

For Immediate Release  
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## **Bulk Grouting on 2 SRS Waste Tanks Complete; Final Tank Capping Expected Later This Summer**

AIKEN, S.C. (July 9, 2012) – Enough concrete grout to fill nearly five Olympic-sized swimming pools has been poured into the two Savannah River Site (SRS) waste tanks, bringing to an end bulk grouting operations.

Operational closure for the two tanks is targeted for later this summer.

Up next will be the grouting of related equipment and capping of the tanks, including grouting of the tanks' risers, which are the two-foot wide service entrances located at the top of the tanks. The risers were used to place equipment inside the tanks during cleaning operations.

An agreement between DOE, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control mandated the operational closure of the tanks by December 31, 2012. The grouting of the two tanks is targeted for completion by September, well ahead of a mandated completion, according to Terrel Spears, Assistant Manager for Waste Disposition Project, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)-Savannah River Operations Office.

"Eliminating the risk of radioactive legacy nuclear waste is a priority at SRS," Spears said. "Completing bulk grouting on the next two tanks slated for closure is significant to meeting our mission and confirms the tanks' closure will be completed this year."

Bulk grouting operations began April 2, 2012. Since then over 3.2 million gallons of specially-formulated concrete grout have been poured in waste Tanks 18 and 19, marking a significant risk reduction accomplishment, according to Savannah River Remediation (SRR) President and Project Manager Dave Olson.

"Closing these tanks ends many years of excellent work and a lot of safe operations," Olson said. "We have some work remaining to completely fill and cap the tanks, but, with bulk grouting complete, we have eliminated considerable risk for our workers and the environment."

(more)

(add one – bulk grouting complete)

The tanks were constructed in the 1958 with Tank 18 becoming operational in 1959 as a nuclear waste receipt tank as part of SRS's nuclear weapons production process. Tank 19 was placed into operations in 1961 and also used as a nuclear waste receipt tank. The tanks were placed out of service in the 1980s. Each tanks held as much as 1.3 million gallons of hazardous waste.

SRS was the first DOE site to close waste tanks when Tanks 17 and 20 were closed in 1997. With the operational closure of Tanks 18 and 19, SRS will become the most recent site to close tanks. The only other high-level waste tanks were closed at the Idaho National Laboratory in 2007.

SRS is owned by DOE. The SRS Liquid Waste contract is managed by SRR, a team of companies led by URS Corp. with partners Bechtel National, CH2M Hill and Babcock & Wilcox. Critical subcontractors for the contract are AREVA, Energy Solutions and URS Safety Management Solutions.

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#### PHOTO CAPTION

SRR Tanks 18 and 19 Closure Project Manager Jim Herbert watches the final bulk grouting of Tank 19 inside a mobile control room at the Savannah River Site.