

ARRA at SRR

“Our SRR ARRA roadmap” by Mark Schmitz, ARRA Program Manager

Only slightly more than six months into our two-year Recovery Act journey, it's important to recall where we've come from and where the roadmap before us will lead.

Enactment of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) on February 17, 2009 was followed by a \$6 billion allocation to the Department of Energy (DOE) for Environmental Management. In turn, \$1.6 billion—the second largest allocation in the DOE complex-- was directed to SRS to create jobs, jump start the regional economy and accelerate environmental cleanup.

On September 23 of last year, \$200 million of the SRS allocation was directed to SRR to accelerate salt waste disposition and sludge waste vitrification.

While certain liquid waste projects began as Recovery Act “early starts” because of

their importance to accelerating cleanup, considerable analysis and time was devoted to identifying those tasks that were most cost-effective and would have the greatest impact. In the interim, important work has been performed by the SRR ARRA team while awaiting a final roadmap that defines what we'll do, when we'll do it and at what cost.

With DOE's review last month of our ARRA Contract Performance Baseline (CPB), we now have our roadmap for the remaining Recovery Act journey. It's ambitious and aggressive. It defines thirty-three different projects to be performed in what, really, is a very short period of time. It will require our best efforts to manage our time and resources. And when we successfully finish our ARRA work, we can look back with pride and know that important work for SRS, this region and our country was done and done well.

Tank 5 moves toward closure

One more radioactive liquid waste tank at SRS has moved closer to final closure thanks to ARRA funding. As many as 50 Recovery Act workers were involved in the \$1.4 million project. (See the full story at: www.SRRremediation.com/Tank_5_final.pdf)



The ARRA Team

The SRR ARRA workforce numbers 453 FTEs as of March 30, 2010.

Safety: “We're On A Roll; Let's Stay That Way”

The employees of Savannah River Remediation LLC engaged in Recovery Act work continue their “best in the complex” safety performance. Both the total recordable case rate (TRC) and the days away restricted, transferred (DART) through March 30, 2010 remain at zero meaning there have been no recordable injury cases or days away from work or assignments to restricted duty for the SRR ARRA team since performance of the Recovery Act contract began on September 23 of last year. SRR employees have worked more than 230,000 hours on RA tasks in building that noteworthy safety record.

“It's an impressive performance by our folks,” said SRR President Jim French, who noted that the achievement is even more significant given the recent addition of many employees under the Recovery Act who, in many instances, are new to the SRR workforce. “The challenge now” said French “is to maintain our safety awareness and our commitment to each of our co-workers.”

Recovery Act ARRA message:

ARRA team members are reminded that implementation of the Recovery Act has resulted in significant changes and additions to the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) requirements in order to assure transparency and accountability in ARRA programs and activities. The rules involve

- New requirements affecting procurements for construction using Recovery funding.
- New reporting requirements for contractors receiving Recovery funding in contracts and orders.
- New requirements for Government agencies to publicize procurements that use Recovery funding.
- New access to contractors' records by Government Accountability Office and agency inspectors general for procurements with Recovery funding.
- New protection for contractors' employees who are whistleblowers on procurements with Recovery funding.
- New access to contractors' employees by Government Accountability Office (GAO) and Office of Inspectors General (OIG) on procurements with Recovery funding.

The Department of Energy Office of Management has issued an Acquisition and Financial Assistance Guide to provide additional guidance on terms, conditions, and contract modification provisions needed to meet ARRA requirements. The effective date of the new rules was March 31, 2009.

We do the right thing.

Recovery Act funds \$6.9 million for tank farm submersible mixing pumps

A nearly \$7 million contract for the purchase of six large submersible mixing pumps to accelerate waste tank closure at SRS has been competitively awarded. The pumps were purchased by SRR using ARRA funds. (See full story at: www.SRRremediation.com/arra)



A mixer- but not for the kitchen!

A joint project team composed of both SRR and SRNL research scientists and engineers is currently confirming performance specifications for four "first-of-a-kind" mixer pumps to accelerate the processing of radioactive salt waste at SRS. (See full story at: www.SRRremediation.com/arra.html)



Whistleblower Protections:

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) makes specific provision for whistleblower protection in connection with ARRA-funded contracts and procurements. FAR 52.203-15. Posters explaining those protections and related procedures have been posted in all Savannah River Remediation LLC facilities. Additional whistleblower information can be found on the SRR website at: www.SRRremediation.com.