



## DOE managers tour TNX; observe tank, pump functions

By Timothy Cox

Following the recent acceptance testing of new submersible pumps (SMPs) at the TNX Testing facility, Tom Crouse said procurement of the new equipment is vital to ensure that Savannah River Remediation stays the course for meeting target dates to operationally close 22 tanks by 2018.

Crouse, who is the SRR-ARRA Portfolio Project Manager, said 14 pumps have been purchased with a function “to support tank closure and provide sludge waste feed to the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) and salt waste feed to the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF).

“Our job is to safely get the waste out of the tanks for processing through DWPF or SWPF and these (new) pumps will clearly help us in our safe quest to do so,” he added.

Transfer pumps and blender pumps were also purchased using Recovery Act funding. The pumps cost about \$1 million each.

On June 15, DOE-SR managers toured the TNX facility where SRR managers provided them with details on why new pumps are essential to SRR’s goal to operationally and safely close tanks.



DOE and SRR workers observe SMP at TNX site.

Project Manager Ricky Doniphan said procuring the new pumps through ARRA funds is a “huge win” for our SRR projects.

Initially, the submersible pumps and equipment will be installed inside Tank 13. But, Crouse said the upgrades will ultimately impact several tanks throughout the entire SRR tank farm complex.

Jean Ridley, the DOE-SR Liquid Waste Federal Project Director, said the tour was valuable. “It

provided us a thorough understanding of how the pumps operate, while ensuring success of the Liquid Waste program,” she said.

## Workforce Transition Center: *A positive stop for all displaced workers*

A Workforce Transition Center (WTC) has been established to assist all SRS displaced workers in finding employment. The Center will provide assistance in resume writing, financial counseling, interview workshops and electronic job searches.

According to WTC resources, to date, the center is having a positive impact in terms of assisting displaced workers.

As recently reported on the SRS InSite (online publication), 236 SRS workers have visited the WTC thus far. There have been 694 total cumulative visits - 536 of which were scheduled and 158 walk-ins. There were 80 total interviews, according to a report generated by the SRNS Human Resources Department.

During initial visits, displaced workers are provided a copy of their training records and job descriptions to assist with résumé writing. Job-opportunity bulletin boards and resource materials about companies that are actively recruiting are also available at the center.

Since opening its doors on March 21, as of mid-June, the WTC has assisted in finding employment for 54 displaced SRS workers, according to the SRSN Human Resources Department.

**Call 803.644.0010 to make an appointment prior to visiting the WTC. Trained staff is on-hand to assist.**



The SRR ARRA workforce:

**323 FULL TIME  
EQUIVALENTS**

as of June 1, 2011

For more information, contact the SRR:  
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## Ironworker foreman touts positive impact of 2009 federal legislation

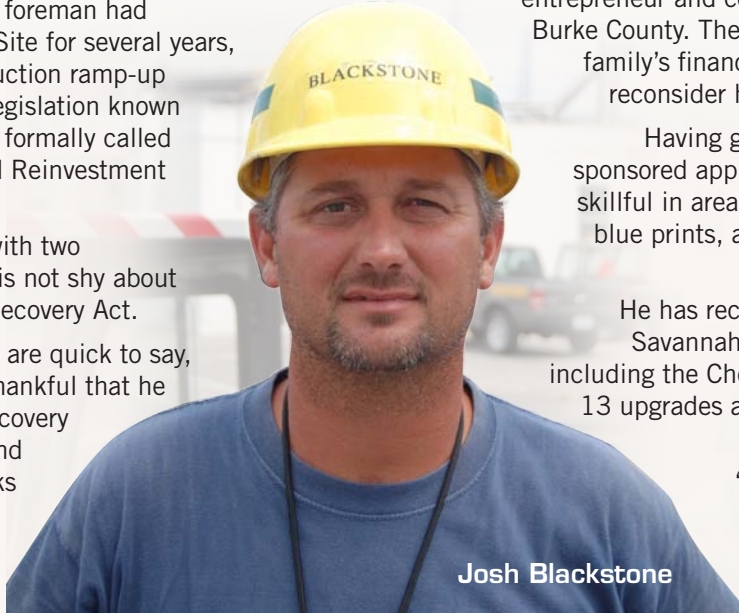
By Timothy Cox

When Josh Blackstone reports to work, he's very enthused about his upcoming day.

The 40-year-old ironworker foreman had worked at Savannah River Site for several years, but returned during construction ramp-up affected by 2009 federal legislation known as the Stimulus Act - more formally called the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

As a married father of six with two grandchildren, Blackstone is not shy about touting the impact of the Recovery Act.

"Me and my fellow workers are quick to say, 'Go Mr. President.' We're thankful that he acted when he did. The Recovery Act has really helped me and family and lots of other folks too," he said.



Josh Blackstone

In 2007, Blackstone agreed to leave SRS hoping an employee-incentive package could spur his success as an entrepreneur and convenient store owner in his native Burke County. The unforeseen recession changed his family's financial fortunes, forcing Blackstone to reconsider his construction-related labor skills.

Having graduated from a three-year, union-sponsored apprenticeship program, Blackstone is skillful in areas such as rigging, welding, reading blue prints, along with his ability to manipulate iron, rebar and structural steel.

He has recently worked on several successful Savannah River Remediation ARRA projects including the Chemical Additions Blend Tank, Tank 13 upgrades and the Effluent Treatment Project.

"I'm just happy I was able to come back," Blackstone said.

## SAFETY AT SRR

Photo by  
Eddie Webb



Paul Johns  
captures snake

## Summer Brings Out Snakes and other hazards

On the morning of June 6, H Area employees were less than pleased to learn that an unwelcome intruder had made its way into the H Area parking lot.

The intruder was a large snake, which was spotted by employees en route to their work posts and, luckily, was caught before any damage was done.

The reptilian invader was an eight-foot canebrake rattlesnake. Canebrake rattlesnakes are the largest snakes found on the Savannah River Site. Even though they have no business in locations such as H Area parking lot, these snakes serve a purpose at SRS. They are the largest consumers of unwanted rodents.

As a safety precaution, Kevin Smith, SRR Safety Manager, urges SRR employees to use caution when encountering snakes during the spring/summer seasons and watch out for them.

"Be sure to watch your step and be aware of your surroundings," Smith said. "Snakes could very well be using the same path that you are!"

Daren Baynham, SRR's Principal Safety Specialist, says snakes seek heat that's absorbed in asphalt during daylight hours. "It's cooler in the woods, so, snakes look for heat in paved parking lots and walkways.

Employees should be cautious where you step to avoid snakes and other unforeseen hazards," he added.

On June 27, a pump operator in F Tank Farm was greeted by an alligator as the employee gauged oil samples inside a pump pit. Robbie Robinson, an SRR Local Safety Improvement Team (LSIT) chairman, warned workers to always pay special attention to their surroundings especially throughout summer months.

By Caroline Hallman, SRR Public Affairs Summer Intern.