

● AUGUST 2021

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



SRNS Today



Up and away

SRS trees perform like 'hydraulic pumps' to evaporate and disperse groundwater containing legacy tritium



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This month

Legacy groundwater cleanup • Excess Express program • Supporting small business



Welcome

to the August 2021 edition of

SRNS Today

Stuart MacVean
SRNS President and CEO

Cleaning up after yourself is a simple concept that is taught to most people before they even start school. We continue to apply that lesson to our environmental cleanup responsibilities at the Savannah River Site every day.

On the cover

U.S. Forest Service employees Secunda Hughes (left), Civil Engineering Technician, and Andrew Thompson, Forester, inspect irrigation piping and sprinkler heads, part of a 62-acre pine plantation used to safely disperse tritium into the Earth's vast atmosphere and away from local waterways.

We continue to make great progress on groundwater cleanup at the Site, using natural, passive remedies. These include using pine trees to remove legacy tritium from contaminated groundwater and using underground barrier walls to direct acidic groundwater toward treatment zones. Both of these methods are cost effective, and environmentally friendly and are helping SRS clean up from contamination created during the Cold War.

To accomplish the whole range of tasks ahead of us, including cleanup, however, we need a qualified and dedicated workforce. The second cohort of Nuclear Operator Apprentices recently graduated from Aiken Technical College. This program allows students to learn all of the basics of being a production operator in a classroom/work hybrid setting and provides the Site with new talent. We also recently sponsored the Air Force Association's CyberCamp, which teaches middle school students about cybersecurity – an area where we will continue to need a pipeline for years to come.

SRNS remains focused on our commitments to our employees, the community, the Department of Energy, the nation, and the world. We make the world safer, and that's not something we take lightly.

I hope you enjoy this month's edition of SRNS Today.



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. The SRNS corporate and community offices are located in the renovated 1912 "Old Post Office" building in Aiken. 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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COMMON ACRONYMS

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) • Savannah River Site (SRS)
Department of Energy (DOE) • National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)



Photos in this issue include prior COVID-19 guidelines, regarding no mask requirements for vaccinated employees.

Key progress on nuclear legacy groundwater cleanup at F and H Areas

SRNS has made significant progress in cleaning up contaminated groundwater left from legacy nuclear operations near the Site's now shuttered F Canyon and the still active H Canyon chemical separations facilities, affirming the Site's continued commitment to environmental remediation.

For decades, low-level radioactive waste solutions were generated from operations in F and H Canyons and were disposed in pond-like pools of water known as seepage basins, which was the accepted method at the time. However, with advances in waste processing, this disposal method became outdated. The last of the basins was backfilled, capped and closed in 1991; however, 33 years of use had resulted in hazardous and radioactive contamination of the groundwater beneath each basin.

After the basins were closed, post-closure care and groundwater corrective actions were initiated in accordance with a permit issued by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. Initially, SRS constructed and used two water treatment units to clean the contaminated groundwater by extracting, treating and reinjecting the water once clean. However, this method was costly to operate, produced large volumes of radioactive waste sludge that was expensive to dispose of, and became less effective as the groundwater cleanup progressed. In 2004, SRS transitioned to a new, phased groundwater clean-up approach employing new innovative remedial technologies. These technologies include installing underground barrier walls, in a funnel-and-gate configuration, that redirect and channel groundwater flow toward base injection zones that make the groundwater less acidic and reduce the migration of contaminants. The new system is a shift towards a more passive system that provides for improved remedial effectiveness, is more cost effective and does not create radioactive waste that has to be managed and disposed.

"The groundwater under the basins is acidic from nitric acid present in the waste solutions," said Jeffrey Thibault, SRNS Engineering and Remediation Support. "The acidic property of the water allows some contaminants to remain dissolved and slowly migrate with the groundwater towards a nearby stream. Our system uses a wall to direct the water into open spaces, called gates, where a base solution is injected into the water to increase the pH and slow down the movement of the contaminants."

The environmentally harmless base solution is made by mixing clean water, from the Site's drinking water system, with a base concentrate and baking soda. A system of pumps, sensors and piping, mounted on a small metal skid platform, blends the concentrate with water in precise proportions prior to delivering the solution through underground pipes to a network of 24 injection wells at F Area. The wells are turned on when treatment is needed to neutralize the acidic water. Once enough base has been injected, the wells are turned off and remain off for a period of 12 to 18 months, until sampling data shows treatment is required again.

