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For Immediate Release

Senior Officials from Aiken County Public Schools Explore SRS during Special Site Tour

AIKEN, S.C. – April 26, 2017 – Aiken County Public Schools (ACPS) Superintendent Dr. Sean Alford and 16 members of the Aiken County School District Cabinet recently toured the Savannah River Site (SRS) with the objective to learn more about SRS missions and the extent of the site's educational outreach programs.

"Our programs directly impact a large percentage of Aiken County students every year," said Candice Dermody, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) Manager, Education Outreach. "We felt that honoring Dr. Alford's request for a tour of SRS would improve our ability to collaborate and communicate with his staff, creating an even more effective team to reach students throughout Aiken County and, for that matter, the region."

"I'm confident the time spent together will prove to be of significant value to all involved," added Dermody. "The mutual exchange of information and variety of demonstrations provided for our visitors has given them a more complete picture of who we are and what we do."

Two of the more visual demonstrations involved 3D printing and virtual reality, functions with a wide range of potential application throughout today's industry and commercial businesses.

"The tour was an excellent opportunity for my staff and I to see what lies behind the gates at SRS," said Dr. Sean Alford, Superintendent, Aiken County Public Schools. "The immensity and complexity of the site and its various missions was intriguing. The visit affirmed my faith in the important role SRS plays in our community and the limitless opportunities for hands-on, STEM-related learning our continued partnership with the site provides."

ACPS tour participants were also given the opportunity to see and learn about several areas of the site, including:

- Ameresco's Biomass Cogeneration Facility (power and steam plant)
- Building decontamination and decommissioning and area clean-up and closure activities
- C Reactor (no longer operating)
- F Canyon, F Tank Farm and the MOX construction site
- H Canyon
- Low-level waste disposal facilities
- Savannah River Ecology Laboratory

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- Savannah River National Laboratory
- SRNS and SRR education outreach overview presentations
- Tritium Facilities

A highlight of the day's events included an extensive walking tour of the only operating radioactive waste glassification plant in the nation. The Defense Waste Processing Facility converts the liquid radioactive waste currently stored at the SRS into a solid glass form suitable for long-term storage and disposal.

"We were pleased to offer the opportunity for tour participants to actually experience an operating nuclear facility," said Maddie Blair, Public Relations, Savannah River Remediation. "It's a fascinating process that is playing a crucial role towards the cleanup of radioactive waste at SRS."

In addition to a limited number of special tours conducted each year related to site missions, driving tours of SRS are offered to the public annually to provide an opportunity to see many of the site's facilities and learn more about the site's history, current activities and future missions. The program is managed by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions for the Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office.



News from the Savannah River Site

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Caption: Savannah River National Laboratory Senior Design Specialist Ken Meeler demonstrates a 3D printing process used to create one-of-a-kind items to enhance and accelerate scientific research and development during a tour of the Rapid Additive Manufacturing Lab at SRS, as SRNL employee Roz Blocker (center) looks on. The special tour hosted personnel from Aiken County Public Schools (ACPS). ACPS officials shown are (from left) Laurie Reese, Elementary School Executive Director; Cassie Cagle, Director of Special Programs; Shunte Dugar, Principal of New Ellenton STEAM Middle School; and Robin Hill-Davidson, Principal of Greendale Elementary School.

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