

Primary Media Contact:

Emily Kirk
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions
(803) 208-0338, Emily.Kirk@srs.gov

NNSA Media Contact:

Bryan Cox
NNSA-Savannah River Field Office
(803) 989-9050, Bryan.Cox@nnsa.srs.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SRNS Signs Project Labor Agreement in Support of the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility's Workforce Needs

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA (October 7, 2022) – Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) entered into a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) with the Augusta Building and Construction Trades Council, which is comprised of 19 local unions, during a signing event held at the International Union of Electrical Workers Hall. The agreement is in support of the construction of the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF).

Signing the PLA on behalf of the local unions was Will Salters, President of the Augusta Building and Construction Trades Council. Salters served as the council's lead representative during the negotiation process with SRNS and is particularly eager to get started with the construction work at Savannah River Site (SRS). "This project agreement guarantees SRNS access to more than 2,500 skilled trades and craft employees. Any time our local union members can find work here in the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA), their families and communities benefit as well," said Salters.

Signing the PLA on behalf of SRNS was James Toler, SRNS Executive Vice President, National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Capital Projects. Toler is also looking forward to the partnership between the unions and SRNS. "The PLA signing today represents the accomplishment of a key construction milestone for the SRPPF project and demonstrates SRNS' commitment to move forward in a spirit of collaboration and alignment with the local unions to deliver this exceptional project. I look forward to establishing long term, mutually beneficial relationships as we progress into the construction phase of the SRPPF project," said Toler.

The SRPPF project is ramping up and preparing to begin construction before the end of this year, making today's announcement even more exciting. With approximately 2,500 construction and trade union jobs to fill, this agreement is particularly important for the project. Once the construction of the facility is completed, the enduring plutonium pit production mission will continue to employ approximately 1,800 people.

The plutonium pit production mission is an essential part of the NNSA's long term strategy for nuclear stockpile sustainment. NNSA is responsible for maintaining and ensuring the safety, security, and effectiveness of the national nuclear stockpile. Plutonium pits play a key role in the nuclear stockpile sustainment plan as every nuclear



SRNS Executive Vice President – NNSA Capital Projects James Toler and Augusta Building and Construction Trades Council President Will Salters sign the Project Labor Agreement.

weapon contains a plutonium pit.

Under federal law and to meet national security requirements, NNSA must be able to produce no fewer than 80 pits per year to maintain and replenish the nuclear stockpile. Responsibilities for manufacturing 80 pits per year will be shared between two sites: Los Alamos National Laboratory, which must produce 30 pits per year; and SRS, which will be responsible for producing the remaining 50.

Jason Armstrong, NNSA Savannah River Field Office Manager, attended the event to show NNSA's support for the PLA signing. Armstrong stated, "Today is a great day for everyone here and for our nation's strategic deterrence capability, which depends on this pit production mission moving forward. Today's event serves to put us all one step closer to the finish line and being able to manufacture 50 plutonium pits a year at SRS."

Established by Congress in 2000, NNSA is a semi-autonomous agency within the U.S. Department of Energy responsible for enhancing national security through the military application of nuclear science. NNSA maintains and enhances the safety, security, and effectiveness of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile; works to reduce the global danger from weapons of mass destruction; provides the U.S. Navy with safe and militarily effective nuclear propulsion; and responds to nuclear and radiological emergencies in the U.S. and abroad.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor Corporation-led company with Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, is responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site located near Aiken, South Carolina.



SRNS Executive Vice President – NNSA Capital Projects James Toler and Augusta Building and Construction Trades Council President Will Salters (center) stand with local union representatives.

SRNS-2022 -1198

SRNS-2022 -1189