Since SRNS became the SRS managing and operating contractor in 2008, 126.4 million gallons of base solution have been injected into the groundwater.

"We've seen great results from this method," said Thibault. "It's effectively a passive system, meaning we only run it when testing shows that the acidity is increasing in the soil again; it's economically friendly; and, most importantly, it's environmentally friendly, restores the pH of the groundwater to more natural conditions, and lets nature essentially take care of itself. Restoring the neutral pH of groundwater at F and H Areas reduces the migration of hazardous and radioactive metal contaminants in the groundwater and acts to protect a nearby stream."



F Area Operator Thomas Harman and SRNS Scientist Kevin Boerstler check the pumps, sensors and piping that blend a base concentrate to inject into acidic groundwater at SRS, part of the Site's environmental remediation strategy.



SRNS Electricians Ke'ean Coleman (left) and Robin Herndon work to install solar lights in the H Canyon North Parking Lot to help improve safety.

H Area team improves parking lot lighting with low-cost solution

H Area Engineering, Operations, and Construction recently teamed to deploy smart solar lighting in the H Area north parking lot, driven by employee suggestions made to the H Area W.I.S.E. (Workers in Safety Excellence) Owls Local Safety Improvement Team (LSIT).

Observations from safety-conscious employees about the lack of lighting in the H Area north lot were reported to the LSIT using the Behavior Based Safety (BBS) Observation program. Often, during shift changes for H Area facilities, employees noted limited light in the early mornings and evenings.

"We identified a trend of increasing observations regarding the lighting in the north parking lot, which elevated the need to resolve this issue," said H Area W.I.S.E. Owls Chair Emily Skelley. "While the Engineering department worked to develop a more permanent plan, the LSIT identified temporary lighting that could be installed quickly."

"It's encouraging when employees know that their voices are heard and action is taken," she continued. "This is a perfect example of why it's important to engage with your LSITs and be a contributor to the BBS Observation program."

Lack of electrical tie-ins within proximity to H Area posed a challenge for the Operations and Engineering teams. The solution was found in solar power lighting, which was installed by Construction this month.

This low-cost solution to the issue was applauded by H Area Facility Manager Nick Miller, who presented Safety Challenge Coins to the engineers and operators who provided the solution.

"Thank you to the LSITs and the H Area team that came together to find this solution," he said. "We are committed to our employees' safety, and the elevation of this issue ensured the right people were deployed to help fix it. Thank you also to all the employees who participate in BBS and the LSITs and who take the SRNS safety mindset seriously."

Second cohort of Nuclear Operator Apprentices graduate

The second cohort from the SRNS Nuclear Operator Apprenticeship program graduated in July, after completing the Nuclear Fundamentals Certificate program at Aiken Technical College (ATC).

Twelve apprentices participated in the program, which allows ATC students to simultaneously receive on-the-job training while completing their required classroom work. Apprentices learned the basic qualifications of a production operator, including conduct of operations principles, radiation worker training and qualification and how to perform shift rounds.

"We are proud to have completed another successful operator apprenticeship program," said SRNS President and CEO Stuart MacVean. "To ensure the development of a viable workforce in our community, we aspire to establish 300 registered apprenticeships throughout organizations in surrounding South Carolina counties by Oct. 1, 2021."

Those graduates who met all employment requirements were hired and put to work in areas across SRS.

The Nuclear Fundamentals Program, created in 2016 in collaboration with SRNS, prepares students for entry-level positions in the nuclear industry.

