

News from the Savannah River Site

U S DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY • AIKEN • SC 29808

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For Immediate Release

SRS Public Tour Registration Now Open, Historic Tours Offered for 2017

AIKEN, S.C. (Dec. 8, 2016) – Registration is now open for the Savannah River Site (SRS) 2017 public tour program. More than 1,000 seats are available during 22 tours to be held throughout the year. The program is managed by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) for the Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office.

A significant change for this year is the offering of four historic tours hosted in partnership with the SRS Cold War Historic Preservation Group featuring the former town of Ellenton, C Reactor and the site's Curation Facility.

"We want to ensure that local citizens, newcomers and visitors to the area are fully informed about the missions and current activities at the Savannah River Site," said Elizabeth Harm, SRNS Tour Program Coordinator. "Though we work hard to meet this goal in a variety of ways, participating in a public tour provides the perfect opportunity to see the incredible work being accomplished here behind the fences."

Traveling within large and comfortable commercial buses, driving tours provide members of the public with an opportunity to see many of the historic and operational facilities at SRS that were responsible for the production of plutonium and tritium during the Cold War with the Soviet Union. Tour participants also learn about the site's current activities and future missions.

In 1972, SRS was designated as the first National Environmental Research Park. Encompassing 310 square miles, endangered bald eagles and red-cockaded woodpeckers can be found at several locations throughout the site. SRS is also home to alligators, coyotes, deer, turkeys, otters, armadillos and many other animal species. The tour concludes with a stop at the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory where the mission of the lab is explained and several types of animals are presented.

Today, SRS is a key DOE industrial facility responsible for stewardship of the environment, while managing nuclear materials in support of our nation's national defense and U.S. nuclear non-proliferation efforts. The site also develops and deploys environmental cleanup technologies, responsible for treating nuclear and hazardous wastes left from the Cold War.

Each tour starts at the Aiken County Applied Research Center, located off Highway 278, near New Ellenton and is free to members of the public.

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"I appreciated the chance to tour SRS," said Lisa Kaminski, a resident of Beech Island, S.C. "It gave me the great opportunity to gain a visual understanding of what modern operations at SRS entail."

To register, visit www.srs.gov/general/tour/public.htm. If you experience difficulty registering online, call (803) 952-8994.

Each tour begins at 12:30 p.m. and typically ends at 4:30 p.m., accommodating up to 50 people. Participants must be 18 years of age or older and U.S. citizens.

Seats are limited and are filled on a first come, first served basis. Large groups can be accommodated by calling the above phone number.

2017 SRS Public Tour Dates

January	12, 24	July	6, 18
February	9, 21	August	10, 22
March	9, 21	September	7, 19
April	11, 25*	October	5*, 17*
May	9*, 23	November	9
June	8, 20	December	12

(* - Historic Tours)

The tour program at SRS is managed by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions as the site's management and operating contractor.

About Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina.

(Photo and caption below)

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Cutline: Encompassing 310 square miles, SRS tours provide the public with an opportunity to see and learn about current activities and future missions, as well as, many historic and operational facilities that were responsible for the production of plutonium and tritium during the Cold War.

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