

## SRR Quarterly Update Performance Period April – June 2011

July 6, 2011

Fellow SRR Employees:

It's hard for me to believe, but 2011 is half over and it's been three months since my last Quarterly Update. I encourage everyone to take some time to reenergize this summer and enjoy their families. Before you know it, school will be starting again.

What's even harder to believe is this is the second anniversary of SRR assuming the liquid waste contract at the Savannah River Site. As I look back on the last two years, I see several things that point to our success. One, of course, is safety. We have just exceeded five million hours of working without a day away day due to an injury or illness. Plus, SRR was just recognized as the URS Safe Project of the Year for 2010.

You achieve these accomplishments or earn such awards with a positive attitude toward safety. I can't thank you enough, and I am sure your family members join me in thanking you for working safely.



Look at what we have accomplished in operations over the last two years. We are the only DOE site to have 15 waste tanks in the closure process. We are the only DOE project to treat salt waste. And we are nearly halfway finished with sludge disposition. It has been said before, but I believe it is appropriate to say again.....you are the best in the world at what you do ... and I am proud to be associated with you.

### **Overview**

We continue moving forward toward our mission to close the 22 old-style waste tanks and meeting our Federal Facility Agreement requirements. During the last quarter, we have refocused our attention on one project, said good-bye to 99 of our employees and hello to a record 47 summer college interns, all while we continue excelling in working safely.

First, let's mention our employees who left.

SRR had its voluntary separation last month. We expected about 100 people would consider retiring and moving on into the next season of their life and 99 people did.

We owe a great deal to these employees. Most of them have been working at Savannah River Site for over 20 years. That represents a lot of experience. The accomplishments we have been fortunate to attain have been as a result of a lot of these people, who have dedicated most of their lives to SRS.

Not only were they SRR employees, they were our friends with some being as close as family to us. I wish them all well and thank them for their service.

### **Safety**

Last month we met another safety milestone. SRR operations employees exceeded working five million hours without an injury or illness requiring a day away from work. This is an amazing achievement and everyone should be congratulated for working safely. The last time we had a lost work day due to an injury or illness was May 6, 2010.



Also during the quarter, we received notification that SRR had been recertified as a Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star Site, the highest recognition in the department's VPP. During a ceremony in May, SRR employees were presented the Star flag and were recognized for their pursuit of excellence in safety and health.

This recognition is a testament to the safety culture that has been and continues to be embraced by all of you. In order to be recognized as a participant in the DOE VPP, contractor employees must demonstrate excellence in the following safety program elements: management leadership, employee involvement, worksite analysis, hazard prevention and control, and safety and health training and you have excelled in all of these areas.

### **Let's Stay Green!**

Let me give you an update on our Five Key Performance Indicators, and it's good news. I am pleased to report that in the area of operational safety, we have made vast improvements over the last few months. Our increased safety awareness has resulted in the safety indicator improving to green.

When it comes to Schedule Performance and Cost Performance, the indicators remain green. In regards to internal health, I believe we have handled change well as the indicator also is green.

Finally, when it comes to our stakeholders, two-way communication remains the top priority. There has been positive feedback received, which makes our External Stakeholders' indicator green, too.

I ask that we continue to work hard to keep each of the five key indicators green. Great job!

### **Welcome Interns**

The beginning of May brought many new faces to the SRR team. Forty-seven college interns have been hired through the annual SRR Summer Internship program. Interns hail from colleges and universities such as Claflin, University of South Carolina, University of





Georgia, Clemson, South Carolina State University and University of South Carolina, Aiken, as well as a few from schools not so close to home, like Alabama and Minnesota.

While one might think all of these eager college students would be engineering majors, this is certainly not the case. These new faces can be spotted

in departments such as Computer Science, Design Authority, Engineering, Finance, Health Protection, Public Affairs, Human Resources, Legal and Project Controls.

You may even recognize a few faces! Some interns are returning for their second summer with SRR. We welcome all our interns and encourage them to take advantage of their experience this summer as a stepping stone to their future.



### **Refocusing on Tank 48**

Let me provide some background information on Tank 48 before explaining why we have suspended work on the project.

Tank 48 is a 1.3 million gallon, Type III, waste tank that has been segregated from the normal tank farm activities because the organic material in the tank cannot be mixed with other wastes.

DOE and SRR wanted to remove the material so Tank 48 could be utilized as necessary to support the liquid waste tank closure mission. The technology chosen in 2009 to remove the waste was

the Fluidized Bed Steam Reforming (FBSR) process.

However, we have made significant progress with tank space management initiatives the last couple of years resulting in more Type III tanks becoming available between October 2016 and October 2021, which is the same timeframe Tank 48 was going to be needed. With this new development, a team of SRR and DOE personnel recommended the FBSR project be suspended and alternative treatment options be studied, which is under way now. I will share more on this topic as we progress.