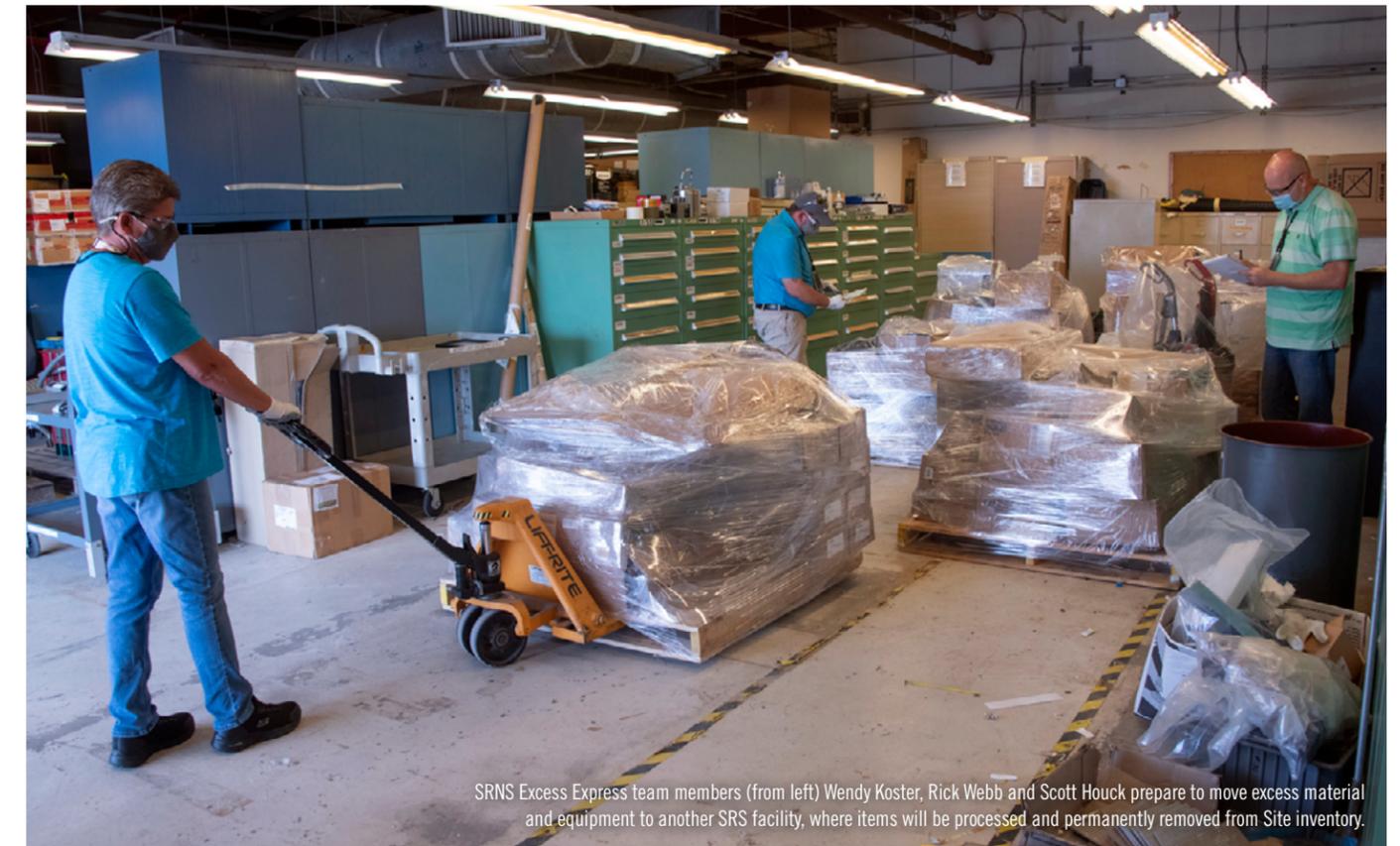
"For many years, we have partnered with SRNS to provide workforce development opportunities. This program has opened a new pathway for those interested in a career in the nuclear industry by providing them with the skills and knowledge that meet the industry's workforce needs. The apprentices also have a unique opportunity to gain real-life, on-the-job experiences and network with various workgroups at SRS. It creates a strong foundation for a long-term, successful career," said Steven Simmons, Dean of Technical and Continuing Education at ATC. "The success of this program has become the blueprint for us to build similar opportunities for other employers in the area in the future."

The Nuclear Operator Apprenticeship Program is part of Apprenticeship Carolina™. With their guidance, as well as the Lower Savannah Council of Governments, the operator apprenticeship program has been registered both with the state and nationally.



The second cohort of the Nuclear Operator Apprenticeship Program was recognized in a ceremony on July 27 at Aiken Technical College.

SRNS Excess Express program helps others reuse \$17 million in government property



SRNS Excess Express team members (from left) Wendy Koster, Rick Webb and Scott Houck prepare to move excess material and equipment to another SRS facility, where items will be processed and permanently removed from Site inventory.

