

# News from the Savannah River Site

US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY • AIKEN • SC 29808

**Primary Media Contacts:** Angie Benfield  
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions  
(803) 952-9830  
angela.benfield@srs.gov

## SRS Celebrates Environmental Stewardship on Earth Day

One of the Savannah River Site's (SRS) most important missions was center stage on Thursday, as Site leaders and employees celebrated Earth Day at a short ceremony where trees were planted to signify the site's ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Environmental cleanup, sustainability, and research and development are top priorities for the Department of Energy (DOE), which invests hundreds-of-millions of dollars to advance the cleanup of Cold War operations, while also developing technologies that address some of the world's toughest environmental challenges.

"Earth Day represents the importance of a global approach to environmental conservation. Although it is celebrated only one day per year, its important message is one that all SRS contractors take very seriously each-and-every day," said Stuart MacVean, SRNS President and CEO. "SRNS is dedicated to identifying and implementing green technologies in all of our focus areas. In addition to our environmentally-conscious nuclear work; we also challenge every employee to maximize recycling efforts. We are proud that we maintain a 50 percent recycle rate, meeting DOE objectives and exceeding the SC desired rate by 10 percent."

As the Management and Operations contractor at SRS, SRNS has accelerated or completed several remediation projects that reduce the Site's current operational footprint by 85 percent; freeing up that acreage for future missions. In addition to environmental cleanup, SRNS also conducts the safe demolition or permanent containment of several nuclear facilities; including cleanup of the inactive 235-F Plutonium Fuel Form Facility that made pellets to power deep space missions. To date, SRNS has successfully closed 408 of 515 environmental remediation projects at SRS.

In addition to environmental cleanup and technology development, one of SRS's most focused missions is closure of the SRS liquid waste tanks where about 35 million gallons of radioactive waste is safely stored in 43 underground waste tanks from SRS chemical separations processes. Savannah River Remediation (SRR), the Liquid Waste contractor at SRS, is dedicated to the reduction of risks through safe treatment, stabilization, and disposition of legacy radioactive waste. At the Earth Day celebration, SRR was presented a Sustainability Award from the U.S. DOE Sustainability Performance Office for adding a rhombo solar cover to a water basin, which saves 55 million gallons of well water annually and a related cost savings of nearly \$24,000 per year.

"Protecting the people and the environment in the surrounding communities is at the center of our mission while safely operating the liquid waste facilities at SRS," said Tom Foster, SRR President and Project Manager. "The rhombo project is just one example of SRR's dedication toward executing sustainable and environmentally conservative solutions, not just for this generation but for generations to come."

# News from the Savannah River Site

U S D E P A R T M E N T O F E N E R G Y • A I K E N • S C 2 9 8 0 8

At the close of the SRS Earth Day celebration, leaders from DOE, SRNS and SRR planted two Southern Magnolia Trees near the executive office complex. The trees symbolize the Site's endearing commitment to environmental stewardship.

This year marks the 47<sup>th</sup> observance of Earth day, which was founded by Gaylord Nelson, a former U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, in response to the 1969 oil spill off the coast of Santa Barbara, Ca. His goal was to infuse energy and passion into environmental matters. The official observance of Earth Day is on April 22 each year.



*Caption: Thomas Johnson, DOE-SR Associate Deputy Manager, and Kliss McNeel, SRNS Senior Vice President for Environmental Stewardship, Safety and Health, plant a Southern Magnolia tree to symbolize SRS's commitment to environmental stewardship.*

SRNS-2017-572