

WSRC News

Washington Savannah River Company, Savannah River Site

March 29, 2007

Bob Pedde: 'It's difficult to leave good people'

This is my last week at SRS, and as I said in my message to you about a month ago, it's always difficult to leave a job when you enjoy working with people you respect and admire.



Bob Pedde talks with employees at Tuesday's employee reception.

This week has been a whirlwind of activity as I try to tie up loose ends at work and at home. Earlier this week, I was honored and, quite frankly, stunned at the number of you who turned out to wish me farewell at the employee reception. I'll never forget the nice things you said there, the encouraging notes you sent, as well as the excellent support I received during my tenure. It's overwhelming, it's humbling, but above all, it's just another indication of what great people you are.

I have been fortunate to have had challenging jobs at SRS for 17 years, and I have had the privilege of leading WSRC since the middle of 2001. When I reflect on the work we did together, I

know without a doubt our site is headed in the right direction. I've said numerous times, future missions are coming here. It's not a matter of if - it's a matter of when. SRS is the right place to do this nation's work.

Your safe work, your attention to conduct of operations, your security posture and your overall performance will continue to make this site shine. Your community support through the United Way and a host of other activities demonstrates how much you care about others. I know you'll continue to effort that same level of dedication for Leo Sain as he becomes the WSRC President next week.

I am extremely confident in Leo's abilities, his integrity and his leadership. He is a tireless worker, very knowledgeable and experienced at the site, and he will continue to guide SRS toward a great future.

In closing, I want you to know that my wife, Linda, and I have a special place in our hearts for you. Your prayers lift us; your support has always strengthened us. We are deeply grateful for you all, and we sincerely wish you all the best.



Parking Lot Safety

There have been questions and concerns recently about employee safety in our site parking lots. Two often asked questions are as follows:

Question 1: When is it okay to pull through and park in a parking lot space?

Answer: Remember that SAFETY is our No. 1 Site priority. It is not permissible to "pull through and park" facing outward UNLESS the parking lot in question is specifically configured for such parking, and is marked with directional arrows allowing the practice. Manual 8Q, Procedure 11, shows a diagram labeled "Attachment C" that defines "Head In" and "Pull Through" parking. Please review the procedure and diagram to ensure full and complete compliance.

Question 2. Can WSI write a speeding citation within an SRS parking lot?

Answer: Yes, Wackenhut Services Law Enforcement Officers are authorized to write citations and will strictly enforce posted speed limits. WSRC and WSI have a Memorandum of Understanding that gives WSI the authority to patrol SRS parking lots and enforce parking rules identified in Manual 8Q, Procedure 11.

Manual 8Q-11 reads, "Obey posted speed limits in parking lots. If no speed limit is posted, the speed limit is 10 mph."

Drivers are reminded to comply with all parking lot rules - it is for the safety of all. If it is dark, rainy or foggy, use extra care where pedestrians are likely to be walking, and where visibility may be less than optimum.

The 8Q-11 can be viewed at: <http://www.srs.gov/msd/8q/11.pdf>

Test Drive Begins for WSRC's MCU Process

The Modular Caustic Side-Solvent Extraction Unit (MCU), which is an integral part of the Liquid Waste Operations Interim Salt Disposition Processing system, is entering a highly important phase within a rigorous and extensive test program.

Having successfully completed the first phase of the startup testing process, all of the process chemicals have been loaded into the MCU tanks, marking the official start of the "simulant phase" of testing.

"It's much like ordering a new car from Detroit," said Brent Gifford, MCU Project Owner. "Now, you're sitting in the seat and turning the key for that first test drive."

The MCU process will be run through most of April to systematically test the equipment with a chemical that will simulate radioactive waste.

"At one point in the testing process, we'll actually introduce nonradioactive cesium to further validate the ability of the process to remove cesium from waste entering the facility," said Gifford. "We'll then pull samples and compare them against design requirements."

Actinide Removal Process (ARP) and MCU make up two of the three process components at SRS known as the Interim Salt Disposition Processing system. Combined with the Saltstone Disposal Facility, this innovative approach will treat, decontaminate and disposition radioactive salt waste removed from SRS storage vessels.

ARP and MCU are scheduled to initiate radiological operations later this year as part of a two-step integrated approach to treat over five million gallons of radioactive salt waste.

