

## Savannah River Site's Dennis Yates Selected as DOE Facility Representative of Year

**AIKEN, S.C. (June 4, 2014)** – Dennis Yates of the Savannah River Operations Office was recently honored as the 2013 Department of Energy Facility Representative of the Year. The award recognized his sustained performance in identifying and resolving safety and operational issues in facility operations at the Savannah River Site (SRS). Earlier, he was also selected as the SRS Facility Representative of the Year for SRS.

DOE facility representatives are federal employees who provide direction, oversight and evaluation of contractor technical activities that could impact the safe operation of DOE's defense nuclear facilities. They represent the front line in ensuring safe operations with their day-to-day interactions with the contractors who run the facilities.

“Dennis has made a vital impact on safe operations at SRS, as well as ensuring the HB-Line facility is operated safely,” said Patrick McGuire, Assistant Manager for Nuclear Material Stabilization Project, Savannah River Operations Office.

Arriving at HB-Line in January 2013, Dennis' influence crated a “partnering” relationship with HB-Line management, that improved the overall safety culture and contributing to an even stronger Safety Conscious Work Environment - not only in HB-Line, but throughout all the Nuclear Material Stabilization facilities, McGuire said.

He made significant contributions to the complex-wide FR program, the missions of the Savannah River Operations Office and the Department, and safety of the SRS workers and the environment, McGuire said.

“After reading the accomplishments of all the nominees from around the complex it was definitely humbling being the one selected for Facility Repetitive of the Year,” Yates said.

Yates is the second Savannah River Operations Office employee to be honored as the DOE Facility Representative of the Year, following John Barnes, also from SRS, who was selected in 2012.

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With 32 years of nuclear experience, he has a Bachelor's degree in Environmental and Hazardous Materials Management from the University of Maryland University College. Mr. Yates, from Anniston, Alabama, has been with DOE for approximately six years. During that time he has completed Facility Representative Qualification and participated on the oversight team for the contractors ISMS Phase II verification review.

Prior to joining DOE' Savannah River Operations Office, Yates spent 15 years working for the Savannah River Site prime contractor as an instructor, drill lead, training manager for F and H-Tank Farms, Shift Manager for H-Tank Farm, Training and Procedures Manager for the Tritium Facility and a senior Conduct of Operations Advisor for F-Area and H-Area.

Dennis Yates has also served as the lead Conduct of Operations assessor on a Facilities Evaluation Board assessment, and a variety of Operational Reviews and performance evaluations. In 1991 he was certified as a Senior Reactor Operator at the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant and as a simulator instructor at the Watts Barr Nuclear Plant.

From 1978 to 1990 Yates served in the U. S. Navy as a qualified engineering officer of the watch, engineering watch supervisor, machinery division leading petty officer and prototype instructor on board nuclear powered submarines and at the Navy Nuclear Prototype Training Facility.

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