In 2017, SRNS created Excess Express Services, a team tasked with significantly improving the process used to pick up, transport and process excess material and equipment. This process took into consideration 10,000 employees working in hundreds of buildings at the 310-square-mile Site. To date, even with COVID-19 protocol restraints, SRNS has used this cost-effective, accelerated process to distribute more than \$17 million in material and equipment.

"The success of the Excess Express team has been outstanding," said Craig Martin, Manager, SRNS Property Management, Excess and Disposition. "Marcus Sanders of Property Excess Programs and a small team from Excess Operations led by Jody Welch have taken on excess-related tasks that most employees find difficult and tedious, such as gathering, sorting, inventorying, categorizing, labeling, palletizing, and preparing all disposition paperwork. I admire their dedication and excellent work ethic."

Sanders describes Excess Express Services as a "soup to nuts," turn-key operation. "We do nearly everything for our customers, and it's been wildly successful," he said. "At times, we can barely keep up with the demand and often face short deadlines. The items we pick up include just about anything you would normally find at an industrial site and some items that are a bit unusual."

According to Sanders, a process that once averaged 45 days to

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Marcus Sanders

complete per customer has been shaved down to about three to five days.

"Of course, good stewardship of government assets is an important driver for our team, regarding the safe disposition of material and equipment that is no longer needed by a particular organization at SRS," said Martin. "Better utilization of space within a building, and providing unwanted material to those who need it at SRS or other DOE sites is important in many ways as well."

Items not finding a new home at SRS can be reused by an off-site government agency or nearby community organizations.

"Performing the tasks that we do best, through Excess Express Services, permits others to dedicate more time and energy into what they do best, within our operating facilities," said Martin.

Restoring the Environment

Pine trees evaporate and disperse groundwater containing legacy tritium



U.S. Forest Service employees Andrew Thompson, Forester and Secunda Hughes, Civil Engineering Technician

Scientists at SRS are using natural resources, including a 62-acre plantation of pine trees, to greatly limit radioactively contaminated groundwater from reaching an on-site stream.

The trees effectively act like a forest of tall “hydraulic pumps,” each drawing up irrigated water containing legacy tritium, pumped from a nearby holding pond and harmlessly released into the atmosphere through photosynthesis.

“We knew that capturing and containing the contaminated groundwater seeping to the surface and into a manmade pond would be of great benefit,” said Jeff Thibault, SRNS Engineer, Area Closure Projects.

The extensive irrigation system uses piping and sprinkler heads to evenly spread the tritiated water over the forest floor debris. Large-scale evaporation takes place during this process as well, releasing additional tritium into the Earth’s vast atmosphere, where it is harmlessly diluted.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service-Savannah River researchers, along with engineers from SRNS and DOE, began designing this interim treatment in 1999.

Since 2001, when this process began, approximately 190 million gallons of water and nearly 7,000 curies of tritium that otherwise would have entered the Savannah River have been safely sprayed throughout thousands of loblolly pine trees.

“Traditional remediation costs associated with this level of tritium removal would cost close to \$220 million over a 20-year period,” said USDA Forest Service-Savannah River Civil Engineer Marsue Lloyd. “Our costs over that same span of time for this project are approximately \$12 million.”

The costs associated with phytoremediation are low because only a few operators are needed, and the contaminated groundwater flows naturally to the surface without a need for mechanized pumping. In addition, the process, which includes 51 irrigation zones, is largely computerized for optimal evaporation efficiency. “With this project, we learned a lot about harnessing nature to continually move towards passive, low-energy, and sustainable cleanup technology with minimal cost. And it’s accomplished effectively without the generation of any waste,” explained Philip Prater, Senior Physical Scientist with DOE-Savannah River.

Thorough sampling and testing, conducted annually by the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, demonstrate that nearly 90% of the tritium within the water applied to the pine plantation is evaporated.

“Public concerns about managing contaminated water at SRS are understandable,” said Thibault. “However, test results validate the level of tritium found within the plants and animals affected by this process are so low as to be insignificant. The fact is that optimal water levels are being maintained in the pond while the evaporated tritium becomes virtually immeasurable beyond the irrigated section of forest, much less at the Site boundary.

