



## Economic Study: ARRA Funding Results in SRR "Success"



Cynthia  
Anderson

At an April 26 ARRA Economic Impact Study session attended by area business and political leaders, SRR-ARRA Program Manager Mark Schmitz gave a status report on the positive impact of SRR-ARRA projects, as of Spring 2011. The event was held at University of South Carolina-Aiken's Convocation Center.

Schmitz noted that the \$200 million allocated from DOE to SRR in Fall 2009 has helped stimulate job creation, accelerate cleanup of liquid waste operations and jump-start the regional economy.

Schmitz described ARRA, or the Stimulus Act, as a "success" while noting other benefits of Recovery Act funding included moving more underground liquid waste storage tanks toward closure. The success of SRNS-ARRA projects was also discussed.

Cynthia Anderson, Chief Operating Officer for DOE's Office of Environmental Management said that "the goal of The Recovery Act (is also) to accelerate legacy waste cleanup at each of our sites."

She also complimented authors of the April 26-released Economic Study, including The O'Connell Center for Executive Development at USC-Aiken, Augusta State University and Claflin University in Orangeburg, S.C.



Mark  
Schmitz

## Familiar with tasks or not, never take safety for granted

As we get more familiar with new tasks, our human nature kicks-in and we get comfortable performing those tasks.

Of course, we become more relaxed as we do the work but there's a negative side to becoming comfortable — it's called complacency.

We should never get too familiar with tasks and start taking hazards and controls for those hazards for granted — believing that we've now "got it all under control."

When that occurs, unfortunately we begin working in auto-pilot mode. Regardless of how experienced you are in a particular activity, it is best to always perform a self-observation to make sure you have thoroughly thought about what you are about to do, fully considering all that could go wrong, and importantly, you should take steps to make sure you prevent those things from going wrong.

Don't take your safety for granted. For everything you do at home and at work, always consider and address the hazards.



BY KEVIN SMITH,  
SRR Safety and Health  
Programs Manager

### The ARRA Team



The SRR ARRA workforce:

**355** FULL TIME  
EQUIVALENTS

as of April 1, 2011

For more information, contact the SRR:  
ARRA Public Affairs Department:  
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## Veteran Radcon Technician Has Always Realized Importance of His Job Role

After responding to a newspaper ad in his hometown in southwestern Michigan, then 19-year-old Arthur Fleming had a good feeling he would have a life-long commitment to the nuclear industry.

“I’m still intrigued about this relatively new industry,” said Fleming, a veteran nuclear worker who started as a general maintenance laborer. Twenty-three years later, he’s worked hard at becoming a Senior Radcon Technician, now with Savannah River Remediation at Savannah River Site.

Fleming credits ARRA Stimulus funding for helping him find his way back to the East Coast — closer to family. “In recent years, I’ve worked at sites in the West Coast area, like Rocky Flats (Colorado), Hanford K Basin (Richland, Washington) and EnergySolutions’ Burial Site in the west desert of Salt Lake City, Utah.” Fleming notes how the Recovery Act provides him more chances to visit his elderly parents in his New Buffalo, Michigan, hometown.

Fleming and wife, Angela, are parents of six children. Though his family still resides in Utah, they visit his Aiken residence when opportunities arise, he said.

Fleming, 43, says he has always and will forever take his job very seriously. “People rely on me. I’m the first line of defense when it comes to radiological hazards in the workplace,” he said, adding that he provides radiological control (radcon) support during maintenance and facility shut downs, along with workplace surveillance and protection to workers, the public and the environment. With SRR, his role is valuable when it comes to our commitment to safely closing tanks, added the H-Tank Farm employee.

In addition to having extensive experiences at both commercial and federal nuclear sites, Fleming also has a theoretical foundation, having studied mechanical engineering and electronics at Lake Michigan Community College, Northern Michigan College and Salt Lake Community College.

For next-generation radcon professionals, he also notes the importance of science and math comprehension and hands-on workplace experiences as essential to long-term success in his job category.

“I strongly urge young people to pursue this industry. It can be very rewarding,” he said.

**Arthur Fleming**



## SRS Transition Services Center Open

A Workforce Transition Center has been established to assist all SRS displaced workers in finding employment. The Center will provide assistance in résumé writing, financial counseling, interview workshops, and electronic job searches. Outside employers will also conduct open houses to present job opportunities at their companies.

The Transition Center, located at the corner of Laurens and Park in Aiken, will be open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Trained staff will be on hand to assist.

Call **803.644.0010** to make an appointment prior to visiting The Center.