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For Immediate Release

SRS team assembles 7,000 plastic suits to support CY25 Outage



Respiratory Equipment Facility and Containment Fabrication Facility team member Derrick Brown assembles the hood of a plastic suit.

AIKEN, S.C. – (October 28, 2024) – Respiratory Equipment Facility team members, from the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site, completed the assembly and inspection of 7,000 plastic suits in support of Savannah River Tritium Enterprise’s (SRTE) Calendar Year 2025 (CY25) Outage.

The suits are essential to the personnel responsible for working the outage, providing them with the necessary protection needed to carry out their tasks safely and effectively. Each suit is assembled and tested for air flow, leaks and other deficiencies that could lead to potential hazardous exposure to the workers.

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“SRTE cannot meet their milestones without the proper protection. It’s our job to make sure we are putting out a good product to keep the workers safe,” said Respiratory Equipment Facility and Containment Fabrication Facility Manager Tim Barnes.

During the one-year outage, H Area New Manufacturing facility will undergo a major equipment recapitalization to help ensure Tritium efficiently continues its mission of producing high quality tritium products. Replacement of several systems will require pausing operations in select areas of the facility. The preparation for this significant event has been ongoing for five years.

“This outage is crucial to the production of SRTE,” said Senior Vice President, National Nuclear Security Administration Tritium Operations and Programs JC Epting for Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, the Site’s managing and operating contractor. “These employees have done an amazing job making sure our team receives the proper equipment needed to fulfill this critical need.”

The Respiratory Equipment Facility and Containment Fabrication Facility team was recently recognized at a special event for their hard work and dedication in ensuring the high volume of suits were delivered in time to support the CY25 mission.

“Thanks to the unwavering dedication and efforts of this team, we were able to meet our commitment of supplying 7,000 plastic suits in support of the outage,” said Tritium Operations and CY25 Project Owner Chris Garnett. “Their commitment to excellence ensures that we provide top-tier protection for our workers, allowing them to perform their duties safely.”

On average, 3,000 suits are assembled each year by the Respiratory Equipment Facility team. By meeting the requirements of this significant project, the team more than doubled their annual volume of production.



Respirator Equipment Facility personnel Jeffrey Detiege (left) and Aaron Beverly demonstrate how the plastic suits are tested for air flow, leaks and other deficiencies.

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In addition, they also assembled four ventilation huts and two glovebox bags.

“It took a lot of teamwork and thinking outside of the box to secure the large volume of suits and additional equipment needed by the requested deadline,” said Barnes. “Our team stepped up and made it happen.”

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor and HII partnership company, is responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site, located near Aiken, South Carolina.

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