“What we’ve achieved for 20 years now is the protection of nearby waterways, and we’re doing so safely and cost-effectively. This project has been extremely effective, and the data supporting this success has been verified by South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control officials,” said Thibault. “This project represents what can be accomplished through the partnership of multiple organizations sharing the same vision, building on the unique contribution each provides.”

20 YEARS OF PHYTOREMEDIATION



- ▼ **1999**
 - Multi-organizational project team – including DOE, Forest Service and Westinghouse Savannah River Company, formed to design and build dam and photoremediation system
- ▼ **March 2001**
 - Phytoremediation system construction completed, irrigation of the original 21 acres begins
- ▼ **2005 – 2006**
 - Irrigation pumping system upgraded
- ▼ **2008**
 - Completed construction of the low permeability cap over the Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground (reduces the further migration of tritium from buried waste to the groundwater)
- ▼ **2009**
 - Completed eastern expansion, adding 24 more acres of irrigation
- ▼ **2014**
 - Completed western expansion, adding 15 more acres of irrigation
- ▼ **TODAY**
 - Over the past 20 years, SRS remediated 190 million gallons of contaminated water using phytoremediation



Education Outreach makes the grade

In just one month this year, SRNS provided education outreach to more than 25,000 students and 410 educators.

SRNS has been sharing its diverse science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) outreach program with local public and private schools since 2008, when it became the Site's management and operations contractor.

"Elementary school through college, the statistics over the years validate SRNS support for quality education throughout the region," said Kim Mitchell, SRNS Education Outreach Programs. "It's truly an honor to assist and serve these amazing teachers and wonderful students who are the lifeblood of our future."

To date, SRNS has provided more than \$5 million for education outreach, supporting more than 275,000 students and teachers throughout seven counties near SRS.

"We value the transformative community partnerships we have with organizations like Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, and the 12 outreach programs they provide that directly impact our faculty and students," said King Laurence, Aiken County Public School District Superintendent. "Whether it's \$1,000 mini-grants for teachers or dozens of scientists and engineers visiting our schools, we look forward to years of continued success with SRNS."

The COVID-19 pandemic prompted SRNS to develop innovative methods and incorporate cutting-edge technology to reach students and educators, creating multiple virtual platforms for that audience.

"We're confident that virtual reality technology and web-based apps will strongly and positively impact students and teachers," Mitchell said. "And in time, when we return to business as usual, these tools will continue to reach a much broader group throughout the region than we've documented in the past."

SRS virtual field trips showcase science lessons about the Site, targeting students with educational content specific to their grade levels. Some of the field trip lessons help participants determine the health of a pond, or assist endangered species, such as the red-cockaded woodpecker. Students can also explore the inner workings of a mass spectrometer in a Site laboratory. It is a highly sensitive piece of equipment that allows laboratory personnel to separate individual components of a substance, resulting in the exact identification of each component and the amount present in the substance being tested.

"Feedback from educators and administrators affirm that the SRNS Education Outreach Program has been highly successful, significantly impacting school systems throughout South Carolina and the greater Augusta, Georgia area," said Mitchell.

The SRNS STEM-intensive offerings include a traveling science demonstration program, workshops, tours, talks, demonstrations and other content.

Some programs test the depth of students' knowledge and experience. They include the South Carolina Regional Science Fair, DOE Savannah River Regional Science Bowl and the Regional Future City Competition.

SRNS also offers annual mini-grants to area teachers through corporate funding. To date, SRNS has contributed more than \$700,000 to support educators in the region.

To reach local adults pursuing higher education degrees, SRNS has signed memorandums of understanding with local technical colleges, historically Black colleges and universities, and other four-year degree institutions such as the University of South Carolina Aiken.

SRNS Education Outreach positively affected more than 45,000 students and educators during 2020 to 2021.



Middle school students learn from CyberCamp

Local middle school students experienced the world of cybersecurity during the Air Force Association's CyberCamp, held this year at the University of South Carolina Aiken (UofSC Aiken).

Sponsored by SRNS, the week-long event covered numerous topics including cybersecurity careers, threats and ethics, online safety, virtual machines, account management, file protections, programing and security related to graphical user interfaces.

The camp takes students with limited knowledge and trains them to understand the basic principles of cybersecurity, concluding with a fun, yet challenging, competition.

