

# News from the Savannah River Site

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## SRNS Completes Repairs of Equipment Used for New Missions

AIKEN, S.C. Sept. 25, 2014 – The Department of Energy’s primary contractor at the Savannah River Site, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, has completed repairs and installation of a piece of equipment that will not only save taxpayer dollars, but supports the waste minimization program at the Site.

“Replacing the reboiler of the Acid Recovery Unit (ARU) allows us to reuse the nitric acid that is needed for running H Canyon processes,” said Robert Gunby Shift Operations Manager. “With the startup of H Canyon’s campaign to dissolve used nuclear fuel that is currently being stored at the Site, it became important to get the ARU back to working order.”

H Canyon operations generate vapors that contain nitric acid that are captured in an overhead tank. The vapors are concentrated until reaching a 50 percent nitric acid concentration which can be reused in the canyon.

The reboiler replacement involved a complex process to remove the 8,500 pound component. It required two cranes to reposition and pull the existing unit and to set the new unit into place. It also required disconnecting and reconnecting several process solution pipes and instrumentation lines.

“The ARU has been out of service for about two years, awaiting repairs that were unable to be completed due to budget shortfalls until



*A crane operator lowers the old reboiler from the Acid Recover Unit to allow workers to attach it to a second crane in preparation for final storage. Replacing the 8,500 pound component required a complex process.*

this year” said Gunby. “Taking steps to get the ARU back in service now means we can take waste from Canyon processes and turn it into a reusable product when it is needed. We expect to restart the ARU within the next few months.”

According to Sr. Vice President EM Operations Paul Hunt, the new campaigns that are driving the need for the ARU repair prove the sustainability of H Canyon.

“Although the Canyon is a one of a kind national asset, it was not immune to funding deficiencies that occurred during the national recession,” Hunt said. “H Canyon has found new life and is currently able to support multiple customers and missions that will run until at least 2020.”

*Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina.*

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