

DT Townsend  
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions  
(803) 952-7566  
[dt-lawrence.townsend@srs.gov](mailto:dt-lawrence.townsend@srs.gov)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## SRNS Asbestos Team Tackles Challenging Inspection Task at SRS

**AIKEN, S.C.**, June 13, 2022 – The Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) Asbestos Team continues work to ensure an asbestos inventory is complete for more than 3,000 Savannah River Site (SRS) buildings and structures.

Six highly qualified SRNS inspectors and a lead professional under the guidance of the SRNS Asbestos Triad are steadily accomplishing this mammoth task.

The Asbestos Triad, a team of three SRNS asbestos experts, evaluate any SRS asbestos-related issues, questions or events per Federal and State Regulations. Members include the SRS Asbestos Program Administrator, the Asbestos Project Designer and the Industrial Hygiene Asbestos Subject Matter Expert. This group's most important duty is making the final decision on all things asbestos.

To date, 1,281 buildings and structures have been fully inspected according to the 4Q-211 Asbestos Compliance Program Procedure. "We're working closely with each facility to implement a strategic approach to this challenge," said Melissa Hanshew, SRNS Environmental Compliance and Area Completion Projects Operations Support Manager.

Asbestos, a known carcinogen, is a naturally occurring fibrous mineral that is found throughout the world. Because of its strength and heat resistance, asbestos has been used in a variety of building construction materials for insulation and as a fire retardant. Asbestos has also been used in a wide range of manufactured goods, including automobile clutch, brake and transmission parts, heat-resistant fabrics, packaging, gaskets and coatings.

"Asbestos has a bad reputation, but in fact, played an important historical role at the Site beginning in the 1950s during the Cold War," said Hanshew. "Properly controlled and managed, it is still used today within many products, materials and structures throughout the U.S., even in newer buildings."



*Asbestos Inspectors Carlos Stantos, left, and Mikell Autrey, with Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), safely inspect a utility room within an administrative building at the Savannah River Site (SRS). Both employees are part of a team working to ensure more than 3,000 SRS buildings and structures comply with a newly implemented Asbestos Compliance Program Procedure.*

Working with the Asbestos Triad, personnel within all SRNS facilities have three actions to complete:

- Develop a facility asbestos inventory,
- Ensure existing asbestos signs and labels are legible and not deteriorated, replacing each as needed, and
- Verify the facility workgroups have completed Asbestos Awareness Training.

"I'm proud of our asbestos team," said Hanshew. "Each member of the team continually demonstrates a high level of knowledge and experience related to this field and are dedicated to safely and promptly reducing the number of facilities requiring an asbestos inventory to zero."

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor-led company with Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, is responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site located near Aiken, South Carolina