Using principles involving centrifugal force and a special engineered solvent, MCU equipment is designed to take high activity salt solution and divide it into two waste streams. The cesium is removed and is sent to DWPF to be mixed with molten glass and poured into stainless steel canisters for ultimate disposal at a federal repository. The remaining decontaminated salt waste solution will be transferred to the Saltstone Processing Facility to be mixed with dry cementitious materials to form a concrete-like grout for safe, permanent disposal in engineered vaults.

H Canyon Completes 3rd Level Rollback



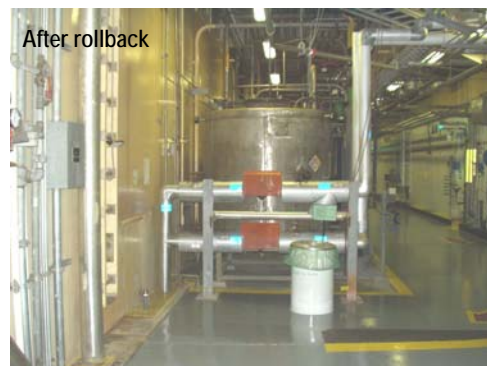
The team consisted of Wayne Holland, Daryle Logan, Elaine Turner, Kirkland Williams, Freddie Odom, Vaden Hallman, Glenn Bowman, Leon Cummings, Gregg Willingham, Terrence Cabarrus, Mardy Clarke, Scott Craft, Tommy Marchant, Carl Benjamin and Curt Giddings.

It is easy to look around our work spaces and comment, even complain, about facility conditions and work practices, but H Canyon's Shift N4 decided to do something. The shift took the initiative to work together for 20 shifts to roll back much of third level from a contamination area to a radiological buffer area.

Shift Manager David Nason gives all the credit to the operators and radcon inspectors on shift N. This group started their

effort in late January. The work consisted of wiping down and deconning the tanks, valves, pipe, walls and basins on third level. RCO performed detailed surveys as the team started on the south end of third level and worked north. Construction and maintenance personnel relocated equipment to support the effort.

The benefit of this huge team effort was quickly realized. Because this group eliminated a radiological barricade, personnel assigned to third level no longer have to don and doff radiological protective clothing to perform valving evolutions. Engineering personnel in street clothes have since been observed "walking down" recent design changes required for discarding the process vessel vent flush solution. Thanks to a shift that cared enough to do something, maintaining, manipulating and inspecting equipment is now easier and safer.



Diplomatic Mission Held At U.S. Embassy in Poland

For the first time in more than 30 trips overseas, two Savannah River National Laboratory employees were asked to meet with the U.S. Ambassador in Poland. The article and photo are from the U.S. Embassy web-site in Warsaw.

As part of the U.S. Department of State's Export Control and Border Security Program, a team of experts from the U.S. Department of Energy's Nuclear Security Administration is delivering a four-day Weapons of Mass Destruction Commodity Identification Training course in Poland March 19-22.

The course, being attended by officials from various Polish government agencies and technical experts from Polish scientific institutes, covers weapons development and export controls related to nuclear, biological, chemical and missile commodities and is designed to familiarize export control enforcement officials with controlled commodities.

"This course is a vital part of our cooperation with the Polish government on this important security matter," noted U.S. Ambassador to Poland, Victor Ashe.



Ambassador Victor Ashe with Anne Openshaw, Program Coordinator, National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy; Thomas Ciccatteri, Kansas City Plant; Heather Dion, Los Alamos National Laboratory; Timothy Hasty, Savannah River National Laboratory; Peter Heine, Argonne National Laboratory; and Pamela McKinsey, Savannah River National Laboratory



Project Vision Reaches Out to Aiken County



Leo Sain takes a break from painting

(Project Care).

To volunteer, enter "United Way" in the ShRINE search box and hit "QUICK SEARCH," then click on "2007 SRS United Way Campaign." Next, select "Project SERVE or CARE" Registration under "Day of Caring" and input your information, including your preferences.

Over 200 SRS employees, family members and friends volunteered to participate in the Aiken County United Way Project Vision Day of Caring on March 16. Teams of volunteers performed tasks ranging from painting, landscaping, carpentry, maintenance and cleaning at United Way agencies, such as Helping Hands, ACTS, Children's Place, Freedman Parenting Center, Aiken Mental Health Association and Tri-Development (Wise Hollow). An additional Day of Caring is planned for April 27 to perform community service for the United Way of the CSRA (Project Serve) and the Barnwell County United Way



Keith Wood painting at Helping Hands

WSRC Contract Extended; Request for Proposals Update

On February 28, 2007, DOE officially extended the SRS contract by 18 months, from January 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008. DOE also added language to allow them to extend the contract for an additional six months, if necessary.