According to Jeff Krohn, SRNS Chief Information Officer at SRS, national security is becoming increasingly more dependent on the talent and skill of cybersecurity professionals with each passing year. "The importance of educating and training our young people in this area is critical," said Krohn. "It's difficult to place a value on camps and workshops such as this one at the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center (RPSEC), but certainly it's one of many steps we need to take towards ensuring the future welfare of our country as all jobs do have a cybersecurity component."

According to Security Magazine, there are more than 2,200 cyberattacks each day across the nation. That's nearly one cyberattack every 39 seconds. Additionally, malware infects nearly 20 million websites worldwide on any given day. Yet currently, only about half of available U.S. cybersecurity jobs have been filled.

"Kids often lack complete awareness of online safety and the potential risks involving cyberattacks," said John Hutchens, Director of Special Programs, UofSC Aiken RPSEC. "With an ever-increasing reliance on smart devices and online applications, basic cyber awareness is now more important than ever. We're trying to make a difference in their lives."

It's already made a difference in the life of Augusta Christian School eighth grader Sophia Smits. "This is hands on stuff that we can use later in life as our world evolves," said Smits. "If I do choose a career in cybersecurity, it's going to help me a lot. This may even help me to get scholarships."

Investing >\$1B in small and diverse businesses

SRNS is dedicated to the advancement of small and diverse businesses, both locally and nationally, having committed more than \$1 billion to these companies over the last four years.

This level of financial support continues to validate SRNS' dedication to small businesses, especially in nearby communities.

Contract to date, SRNS has received 17 awards with 15 presented in the last three years.

"Our buyers work tirelessly to find opportunities for small and diverse suppliers, which is reflected in our committing nearly 80% of all dollars to these companies," said Sean Alford, SRNS Chief Administrative Officer.

SRNS has also committed talented personnel to continue to build on these achievements.

Small Business Liaison Officer J. Alex Agyemang is one of these many dedicated staff members. In July, Agyemang was appointed to the National Minority Supplier Development Council's (NMSDC) Supplier Diversity Advisory Committee.

This standing committee assists the NMSDC Board of Directors in carrying out its work, providing expertise and advice in supplier diversity and development. Only a small number of companies have experienced this national honor, each representing organizations that have been leaders in their industry for supplier development. Examples include Coca-Cola, United Parcel Service, Proctor and Gamble, Wells Fargo and Dell.

Agyemang said that his appointment to the NMSDC Supplier Diversity Advisory Council was made possible through the support of his management team. "In my tenure as the SRNS Small Business Liaison Officer, the SRNS Small Business Program has enjoyed consistent and dedicated assistance from our company's executives."

"Our posture on supplier development has been unwavering," said Alford. "We have always been committed to our small business partners. It's a part of our culture."

"In fact, the Carolinas-Virginia Minority Supplier Development Council recognized SRNS leadership in the region with its 2019 appointment of Jay Johnson, SRNS Senior Director of Contracts, to the Council's Board of Directors," added Alford.

SRNS supports numerous small businesses, including CTI and Associates, a DOE small business-protégé company. CTI is a demolition and destruction, remediation and environmental services contractor. They reduce the footprint at SRS while preparing the Site for new missions. To date, CTI workers have demolished nine buildings at SRS, advancing the Site's environmental cleanup program.

SRNS has also executed the DOE's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization's strategic plan, which has more than quadrupled the Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business goal.

"At Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, we have made supplier development a value we pursue daily," said Fred Freeman, SRNS Director, Supply Chain Procurement.

 2020-2021 SRNS Education Outreach Programs Report Card Impact	
Program/Event	Total
Science Technology Enrichment Program Virtual Field Trips/Science Lessons	24,155
SRNS Innovative Teaching Mini Grants - \$50,000	10,765
Traveling Science Program	3,812
SC Regional Future City	549
DOE Savannah River Regional Science Bowl	134
CSRA Regional Science and Engineering Fair	93
SRS Job Shadow	175
STEMulating Conversations with SRS Experts	5,055
Career Day/Fair	177
Educator Development/Enrichment	139
Student Development/Enrichment	410
Total number of students & educators impacted: 45,464	

