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SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



SRNS Today

Coal Yard Cleanup

Innovative approach aims for shorter schedule, reduced costs in D Area Coal Storage Yard cleanup



This month

COVID-19 response • Site Services projects • H Canyon outages • DHEC ePermitting



Stuart MacVean
SRNS President and CEO

Welcome

to the June 2020 edition of

SRNS Today

On the cover

SRNS Project Manager Kelsey Holcomb watches work in progress at the D Area Coal Storage Yard Project.

Transition and change have been the themes of 2020. We have adjusted to respond to the pandemic, found new ways to conduct business and adapted to new environments, both at work and in our personal lives. But as we move into the Independence Day holiday, I am encouraged by the things that haven't changed: Savannah River Nuclear Solutions' commitment to safety and performance excellence; the resilience and talent of our workforce; and the support of our community and stakeholders.

SRNS continued to work through the COVID-19 pandemic in June. We partnered with Augusta University to provide quick coronavirus testing for SRS employees. Additionally, SRNS Site Services completed an impressive amount of work despite dealing with reduced staff, to ensure infrastructure needs are being met.

SRNS has also continued to use innovation and forward thinking to complete our important work. H Canyon recently hired dedicated work control staff to more effectively plan for facility steam outages. SRNS construction recently made progress on removing contaminated soil from the D Area Coal Storage Yard. And SRNS was the first company in South Carolina to submit a request and receive a permit using the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's new ePermitting process.

Our company has proven again that we can weather any obstacle and effectively deal with challenges. More changes are surely ahead, but I have no doubt that we are ready and able to handle those, too.

I hope you enjoy this edition of SRNS Today, and as always, thank you for your interest in Savannah River Nuclear Solutions.



Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell. Since August 2008, SRNS has been the management and operating contractor for the Savannah River Site, a Department of Energy-owned site near Aiken, South Carolina, including the Savannah River National Laboratory. The SRNS corporate and community offices are located in the renovated 1912 "Old Post Office" building in Aiken, S.C. The primary initiatives of SRNS are national security, clean energy and environmental stewardship. SRNS Today is published monthly by SRNS Corporate Communications to inform our employees and other stakeholders of the company's operational- and community-related activities. If you have questions or comments, please contact us at 803.952.6131 or visit our website.

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SRNS recently entered into a contract with nearby Augusta University Health to provide fast and reliable testing for the COVID-19 virus to benefit SRS employees. Lasha Kersey (left), Nurse and AU Health Wellness Coordinator for Population Health, and Stephanie Ward, Nurse, AU Health Adult Care Coordinator for Population Health, administer a test. Photo courtesy Augusta University Health

SRNS, Augusta University partner to provide SRS employee testing for possible COVID-19

SRNS and Augusta University Health (AU Health) have collaborated to provide prompt testing for SRS employees to detect the possible presence of the coronavirus. The agreement has been in place since May 7 and has proven to be a very effective means for quick results, with dozens of employees already benefiting from this swift response.



"The easily accessible testing allows us to quickly identify or rule out transmission within the workforce. We've been very pleased with Augusta University Health," said Brenda Mills, SRNS Director, Site Medical. "It's reassuring to know that fast and reliable tests for COVID-19 are now available for our workers."

According to Sabrina Elam, SRNS Strategic Services Acquisition Manager, the SRS Medical Department had previously observed that many Site employees exhibiting symptoms indicative of COVID-19 were having to wait for extended periods before receiving test results from their healthcare provider. "Once our Site Medical Department identified the need to accelerate the receipt of test results, they initiated a contract through the SRNS procurement group with Augusta University Health. AU Health responded quickly and effectively to meet our needs. We greatly appreciate their assistance."

As SRNS works to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, AU Health Chief Medical Officer Dr. Phillip Coule considers this partnership as one of the many ways AU Health is helping to keep workers safe.

"We feel we have a responsibility to help our community during these challenging times," said Coule. "We're proud to leverage our

clinical expertise to SRS so they feel confident in doing their part in protecting their staff and the public from infection."

The agreement calls for employees exhibiting symptoms to travel to one of two drive-up test centers in the greater Augusta area.

Upon arrival at a test center, employees will verify their identity and scheduled appointment. Next, an AU Health technician will administer a standard test with results being provided within 72 hours to SRS medical personnel through a secure means. SRS medical personnel will then notify the employee of the results.

"The turnaround time for test results is in line with the contractual agreements Augusta University Health has established with other local companies," said Mills. "The entire process has been running very smoothly."

Employees who test positive for the virus will be requested to seek treatment at the medical facility of their choice.

Elam noted once the need for COVID-19 testing support arose, SRNS Procurement expedited efforts to secure these vital services for the Site. "Working with Augusta University Health representatives, SRNS was able to ensure a successful outcome. We're in this pandemic for an indefinite period of time and having a subcontract in place for site employees to utilize is significant. It has been an outstanding team effort for all involved," she added.

The prompt availability of laboratory testing for COVID-19 is just one of several methods within the "defense in depth" controls in place to protect workers at SRS.