During the interim, DOE will re-bid the SRS contract in two parts: one contract for Liquid Waste Operations (LWO), (mainly the tank farms, Defense Waste Processing Facility and Saltstone Disposal Facility) and a second contract for Management and Operations (M&O), the remainder of the site functions. DOE has already released a LWO draft Request for Proposals and the M&O final Request for Proposals (RFPs). The two RFPs are summarized below.

LW DRAFT RFP

DOE issued earlier this month the draft RFP for the liquid waste portion of the SRS contract.

According to the draft RFP, DOE plans to award a cost-plus-award-fee contract worth approximately \$3 billion for liquid waste cleanup at SRS.

The contract is set to run from 2008-2014, with an additional two-year option period.

Work to be carried out under the contract includes removing waste from and closing portions of the high-level waste tanks; operating Defense Waste Processing Facility, and performing Interim Salt Disposition Processing until the Salt Waste Processing Facility begins operation in 2011.

DOE is soliciting comments through April 30 and plans to hold a presolicitation conference and site tour.

M&O RFP

On March 23, DOE released the final RFP for the primary management and operating contract at SRS and set a deadline of May 23 for all proposals.

The final RFP incorporates several changes suggested during a recent comment period that was opened to potential bidders for the five-year, \$4 billion contract.

Among the changes to the final RFP, the Savannah River National Laboratory would remain under the purview of the main management contractor. However, the revised RFP does “remove emergency management from its scope of work and anticipates this work to be provided by a separate contractor,” according to DOE.

In addition, the DOE plans to set aside federal contracts for small businesses to bid on providing transportation and mechanical services, health and human services and information management at SRS.

Outstanding Production by F&H Tank Farm Personnel

The Liquid Waste Operations (LWO) team had an outstanding week-long period between March 15 and March 22, particularly regarding operations within the site’s two tank farms.

During this time period:

- ⇒ 160,000 gallons of space was recovered by SRS evaporators
- ⇒ 1.3 million gallons of waste was transferred, including transfers to support evaporator recycles and evaporator feed, waste removal from Tank 6, Saltstone and DWPF feed
- ⇒ Overall volume of waste within our 49 active waste tanks was reduced to below 36 million gallons for the first time since Dec. 13, 2005.

Congratulations to our LWO employees for their exceptional performance.



The site’s three evaporator facilities work together to create much needed space within the SRS tank farm system.

DP Marks 6.9 Million Safe Hours

The Defense Programs organization (DP) recently achieved another milestone by accumulating 6.9 million work hours without an injury resulting in lost time. This noteworthy accomplishment was celebrated on March 8 around the flag pole where the new blue safety flag is proudly flying.



Kirk Morrell, Tritium Maintenance Organization Manager and LSIT Sponsor, started the celebration by welcoming everyone. Congratulatory safety comments from Dennis Hayes, DP General Manager, and Harold Connor, WSRC Senior Vice President/Acting Director, ESH&QA & Performance Assurance were also provided as part of the ceremony.

Mr. Connor said, "What a remarkable accomplishment at the same time when starting up the Tritium Extraction Facility. Thanks to all the dedicated professionals who hold safety as a value and demonstrate it every day."

After the celebratory lunch, DP personnel received a recognition award and their choice of an umbrella, flashlight or backpack to commemorate the event.



Kirk Morrell speaks to the employees at the DP safety celebration



Introduce a Girl to Engineering

On March 10, SRS engineers continued to take small steps toward easing the approaching shortage of workers skilled in the engineering fields.

Forty-one girls from CSRA middle schools attended the day-long event held at the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center, USCA. The day included games to help girls discover where their interests lie, as well as interactive, hands-on activities to show them how their natural problem-solving abilities form the basis for many engineering skills.

Sponsors included the CSRA Society of Women Engineers, WSRC, BSRI, BWXT Savannah River Co., CH2 Savannah River Co., and BNG America.