New and improved emergency readiness tool

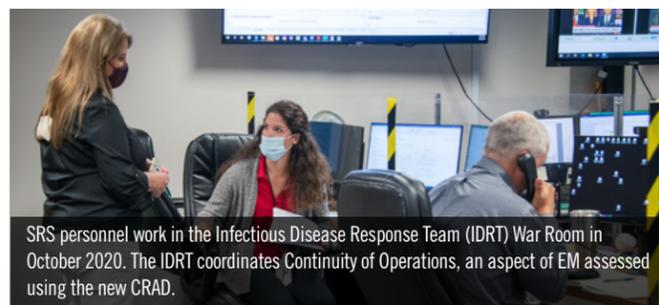
When disaster strikes—whether it’s a tornado, earthquake, active shooter, terrorist attack, radiological release or fire—the situation can cause chaos and confusion. The way any organization reacts to an emergency influences the outcome for people, property and the surrounding environment. As the most diverse and complicated Emergency Management (EM) program in the DOE complex, SRNS is leading the way to a single Readiness Assurance tool to improve EM self-assessments and exercises.



The DOE Criteria Review and Approach Document (CRAD) handbook is used by the government and its contractors for conducting assessments of EM programs and their ability to respond to emergencies. It provides the ability to measure successful responses to an emergency event or incident and can be clearly documented against an approved DOE standard.

“The CRAD is structured around 15 program elements and multiple lines of inquiry in DOE’s Comprehensive Emergency Management System,” said Tom Diaz, Emergency Response Training and Evaluation Group Manager. “SRNS performed a crosswalk of the CRAD and Emergency Management’s self-assessment process and identified there was no standard approach to the assessment program across the complex,” he said.

SRNS employees shared this standardized process using the Exercise Builder software application, which resulted in very positive feedback from DOE Headquarters and emergency managers from across the complex. The new process will allow SRNS to track training impacts and improvements and build tailored exercises where trends and issues can be tracked and resolved.



SRS personnel work in the Infectious Disease Response Team (IDRT) War Room in October 2020. The IDRT coordinates Continuity of Operations, an aspect of EM assessed using the new CRAD.

Several emergency preparedness working groups, including the Emergency Readiness Assurance Subcommittee and NNSA are looking to use SRNS’ standardized approach at this year’s virtual conference hosted by the Emergency Management Issues Special Interest Group (EMI SIG).

“We are leading the vision of a single Readiness Assurance tool that uses the same data consistently from site to site. If a consistent approach can be obtained throughout DOE sites, this would lead to an efficient system for assessments and evaluations,” said Diaz.

EMI SIG was established in 1986 as the EM Special Interest Group and became the “Emergency Management Issues Special Interest Group” in 1991. The organization is the only DOE special interest group that remains. It coordinates the exchange of expertise, ideas, and resources among DOE and contractor emergency management personnel, identifies common issues and priorities, and pursues activities that address shared needs. The EMI SIG is sponsored by the NNSA Office of Emergency Management Policy. Members of the EMI SIG are emergency managers, coordinators, planners and trainers from facilities across the DOE system.

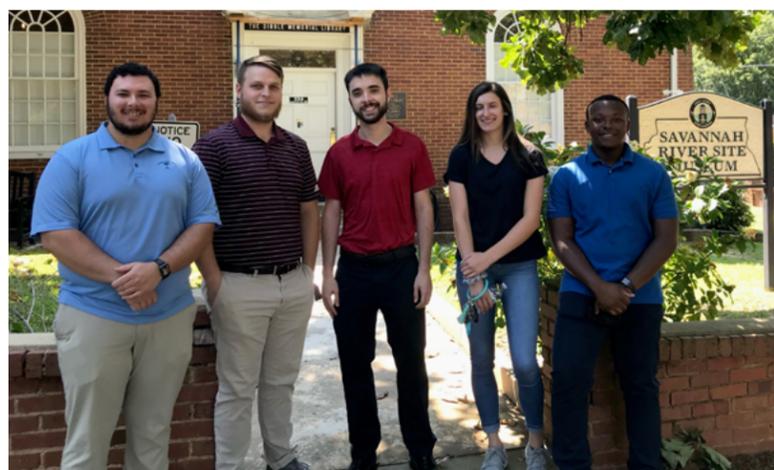
SC Women in Business award received



SRNS Senior Scientist Natalia Johnson was named one of the 2021 South Carolina Women in Business by Greenville Business Magazine, Columbia Business

Monthly and Charleston Business Magazine. This prestigious award honors selected businesswomen across South Carolina based on career achievements, contributions to their company and community involvement.