SRTE thanks front line workers The Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) leadership team thanks employees who continued to work on site each day to fulfill missions critical to national security during the COVID-19 pandemic. (From left) Michael Collins, Area Operations Manager; J.C. Epting, Chief Business Officer; Linda Wozniak, Human Resources Manager; Deb Solomon, Environmental Security Safety and Health Manager; Mark Davis, Acting Senior Vice President NNSA Operations and Programs; and Mack Price, Project Owner of the Tritium Finishing Facility Line Item Project.

Perseverance pays off for Site Services during pandemic

SRNS Site Services (SS) employees have taken the restraints and complexity associated with working in a COVID-19 environment in stride, quickly, efficiently and safely adapting to the new normal at SRS.

The coronavirus disease and reduced staffing levels at SRS have not diminished the need for infrastructure repairs and surveillance activities of all types involving several companies across SRS. Whether the task is small involving a few employees or large, requiring dozens, SS has provided the expertise, manpower and equipment needed to ensure safe and secure operations within all areas of the Site.

According to Wayne Gleaton, SRNS Director, Site Infrastructure SS personnel exhibited a high degree of dedication, experience and skill as they accomplished several large and often, difficult tasks to date during the Essential Mission Critical phase of the pandemic.

“Our folks take a lot of pride in safely doing whatever the job requires, including working evenings and weekends,” said Gleaton. “They understand and take ownership of the systems they maintain.”

As an example, Gleaton noted that a small group of operators are essentially covering the entire Site for fire water, domestic water, service water and other similar services, including responding to any off-shift event such as damage caused by severe weather. “They have worked hard the last two months achieving the successful completion of 12 water-related repairs, nine of them major. A recent water-line leak in H Area impacted the Canyon, the Tank Farm and DWPF requiring a priority repair.”

Gleaton explained that COVID-19 has created the need for reduced staffing, with additional SS workers brought in as needed.

“One of our first big jobs since COVID hit involved 147 tasks performed during a two-week A Area steam outage with 25 to 30 workers properly following CDC controls,” said Gleaton. “We were doing confined spaces entries, welding and a variety of other tasks, working on steam lines and inside the biomass boilers or the oil boiler at the biomass plants. In fact, a DOE assessment team observed the work during that time and stated that they were very impressed with the field execution of the COVID-19 controls with multiple activities in such a small area. That’s good work.”

“We can’t forget the SS support staff who are behind the scenes fueling this ‘engine.’ Our planners, dispatchers, managers and all the other employees it takes to provide that level of support to make those in the field successful,” added Gleaton.

The challenges presented by the COVID-19 threat seems to have only heightened overall safety awareness for all SS employees. “They’ve taken it all in stride and are doing well,” said Gleaton. “They are probably the best small team of personnel I have worked with in my 40 years on site.”

Projects completed

Other projects safely and cost-effectively completed over the last two months

- Replacement of ultraviolet disinfection system at Central Sanitary Treatment Plant
- Deactivation of the Ford Building in N Area
- Implementation of multiple design safety analysis items in Tritium and the Savannah River National Laboratory
- Major overhaul of a diesel fire water pump in Z Area
- Maintenance for HB Line and H Canyon emergency diesel generators
- Extensive HEPA filter testing

The long metal arm and strong steel teeth of a massive construction excavator recently cleared its first bucket of hardened clay containing countless bits and pieces of coal, the first step towards removing the contaminated soil from 12 acres known as the SRS D Area Coal Storage Yard.

Until recently, the yard held huge piles of coal used to continuously feed an enormous powerhouse built in the 1950s. The once-impressive powerhouse is now cold and dark, awaiting demolition.

“Any large pile of coal that sits for nearly six decades will interact with rainwater and the atmosphere,” said Kelsey Holcomb, an SRNS project manager. “Coal contains iron sulfide, also known as pyrite or Fool’s Gold. When it mixes with rainwater, it creates sulfuric acid. The acidity leaches into the soil and draws out heavy metals such as beryllium and chromium.”

According to Holcomb, these heavy metals are found primarily within the first few feet of soil but will slowly migrate over time into the groundwater where they could reach the Savannah River, a source of drinking water for downstream communities.

“We like to catch things as far upstream as possible before we get into a human health or ecology threat condition,” added Holcomb. “We’re taking action to remedy the acidic condition of the soil in the Coal Storage Yard. It currently has about the same pH as Coca-Cola, around 3.0 to 3.2. We’re going to thoroughly mix fine grade limestone throughout the 12 acres down to four feet, which will bring the pH back to around 5.5. That’s normal for this area.”

Plans call for using approximately 1,000 tons of fine grade limestone over a period of six months to complete the project. SRNS Construction will work on one acre at a time to control erosion and ensure no sediment enters nearby creeks and streams as a result of soil excavation.

Piles of unused coal were removed from the Coal Storage Yard in 2012 and the surface scraped to reveal a layer of red clay. “It looks like the surface of Mars out there,” said Holcomb.

The sprawling acreage will change from red to gray over the next six months, as the final covering—normally sodded grass—will now consist of a layer of limestone gravel. This innovative approach is expected to shorten the project schedule by one month and significantly reduce the overall cost.