Recognition & Awards

SRNL doctoral student to meet with Nobel Laureates

Steven B. Jung, a doctoral candidate from the University of Missouri-Rolla, conducting research at SRNL has been selected to join other rising star researchers from around the globe this summer for discussions with Nobel laureates as part of the annual Meeting of Nobel Laureates and Students in Lindau, Germany. SRNL nominated him for his work on an SRNL research project funded by the DOE Office of Science to design and optimize new materials to remove certain radioactive elements from high-level radioactive waste. Laboratories and universities were invited to nominate one doctoral student conducting research funded by the Office of Science, National Science Foundation or National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Gorenssek invited to participate as panel member

Dr. Max Gorenssek of SRNL was invited to participate as a panel member for the Next Generation Nuclear Plant Phenomena Identification and Ranking Table exercise being conducted by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Service Milestones

Congratulations to the following SRS employees, who are celebrating service milestones in **April**.

40 YEARS

Lessie Price

35 YEARS

Kenneth Brosseau

Michael Hess

Leroy Odum

John Swafford

Gary Widener

Richard Willard

30 YEARS

Richard Anderson

Jacqueline Bates

Mona Blume

Rufus Britt

Terry Curtis

William Evans

Larry Hudson

James Powell

John Simmons

Jackie Thorne

Paul Tillman

Danny Webster

Richard Wilbanks

Mary Yerace

25 YEARS

Anthony Barnette

Cathy Bryant

Sandra Campbell

George Christenson

Karen Drumming

Paul Eisenstat

Sandra Fail

Dennis Fish

Larry Garosi

Cindy Head

Paul Jabaley

Carol Jantzen

Christopher Loyal

Sharon Mathis

Susan Mills

Willie Oakman

Cynthia Sizemore

20 YEARS

Donald Barfield

Kent Barr

Chris Barron

Kathleen Black

Mary Ruth Boatwright

Steven Bonner

Charlotte Breland

Stanley Brown

Shirley Brunson-Brown

Wanda Burkett

Alfred Bush

Emerson Bussey

Carolyn Carter

Anthony Cook

Charles Covington

Jonathan Crider

Marilyn Davis

Terry Dennis

Annie Doe

Michael Dyches

Christopher Ewing

Terry Fields

Robert Furnas

Harry Graves III

Glenn Griffin

Jasper Griffin

Robert Hamby

William Hartley

Michael Hatfield

William Hicks III

Barney Hicks

Randal Hill

William Holey Jr.

Christine Holloway

Steven Holt

Henry Houston Jr.

David Immel

Elizabeth Jackson

Angela Johnson

Rosa Jones

Donald Joyner

Timothy Judd

Curtis Julian Jr.

John Lamb

Leah Lavallee

Ted Lee

Lynwood Loehr

Charles Long Jr.

Franklin Long Jr.

Timothy Long

Robert Massengale

Allen McClain

Shawn McKinnon

Sidney Melcher

Bridget Miller

Malcolm O'Neal

King Patrick

Leonard Perry Sr.

Jay Pruszyński

Sheila Reed

William Regan Jr.

Joseph Richards

Donald Robinson

William Rourk III

Saleem Salaymeh

Francis Sanders

Michael Schneider

Allan Sikes

Donald Simpkins

Robert Smith

Susan Spires

Johnny Stewart Jr.

Richard Stringfield

Ralph Stroman

Douglas Sumpter

David Sutton

Randy Swinson

Manuel Terronez

Cynthia Turnipseed

Dandy Walker

Emerson West

Denise Wheeler

Luther Wheeler

Richard Whitaker

Matthew Wilby Sr.

Arlene Williams

Lee Williams

Willie Williams

Anthony Wilson

James Wood Jr.

Marianne Wooten

Lindsey Wright

Kenneth Yates

Stephen Young

15 YEARS

Ronald Barnes

Catherine Barton

Patti Bennett

Timothy Bennett

Leigh Brown

Randolph Cumbest

Marcia Gibson

Jay Howard

Patrick Kirby

Michael McHood

Perry Miller

David Missimer

Carol Scott

John Still

Charles Stoyle

James Thomas

Claire Walker

10 YEARS

Richard Bledsoe

Andrew Fellingner

Anthony Williams

5 YEARS

Trinidad Bush

Adrian Calix

Evan Croy

Michelle Hammett

Victoria Lampkin

Ryan Lentz

Jeffrey Stevens

Margaret Walker

James Wood



Spotlight On Core Values

- ⊙ Safety
- ⊙ Integrity
- ⊙ Teamwork
- ⊙ Results

The *WSRC News* is published by WSRC's Public and Employee Communications Department, Office of the President.

Questions, comments or a submission? Contact:

Kelly Way
730-1B, room 3145
2-9172, pager 15547

Fran Poda
730-1B, room 3144
2-8671, pager 11085