### **Tank Closure**

Summarizing tank closure, I can say we have continued to accelerate activities. Fifteen of our old-style tanks remain in one of the closure steps, and we are progressing toward an agreement on grout specifications for the next two tanks to be operationally closed, which are Tanks 18 and

19. All that remains to operationally close the tanks is working with DOE and regulators to prove the tanks are ready to be operationally closed.

SRR recently submitted a detailed closure plan to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Once the plan is reviewed and approved, the final closure phase can commence.

Final characterization of the residual waste in Tank 5 is complete with characterization of Tank 6 waste under way. Plus, bulk waste removal activities on Tank 4 were completed during the quarter and a presentation to SCDHEC and EPA will be held soon.



### **Salt Waste**

The Actinide Removal Process (ARP) and Modular Caustic Side Solvent Extraction Unit (MCU) reached a new processing record and continue to operate very well. On June 8, 2011, the ARP/MCU processed 50,000 gallons of salt waste in one week, bringing the FY11 totals to nearly one million gallons, which is nearly two million gallons since the system began operations in April 2008. These are outstanding achievements.

At Saltstone, I believe we have turned the corner on several improvements and testing, and we will begin to see some increased throughput again from the production and disposal facilities.

Saltstone Production Facility (SPF) surpassed its FY11 contract commitment of processing 800,000 gallons of salt waste. In June, SPF achieved the one million gallons processing mark for the fiscal year and has already exceeded the total amount of salt waste processed in FY10. Great job!



For the Saltstone Disposal Facility (SDF), construction was completed on Saltstone Disposal Unit (SDU) 2 and now grout lines to SDU 2 are being installed. Construction work continues on SDU 3 and 5 and site selection for SDUs 6 and 7 is progressing.

### **High-Activity Waste Classification**

Recent enhancements at the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) are beginning to show signs of improvements in producing canisters. In June, our hours to fill a canister was at 19 to 20 hours, a substantial improvement and one that will lead the facility to our goal of pouring 275 canisters this year.

### **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)**

“Finishing Strong” has become the catch phrase for the Recovery Act team and, as the team progresses to its September closure, they are doing just that.

As we begin the final quarter of our fiscal year, the team is 86 percent complete with its list of 41 projects, have spent \$172 million of its allocated \$200 million, and have created or retained 380 jobs.

Key accomplishments from the two-year program have been a production boost at the DWPF from 215 canisters a year filled to 325 canisters filled annually in the future; accelerating tank closure activities that now has 15 waste tanks in the closure phase, a new milestone in the DOE complex; and significant improvements to aging SRS liquid waste operations infrastructure, which will avoid delays due to equipment failure and disruptions to scheduled waste processing.



I will have more to say about the Recovery Act team and its accomplishments in the next quarterly report. But I am confident the team will continue to uphold its adopted motto of “Finishing Strong.”

### **Community Outreach**

Feedback on our new Stakeholder newsletter has been overwhelming. I have received positive comments from our elected officials, community leaders and interested citizens thanking us for keeping them informed. They like the layout, the information being presented and the overall concept of a newsletter directed to stakeholders.

The monthly newsletters can be reviewed by going to the SRR web site on InSite, clicking on Public Affairs and clicking on the Stakeholder Newsletter link. Enjoy the newsletters and share them with your family and friends.

Preparations for the 2011 United Way Campaign are under way. Last month our liquid waste team competed in the United Way Softball Tournament and, after a tremendous battle right down to the end, our team captured the second place trophy. I know we are accustomed to placing

first, but the real winners each year are the United Way agencies that benefit from the resources provided by the tournament. In that case, we are all winners. I say a special thank you to those who played, volunteered, helped organize and the many who donated money to the tournament.



The United Way has selected nine residential projects from its Project VISION database that needs attention this summer. I have asked the SRR managers to consider forming a team, adopting a project and providing the necessary repairs that will benefit one of our neighbors from that list who are in need.

I know we support the United Way Project VISION, CARE and SERVE each year, but this is an excellent way to continue to give of our time and service to a worthwhile cause. Talk to your manager and learn more about these projects or go to the SRR web page on InSite and click on the Project VISION Home Repair List to learn more about the projects.



In May, we provided \$15,965 in grants to nine area schools as part of our “Students, Teachers Achieving Results” (STAR) Grant Program. The grants are awarded to the schools to provide funding for innovative approaches to teaching science and mathematics. It is always a pleasure to meet and talk with the teachers. They are really doing some exciting things.

Also in May, we awarded \$3,000 scholarships to 10 high school graduates as part of our annual SRR Family Scholarship program. The students are sons and daughters of SRR employees and are selected for their leadership and scholastic achievement. It’s always a thrill for me to attend the scholarship reception and see the students with their parents and know that, in no small part, their success is due to the understanding, guidance and encouragement they receive at home.



Thanks for reading. Have a great summer and continue to work safely.

Dave Olson  
SRR President and Project Manager