SRNS finds creative solution to former coal yard cleanup

Powering down in D Area



Improving H Canyon outages

Specialized H Area team focuses on efficiencies and effectiveness

Employees in the SRNS H Canyon facility recently took steps to improve planning for facility steam outages by hiring dedicated work control staff to prepare for outages full time.

“In the past, we have relied on the existing work control team to also plan for outages,” said H Area Maintenance Manager James Rosema. “However, we found that it was nearly impossible to do any advanced preparation for outages, as our work control workers would get overtaken by day-to-day or more urgent work control needs. Having a dedicated work control staff to just focus on preparing for outages has left our team better prepared.”

Steam is used in H Canyon and its associated “Outside Facilities” to provide heat for process operations and making process operation tank transfers. It is also used to provide heat for the control room and offices located in the facility. H Canyon undergoes two steam outages a year to repair steam pressure header systems. Outages generally last about two weeks but can last longer if needed.

Steam is used in H Canyon and its associated “Outside Facilities” (pictured) to provide heat for process operations and making process operation tank transfers.

“There are literally hundreds of flanged and threaded pipe connections that—over time—will begin to leak and require repairs,” said H Canyon/Outside Facilities Outage Coordinator Dan Beauchamp. “In many cases we can isolate the specific steam/condensate leak with a separate lockout and make quick repairs. In other cases we are unable to isolate and are required to mitigate the leaks until such time that we can take an outage and get the repairs completed.”

H Canyon employees also take advantage of steam outages to perform required structural integrity inspections assessments on the canyon air exhaust underground ducts, as well as above ground inspections of the 291-H Stack/Annulus.

Planning for outages begins approximately six months in advance because they require a large amount of work to be done in a short amount of time. “That means that as soon as we are done with one outage, planning needs to begin for the next,” said Rosema. “With a dedicated work control staff, we are able to do that more efficiently and effectively.”

SRNS first company in South Carolina to receive permit via new S.C. DHEC electronic process

A new computer-based system created by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) processes requests for permits quickly, often in minutes, which will have a major positive impact on work at SRS and for SRNS.

According to DHEC officials, SRNS is the first company in the state of South Carolina to submit a request and receive a permit using the new process, known as ePermitting. “The first permit related to asbestos abatement and, for that matter, the first regarding a wide array of permits typically issued by DHEC, has been granted to SRNS,” said SRNS Asbestos Program Administrator Lance Cramer.

The ePermitting system replaces a decades-old process requiring the submittal of completed paper forms requesting permits that were delivered by the U.S. Postal Service.

“More specifically, it is one system that manages permitting, compliance and several other functions, while allowing authorized users to submit applications and other required documentation from any electronic device,” said Myra Reece, DHEC Director of Environmental Affairs.

“We have been working with Mr. Cramer during the beta testing of this new system, welcoming his suggestions,” she said. “His assistance and past experience have been helpful while providing the perspective of the end user.”

Cramer’s responsibilities related to asbestos abatement for SRNS are extensive. He also creates a substantial number of annual requests for permits to be sent to DHEC. “Over the last 10 years, our group has applied for and received about 75 permits per year related just to asbestos. We welcomed the opportunity to partner with DHEC to help create the new highly efficient system,” he said. “I admire their innovative thinking and drive to continually improve.”

The demolition of any structure at SRS, whether known to contain asbestos or not, requires an asbestos demolition permit. “It could



An SRNS employee provides direction as an SRS building is demolished, which requires SCDHEC permits. SRNS is the first company in South Carolina to submit a request and receive a permit using the new SCDHEC online process known as ePermitting.

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Lance Cramer

be a huge nuclear processing facility or a tool shed. A permit is required,” said Cramer. “We recognize the purpose and value of this regulatory process.”

“We all want to ensure the safety and health of those performing the work effected by the permit process,” said Reece. “This includes the public and our environment as well. The ePermitting system is another important tool for us to use to accomplish this mission.”

SRNS divisions recognized by National Safety Council

Two SRNS divisions, Operations and Construction, were recently awarded the Occupational Excellence Achievement Award by the National Safety Council (NSC) for outstanding safety performance at SRS.

The NSC grants the Occupational Excellence Achievement Award to employers that report a lost workday incidence rate equal-to-or-less-than 50 percent of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) rating during the previous year. SRNS Operations reported a lost workday incidence rate of 0.02 and SRNS Construction reported a lost workday incidence rate of 0.16; both are well under the BLS rating.

This is the twelfth consecutive year that SRNS has won the NSC’s Occupational Excellence Achievement award since becoming the SRS Management and Operations contractor in 2008.

Stuart MacVean is exceptionally proud of employees’ commitment to upholding the legacy of safety at SRS.

“Safety is the foundation of the diverse work that is performed at the Savannah River Site and has remained an integral part of Site operations for over 70 years,” said MacVean. “SRNS employs over 6,000 people who each take great care to uphold the highest standards of safety in all they do to support our missions. Their efforts are validated by awards such as this.”

SRNS has received over 45 awards from the NSC in acknowledgement of their outstanding safety practices, including recognition in 2019 for a company record-setting milestone of 25 million safe-work hours without a lost workday due to an on-the-job injury.



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