NCP Engineering Interns tour SRS



Over the summer, NNSA Capital Projects Engineering Interns Chase Marzullo, Camden Kinard, Justin Fox, Kara Keenan and Tyran Parker learned more about SRS, through tours of the Site and the Savannah River Site Museum.

THE PEOPLE OF SRNS



Velice Cummings

AT SRNS: Senior Interface Management Specialist

IN THE COMMUNITY: SRNS loaned professional to the United Way of the CSRA

Velice Cummings is serving as an SRNS loaned professional to the United Way of the CSRA; and over the coming weeks, she will work alongside United Way staff during its annual fall campaign efforts. This loaned professional effort is an important investment that SRNS and DOE make to support nonprofit organizations in the region. It also provides unique professional development opportunities in project management, public speaking and networking with key business and community leaders.

“Support for loaned professionals is an integral part of the Department of Energy’s commitment to be an engaged, constructive partner in the regions where we conduct business,” said DOE-SR Office of External Affairs Director Amy Boyette. “SRNS employees have a great legacy of volunteerism and partnership with the United Way and its many agencies.”

A Senior Interface Management Specialist with SRNS, Cummings is also a radio personality with WAAW Shout 94.7 FM and has served in leadership roles in many local organizations, such as the American Red Cross, City of Aiken Design and Review Board, and Aiken County Tax Board. She was recognized in 2017 by the Aiken Standard as one of its “Young Professionals 2 Follow.” Cummings earned her bachelor’s degree in Social Science and Pre-Law from Allen University and a master’s degree in Human Resource Management from Troy University.

“I appreciate this opportunity to give back to our community and build new relationships over the coming weeks, with our United Way agencies and businesses,” said Cummings. “My motto is: ‘if I can help somebody then my living shall not be in vain.’”

LEAP Design Competition

SRNS Leaders Emerging Among Professionals (LEAP) recently hosted its first major in-person event since the COVID-19 pandemic started – The LEAP Design Competition. The event followed all required COVID-19 protocols at the time.

This highly anticipated and inaugural team event gave contestants the opportunity to develop a solution to a prompt derived by SRNS management: “Create a performance evaluation framework that will enable managers to ensure teleworkers are meeting productivity expectations and the SRNS Standards of Excellence.”

Five teams, with each team being made up of three to five LEAP members, worked together to deliver a one-page description of their solution and implementation plan, including estimated costs, man-hours, timeline and a path to execution.

“We are so excited to finally host a major in-person event,” said SRNS LEAP Networking Co-chair Arizona Morgan-Harris. “After so long of mostly virtual events, being able to bring our members an opportunity to attend and participate in the LEAP Design Competition was something we were all looking forward to.”

Teams presented their solutions to a panel of judges. Among these judges were Senior Vice President, Technical Services Mike Swain; Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer Sean Alford; and Executive Vice President, NNSA Capital Projects Dave Olson.

After hearing the solutions from each team, the judges decided on two



Two teams were named winners at the LEAP Design Competition. From left: Orange team members David Barker, Cody Duffy, Madeleine Waller and Jon Wickliffe. Blue team members Nicholas Carrasco, Hope Nehring, Michael Williams and Zachary Swearingen.

winners – the orange and blue teams. The orange team was made up of LEAP members Jon Wickliffe, David Barker, Madeleine Waller and Cody Duffy. Their proposed solution included quarterly reviews, SMART goals, performance indicators and a yearly summary. The blue team was made up of LEAP members Michael Williams, Hope Nehring, Nicholas Carrasco and Zachary Swearingen. Their proposed solution included a task tracking tool and weekly status meetings with management.

“First and foremost, congratulations to both winning teams, and thank you to our panel of judges,” said LEAP President Peter Gula. “This event captures the spirit and creativity of emerging leaders at SRNS. These leaders will shape the future for years to come, and this event showcases the commitment of senior level management to support the development and contributions of emerging leaders. We are excited for future events and how LEAP will continue to serve its members and the company.”

INNOVATION • DEFENSE

NONPROLIFERATION • ENVIRONMENT

SRNS



Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

We make the world **safer.**