

from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC

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**For Immediate Release**

## “STEP” into the Environmental Park at SRS

AIKEN, S.C. – May 10, 2011 – The girls giggle, while the boys say “cool” as the small green frog jumps from a menagerie of tiny creatures and bits of water plants scooped from the bottom of a Savannah River Site (SRS) pond. Using a net suspended from a long pole to capture aquatic wildlife is just one activity that fascinates students each year from area elementary, middle and high schools that participate in the Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC (SRNS) Science and Technology Enrichment Program (STEP).

This program is just one of many offered by SRNS Education Outreach employees at SRS. STEP is unique in that it offers hands-on science activities for local school students out in the field. One activity allows students to study fresh water ecology at Old Fire Pond Dam



*(Left to right) Randolph Howell, Terry Chavis, Jonathan Murdock, Autumn Davis, China Kinard, sixth grade students attending Macedonia Elementary School in Blackville, SC, recently visited the Savannah River Site in Aiken, SC, as part of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC “Science and Technology Enrichment Program,” which offers hands-on science activities for area students out in the field.*

by investigating aquatic and terrestrial organisms in the environment, while another encourages the children to study soil samples to determine the best use of land. During the 2010-2011 school year, STEP provided more than 1,000 students and teachers with a variety of science lessons at SRS.

Macedonia Elementary teacher Barbara Glover, became interested in the program after

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attending a workshop and tour for educators at SRS. “This field trip allows our sixth grade students to see how important it is to be aware of the relationships between plants and animals.”

The Science and Technology Enrichment Program is a cooperative initiative among Department of Energy-Savannah River, SRNS, University of South Carolina Aiken Ruth Patrick Science Education Center, National Audubon Society, and the Savannah River U.S. Forest Service to support science education outreach at SRS.

Those teachers interested in participating in next year’s program should contact Kim Mitchell, SRNS Education Outreach, 803-952-8782, [kimberly.mitchell@srs.gov](mailto:kimberly.mitchell@srs.gov).

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, is a Fluor-Daniel Partnership comprised of Fluor, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina.

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