

For Immediate Release

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Legacy Company Construction Workers Achieve Safety Milestone at the Savannah River Site

AIKEN, S.C. (March 31, 2014) – A portion of the construction workforce at the Savannah River Site (SRS) has worked more than 26 million hours without an injury or illness resulting in a missed day of work.

The last missed day of work due to an injury or illness for construction employees of the former SRS contractor, Washington Savannah River Company / Bechtel Savannah River Inc., and current liquid waste contractor, Savannah River Remediation (SRR), was recorded in June 1998. Both contractors have shared the same recording process for liquid waste operations at the Site and, consequently, SRR has continued to build on these hours to achieve the 26 million hours mark.

That string of hours represents more than 15 years of work without a days-away case. The average construction organization would have 191 days-away cases in a span of 26 million hours, according to the latest Bureau of Labor statistics.

SRR President and Project Manager Ken Rueter congratulated SRR construction for their accomplishment and noted all work at SRS begins and ends with safety.

“This accomplishment represents one of the many legacy SRS safety milestones that have been jointly celebrated by the current SRR construction workforce and the Augusta Construction Building Trades,” Rueter said. “SRR’s construction employees are continuing an impressive record of work without a days-away injury. I am pleased to see them continue to keep the focus on what’s most important in their daily job performance of high-hazard work.”

Kim Cassara, SRR Director of Projects, Design and Construction, praised construction workers and their supervisors for their dedication to a safe workplace.

“Our construction project employees continue to demonstrate they are the best in the business,” Cassara said. “By any comparison, this is World Class safety performance and a rare construction industry achievement that exemplifies our unrelenting commitment to the highest standards of workplace safety.”

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Construction's 26 million hours

She added that the Augusta Construction Building Trades are a key player in the safety performance at SRR.

"The Trades provides us with skilled craftsman who understand safety is a part of each task every day," Cassara said.

SRR construction employees are the specific workgroup involved in construction activities in the SRS liquid waste operations.

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 SRR, 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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