

For Immediate Release

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Savannah River Remediation Begins Installation of Process Vessel Ventilation System

AIKEN, S.C. (August 7, 2014) – Savannah River Remediation (SRR), the liquid waste contractor at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Savannah River Site (SRS), is beginning a year-long project that will improve SRR's salt disposition process and prepare the Site's liquid waste operations for the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF), which is currently under construction.

Installation of a process vessel ventilation system (PVV) began earlier this month in a facility that houses salt solution receipt tanks (SSRT) at the Saltstone Production Facility (SPF). Once completed and placed into service, the SSRTs receive decontaminated salt solution, which is turned into a grout mixture and permanently disposed of in SRS disposal units. The SSRTs are in place and the process vessel ventilation system becomes the newest addition to the project.

"The SSRT Process Vessel Ventilation system is a vital part in the success of SRR's liquid waste mission, and an enhancement to the safety of our project," said Keith Harp, SWPF Project Integration Manager. "The system being installed has an environmental monitoring system that prevents any breakthroughs into the environment."

The PVV system will keep the SSRT facility in a negative pressure to prevent release of unwanted contamination into the environment. Outside air is pulled through the SSRTs by the ventilation system, which will prevent the buildup of hydrogen gas inside the tanks. The system is designed to filter and monitor the air from the SSRTs before it is released into the environment.

According to Stuart MacVean, SRR President and Project Manager, the new system will be a great assistance to the start of SWPF.

"Not only is it going to help SWPF operations, but this new system will also improve the flexibility of current salt processing within the Liquid Waste facilities," MacVean said.

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The SSRTs will aid the Modular Caustic Side Solvent Extraction Unit (MCU) as it works to increase its production rates. The MCU equipment takes high-activity salt solution and divides it into two waste streams. One of those streams, the decontaminated salt solution (DSS), is transferred to Saltstone Production Facility and currently is received into a small 4,000 gallon vessel. Upon being placed into service next year, the SSRTs will provide up to 120,000 gallons of receipt space with improved ventilation capability.

The SSRTs are set to be operational in July 2015.

The Savannah River Site, located near Aiken, S.C., is owned by the U.S. Department of Energy. The SRS Liquid Waste contract is managed by Savannah River Remediation, a team of companies led by URS Corporation, with partners Bechtel National, CH2M HILL and Babcock & Wilcox. Critical subcontractors for the contract are AREVA, Energy Solutions and URS Professional Solutions.

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