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**For Immediate Release**

October, 2, 2008

## **DOE's Savannah River Site Fulfills Uranium Shipment Contract with TVA**

Aiken, SC – The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Savannah River Site (SRS) this week safely sent its final shipment of Cold War era uranium to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), marking a significant step toward achieving the Department's goal of safely cleaning up the Site. As part of an interagency agreement with TVA, DOE down blended highly enriched uranium (HEU) and provided a low-enriched uranium (LEU) solution to commercial fuel fabricators who will process the solution into fuel for TVA's power reactors.

"This project is a stellar example of how the Cold War facilities at SRS can be used today to further nonproliferation efforts and to remove nuclear material from South Carolina," said DOE-Savannah River Manager Jeff Allison. "NNSA and DOE's Office of Environmental Management continue to work together to successfully achieve the Nation's nonproliferation goals and to safely dispose of Cold War era nuclear waste across the country."

SRS has made 283 shipments since 2003 – enough LEU to power every home in the United States for 55 days, or every home in South Carolina for 11 years. This project saves taxpayers an estimated \$750 million in storage and disposal costs for the legacy uranium, saves TVA approximately \$150 million in uranium costs, and will help improve the environment by supplying more emissions-free power.

The HEU was used in the nuclear weapon production process. After the Cold War ended and SRS's production facilities ceased making plutonium, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) HEU Disposition Program was established to meet nonproliferation objectives and to convert the material to a useful peacetime form. The program utilizes SRS facilities, including H Canyon, the Savannah River National Laboratory, K Area and the F/H laboratories, to process, purify and down blend the HEU into LEU to meet the specifications established by TVA. The proliferation risk from this material is equivalent to approximately 450 nuclear warheads.

The material that has been shipped to TVA represents the last of SRS's legacy uranium, but the agreement with TVA is proposed to continue to provide a disposition path for LEU solution produced by the DOE Enriched Uranium Disposition Project.

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**SR-08-03**