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For Immediate Release

Closing a Reactor Chapter in the Book of SRS Opens the Next for the Site

AIKEN, S.C. (September 30, 2011) – The history of the Savannah River Site could be written in many ways: a biography, about any one of the many dedicated, talented employees who worked to make the Site what is today; an encyclopedia, detailing the many developments and discoveries made on Site; a how-to guide, explaining some of the most complicated processes ever performed; or a narrative, describing the many changes that have taken place as SRS has progressed and the commitment to its values that has remained steadfast over the past 60 years.

In any format, a history of SRS would depict its great impact on the Nation and surrounding communities, and would showcase some of the major landmarks of the Site. The P and R Reactors are two such landmarks, known to most anyone who has visited or worked at the Site as reminders of its early work and original purpose. The first nuclear materials production reactors within the DOE Complex, P and R Reactors were two of five built at SRS, and the first to begin operation – R in 1953 and P in 1954. Both produced plutonium and tritium for the nation's defense, leading to increased national strength and the eventual end of the Cold War.



(Left to Right) Several prominent figures spoke at the event, including DOE SR Manager Dr. Dave Moody, SCDHEC Environmental Quality Control Deputy Commissioner Robert W. King, Jr., SRNS CEO and President Garry Flowers, DOE Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management David Huizenga and EPA Region 4 Section Chief David Williams.

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SRNS CEO and President Flowers presents DOE Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management David Huizenga with a memento of the occasion

sioner Robert W. King, Jr., EPA Region 4 Section Chief David Williams, SRNS CEO & President Garry Flowers and SRNS Vice President of Public Affairs Clif Webb, who served as the master of ceremonies.

“The SRS legacy to our nation is well-known and steeped in a tradition of service to our country. It is a culture to be emulated and admired,” Huizenga said to the crowd of current SRS personnel who contributed to the closures, veteran employees who worked with the reactors and stakeholders from the surrounding areas.

Flowers thanked the past and present employees for the work that made the Site what it is today and prepared it for future success. Flowers said, “First and foremost, it’s the people that made SRS a national asset. It’s people who brought incredible innovation and science from SRS to the national and international stage. Now, the future is in the hands of this great workforce and we have the potential to make it bright and sustainable.”

This accomplishment brought to a close many of the accelerated American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) closure projects at SRS that began on a fast-track in 2009. With the ARRA funding, SRS was able to compress the closure schedule of the reactors by five years, from fiscal year 2016 to fiscal year 2011 – accomplishing an extraordinary amount of work in a very short period.

R Reactor was the largest SRS reactor and was the prototype for its four sisters. P Reactor ran its entire 35 years without a lost-time injury, making it SRS’s safest reactor and one of the safest in the world. While R Reactor has been closed since 1964, and P Reactor was shut-down in 1988, the end of that chapter of the Site’s history was marked recently at an event celebrating the achievement of officially reaching the final “end-state” for both reactors.

Several prominent figures spoke at the event, including DOE Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management David Huizenga, DOE SR Manager Dr. Dave Moody, SCDHEC Environmental Quality Control Deputy Commis-



John Barrineau (right), who helped build P Reactor, and his son Kenny Barrineau, who helped decommission the reactor, attended the event.

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“Today proves that we can and will transform past liabilities into revitalized and repurposed assets for future use,” said Moody. He then turned to discussing that future, introducing the vision for the next chapter of SRS’ history – Enterprise.SRS.

“Our people have tremendous reach and capabilities in nuclear materials and environmental management technology, and we have the only large scale radiochemical separations facility in operation in the United States,” he said. “With our extensive applied research capabilities in SRNL, we can impact our nation’s challenges - curbing dependence on imported oil, reducing production of harmful greenhouse gases, improving the environment and enhancing national security. We are dedicated to positioning this site to serve our nation; we’re excited about it.”

Huizenga supported Moody in his presentation of E.SRS, saying, “It’s exciting to see the leadership of this Site taking a proactive and determined stance regarding the future it sees in Enterprise.SRS.” He continued, “SRS’s history is renown in pioneering the development of nuclear technologies, nuclear materials production and the challenges of nuclear waste management. Your expertise and commitment to quality brought us to where we are today and I am certain that it can help take us to where we need to go tomorrow – addressing pressing issues in national security, clean energy and environmental stewardship.”

As the Reactor chapter in the book of SRS was closed, those attending the celebration were given a glimpse of the next, and it could be one of the best yet.



SRNS CEO and President Flowers spoke with some of the SRS personnel who decommissioned the reactors over a barbecue lunch at the event.