and supply chain solutions across all levels, from advanced construction services to everyday business services. Together, we can achieve what no single organization can accomplish alone."

Supply Chain Strategists Jana Chavous and Rachel Boyd organized the event, noting that some attendees traveled from as far as New York and Washington to explore partnership opportunities with SRNS—primarily supporting infrastructure, information technology, machining, warehousing, classified storage, engineering and administrative buildings.

"Meaningful one-on-one conversations allowed our internal teams to share upcoming procurement opportunities while learning about the innovative solutions small businesses bring to the table," said Chavous. "This level of direct engagement strengthens our supply



Jana Chavous, Supplier Engagement Senior Analyst, and Rachel Boyd, Supplier Engagement Associate, organize and lead the event impacting 400 attendees and stakeholders.

chain, fosters collaboration, and supports SRNS' mission of delivering safe, efficient operations for DOE and NNSA."

Keynote speaker Freddie Grimm, Senior Vice President, Strategic Planning and Integration, emphasized the need for trusted partners to advance the nation's nuclear defense missions and scale manufacturing and infrastructure capabilities.

"There is a national need right in our backyard," said Grimm. "NNSA is pushing a sense of urgency, and we have heard this message loud and clear. We cannot self-manage and self-perform this amount of work. Through strategic planning initiatives, we are identifying new scopes, securing appropriate funding, and working with each contractor to connect with local businesses to exceed project delivery."

Edward Littrell, Glory Professional Facility Services, found the event to be invaluable for ensuring compliance and identifying specific project needs. "As a professional facility maintenance company, we cover everything from gate guard services to landscaping, janitorial supplies, and data center maintenance, including servers," said Littrell. "Today was particularly insightful as we engaged with key department heads, helping us recognize the significant demands at SRNS. As a women-owned, service-disabled veteran-owned small business, we are ready to make an impactful contribution."



Amanda Barnes

AT SRNS: Deputy Vice President for Plutonium Disposition Operations and Programs

IN THE COMMUNITY: Volunteer for National Engineers Week Teach-Ins, STEM Like a Girl and Future City; inaugural AMP Steering Committee; CNTA member.

THE PEOPLE OF SRNS

Amanda Barnes is the newly appointed Deputy Vice President for Plutonium Disposition Operations and Programs (PDOP). In this role, she supports the PDOP team in achieving critical milestones to enhance their plutonium missions and nuclear nonproliferation efforts. Her duties include overseeing program operations, ensuring compliance with safety and environmental standards, managing budgets and resources, and fostering strategic partnerships to drive the organization's mission forward.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Tennessee Technological University and has 24 years of experience at SRS in various roles to include: K Area Deputy Facility Manager, H Area Chief Engineer, HB-Line Operations Manager, F Area Operations Manager, and K and L Area Maintenance Manager, among others.

Barnes has volunteered her time for National Engineers Week Teach-Ins, STEM Like a Girl, and the Future City competition. She served as Vice President and President of the inaugural Aspiring Mid-Career Professionals (AMP) Steering Committee and remains an active member of the Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA).

She resides in Aiken with her husband and enjoys spending time with her four adult children and her granddaughter who calls her "Gigi." Barnes cherishes family time, whether on their boat at the lake, traveling or celebrating holidays—with Thanksgiving being her favorite, due to its focus on family and gratitude. She also enjoys reading and hanging out with friends.

Barnes said, "I have always loved working at SRS. The work we do is very important to the country, and as a patriotic person, I am very proud of that. Also, the people here are wonderful. We could not do what we do without them."

Investing in nature

SRNS sponsors ALC's habitat restoration

SRNS is a proud supporter of the Aiken Land Conservancy (ALC). Since establishing a partnership in 2024, SRNS has donated \$10,000 towards funding ALC's conservation initiatives.

ALC invited SRNS to partner in a bold conservation effort, the Boyd Pond Park red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) and Longleaf Restoration Project. This initiative aims to restore essential habitat for the federally threatened woodpecker and enhance biodiversity within Boyd Pond Park, an area rich with ecological and community value. This effort is also crucial for establishing habitat corridors and necessary environmental resources for the woodpeckers, creating habitat links from SRS to Hitchcock Woods, the Aiken Gopher Tortoise Preserve and other areas in the county.

Donations, including SRNS' pledge, are being utilized to install artificial cavities in pine trees to provide woodpeckers with temporary homes, remove invasive species and hardwoods to improve habitat conditions, monitor and research RCW and ensure habitat links are in place to promote connectivity between various environments in Aiken. ALC strives to increase the biodiversity and transform 71 acres of Boyd Pond Park from a mixed forest into an open pine meadow, reducing the risk of wildfire hazards and promoting land restoration, by 2028.

According to ALC Executive Director Peter Kleinhenz, "Restoration activities to get closer to that goal have already begun thanks to partners like SRNS supporting our work. Restoring habitat for red-cockaded woodpeckers not only helps the birds, but it helps a myriad of other species at the same time while improving forest health and reducing wildfire risk. Aiken Land Conservancy deeply appreciates the partnership with SRNS and all they do to support our local natural areas and the life found within them."

ALC owns 92 acres at Boyd Pond Park and is working to complete the purchase of 25 additional acres to add to the park in partnership with Aiken County, the South Carolina Conservation Bank and the U.S. Forest Service's Community Forest Program. This addition will be leased to Aiken County, expanding the publicly accessible park to 234 acres. Aiken County's ongoing efforts in longleaf pine ecosystem restoration are part of a broader initiative to preserve one of the Southeastern U.S.' most biologically diverse habitats, essential for the survival of numerous species, including the RCW.



Red-cockaded woodpeckers

We make the world **safer.**

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 and stable wasteforms

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