



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

SAVANNAH RIVER SITE

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**DOE APPROVES FULL CONSTRUCTION START OF SALT
WASTE PROCESSING FACILITY AT SRS**

Aiken, SC – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) this week approved the start of full construction of the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF) at the Savannah River Site (SRS) following independent review and validation of a revised cost estimate for the project.

SWPF will treat highly radioactive salt solutions currently stored in underground tanks at the SRS and prepare these solutions for ultimate disposition. SWPF will safely process 33 million gallons of radioactive liquid and salt cake at SRS.

“Approval to start full construction of this critical, one-of-a-kind facility demonstrates DOE’s commitment to waste cleanup at SRS,” said Jeffrey M. Allison, Manager of DOE’s Savannah River Operations Office. “SWPF supports the Department’s highest priority to reduce risk and close the SRS Tank Farms. We are ready to move forward.”

Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group, Inc. (Parsons) was selected by DOE in 2004 to design, construct, start up, and operate the SWPF for one year. At its peak, the SWPF project will employ more than 400 construction and support personnel. Construction of the \$1.34 billion facility is expected to be completed in approximately four years, followed by commissioning and start of radiological waste processing.

DOE’s approval to start full construction is the next critical phase in the project. In September 2007 when DOE initiated limited construction and procurement activities for SWPF, Parsons has completed an emergency spillway, the SWPF Administration building, and supporting underground utilities.

Of the approximate 36 million gallons of radioactive wastes stored in SRS tanks, 33 million gallons is liquid and salt cake. The SWPF will separate key high-activity radionuclides from the low-activity salt waste, using proven separation technologies of filtration and centrifugal contactors.

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SWPF CONSTRUCTION

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After separation, the high-activity salt waste will be vitrified in the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) and temporarily stored onsite until disposal in a geologic repository. The remaining high-volume/low-activity salt waste will be treated and disposed of at the Saltstone Disposal Facility. This dual-track approach reduces the number of DWPF canisters to be filled and the facility's associated lifecycle costs.

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