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Procedure Enhancement Program Raises the Bar in SRS's Solid Waste Management Facility

AIKEN, S.C. (August 25, 2022) - The Savannah River Site's (SRS) Solid Waste Management Facility (SWMF) recently completed the Procedure Enhancement Program (PEP), which was designed to improve procedure format and quality, leading to enhanced efficiency and a streamlined procedure review process that can be applied for any future procedure development.

"In 2015, SWMF recognized several inadequacies in the performance of procedure reviews," said Verne Mooneyhan, SWMF Facility Manager for Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), the managing and operating contractor at SRS. "We designed the Procedure Enhancement Program to address these inadequacies and ensure we had a clear set of steps to follow from this point forward."

SWMF reviewed 140 procedures to ensure they reflected current missions and were written so as to minimize and reduce potential errors. This review included deactivating procedures (32%) no longer supported by SWMF missions; combining similar procedures; and eliminating unnecessary steps without impacting safety precautions.

"We utilized small group session to help identify additional procedural shortcomings for inconsistencies, wording, and sequence flow," said Renee Hoeffner, SRNS SWMF Deputy Operations Manager.

Hoeffner explained that the same process was followed for each procedure that was reviewed. To ensure consistency, a PEP checklist was developed. The checklist was used in drafting procedure revisions through a Team Meeting format, which were sent to designated Procedure Review Team members consisting of subject matter experts. The final approved product was then routed to a Procedure Writer and on to management for official review and implementation.

To ensure that the PEP provided a baseline for the process, SWMF implemented training for personnel that included expectations for procedure development, review, and validation; procedural requirements; and the impact of human factors in procedure development, review, and validation.

"SRNS is constantly looking for ways to improve our processes and reduce risks," said SRNS Senior Vice President of Environmental Management Operations Janice Lawson. "I applaud SWMF's self-identification of an issue and their resolution and persistence in not only getting it fixed, but in improving the process as well."

SRS's Solid Waste Management (SWM) is responsible for the disposition of the Site's solid wastes, which include sanitary, construction and demolition, hazardous, low-level radioactive and transuranic wastes.



The Solid Waste Management Facility at SRS.