

# WSRC News

Washington Savannah River Company, Savannah River Site

August 16, 2007

## Behavior Based Safety: Making Us Safer Today



I remember not too many years ago working in the various facilities on site – I worked in almost of all them at one time or another. During that time, we knew safety was important, just as we do today. However, we have something at our disposal now that we didn't have then – a formal Behavior Based Safety process.

And BBS is making a significant difference.

I wish we'd had BBS back then. From my experience, I can see areas that would have reaped great benefits from it. Now, I understand how BBS helps promote safety and reduces at-risk behaviors. I want you to have that same understanding.

BBS isn't complicated: We observe and recognize safe behaviors. BBS creates an environment – no name, no blame – that allows us to protect our co-workers while, at the same time, makes us all do more to think about safety, then put that knowledge into action.

Many of our injuries are “minor” by most standards. However, we know that if you have enough of these kinds of injuries, you aren't doing work safely. And it's those “minor” injuries that lead to major injuries or worse.

Just looking over the past few months, it's obvious to me that most of our recent injuries could have been avoided if someone had taken the time to observe or be observed performing a routine task. BBS observations are that effective. As a matter of fact, BBS observations have become our front-line protection; they breathe life into the entire safety system.

BBS is a proven process, and right now our BBS process is maturing well. After more than seven years of BBS work at the Site, we have achieved a 62 percent reduction in injuries, which is exactly the mark other corporations achieve by this point in their BBS timeline. However, the major reason for this success isn't because we have this important safety tool; it's because of your dedication to working safely, particularly through BBS and, by extension, observations.

We know that each observation performed keeps at least one employee safe, and we average more than 3,100 observations per month. That's impressive. The math is pretty simple: The more observations we perform, the more employees we keep safe. Also, our Local Safety Improvement Teams (LSITs) use that information to keep people safe who may not have been observed. We have great participation in BBS, but at a Site this large, we need more participants.

I have asked our management team to encourage you to perform BBS observations and to help you in that process. There's plenty of information on how to participate through your manager, ShRINE or from your local LSIT. But it all starts with you making the commitment.

Your safety and health are important to me. I don't want to see anyone hurt. However, the best reason for staying uninjured is not just job satisfaction – it's getting home uninjured to be with your family every day. It's the gateway to enjoying your life.

Leo Sain

WSRC President

### What Counts?

- 19 The number of Total Recordable Cases (TRC) WSRC has to date, compared to 32 for this same time last year. This is the best TRC performance since WSRC began maintaining safety performance records in 1989.
- 95 Percent completed by Spent Fuel Project with the bundling and storage of foreign research reactor fuel assemblies staged in L Basin.

## Fire Department and RAP Team Conduct HAZMAT Training



The fire dept helps a RAP team member prepare for entry.



The fire dept helping a RAP team member remove his protective clothing after entry

In what has become an annual rite of early summer, the WSRC Fire Department and Region Three Radiological Assistance Teams (RAP) located at SRS have conducted joint HAZMAT training.

The training serves two purposes. First it allows the RAP Team members to maintain their Hazmat Technician and operations level qualifications. Second, it helps the Fire Department Personnel hone their skills in dealing with radiological hazards in addition to the other mixed hazards they routinely encounter. In this year's training scenario, a fire and chemical spill occur in a simulated off-site facility, and the WSRC Fire Department responds.

During the investigation, it is determined that both chemical and radiological hazards exist. The RAP team is contacted and responds, and both groups must work together to analyze and mitigate the hazards. The results of the exercise/training were quite good but, as with all evolutions of this type, lessons were learned and will be factored into various response procedures. Next year, the two groups will come together again to continue the tradition.



Combined fire/RAP entry team being decontaminated after a successful entry into the affected facility.

## Integrgraph SmartPlant Foundation System Goes Live in Tritium

In June 2007, Defense Programs Tritium Facilities began using the new Integrgraph SmartPlant Foundation (SPF) system in the production environment. This is the pilot phase of a two-phase implementation project to upgrade the SRS Integrgraph AIM system with the new SPF system, ensuring that valid and precise engineering data can be securely accessed when and where needed. SPF has replaced AIM as Integrgraph's marketed product for engineering change management processes, and in addition to SRS, is being implemented within Washington Group International, Bechtel and many other large corporations.

SPF system is an electronic library of plant information that addresses all facility design, build, and operation requirements throughout the plant's life cycle. It serves as a vehicle for managing plant design, modification, upgrades, and refurbishments, while effectively managing evolving plant configura-

tion. SPF provides a number of benefits, including improved security, maintaining facility technical baselines, providing electronic workflow with captured electronic signatures, and providing compliance with and electronic implementation of engineering requirements all in one location accessible by Engineering, Operations, and Maintenance.

The capability now exists to process any document type, as listed in the Document Control Register, through SPF and transmit it electronically to Document Control and/or Electronic Document Workflow System Records.

SPF is Windows-based and addresses many of the user interface issues that existed within the AIM system.

Current projection for the Site Transition phase of the SRS SPF system upgrade is to have all current AIM users transition to SPF beginning in fall 2007, after deficiencies identified during the pilot phase have been corrected.



## Spent Fuel Project Marks 15 Safe Years



The Spent Fuel Project has reinforced its place among the safest organizations at SRS, recently celebrating 15 years without a lost time injury.

The 15 years encompasses five million hours worked by the organization of about 120 people.

Other milestones marked during the safe streak include:

- ⇒ Four years without any recordable injury (1,469 days, since July 17, 2003)
- ⇒ Three years without a contamination case (1,272 days, Jan. 28, 2004).
- ⇒ One year without an ORPS-reportable event (June 21, 2006).

SFP has accomplished all this while reducing its operational staff by more than 30 percent in the past three years, at the same time it received, handled and stored more than 750 spent fuel casks containing more than 16,000 spent fuel assemblies, dispositioned over 22,000 cubic feet of solid waste, and shipped 129 legacy radioactive casks out of South Carolina for permanent disposal.

SFP has implemented a strong, mature BBS program, which SFP manager Charles Nickell gives a great deal of credit for the safety culture in his organization.

“Our people watch out for each other and keep an inquisitive nature all day, every day,” he says. “Our time-out process has become a part of our organizational culture, and that, too, has been key.”



SFP employees enjoyed a celebratory meal to recognize their streak of 15 safe years.



SFP manager Charles Nickell spoke to the crowd, putting into perspective the enormity of their accomplishment.

## AACE Honors Asoka Pillai

Asoka K. Pillai was one of five recipients of the Fellow Awards. Jim Zack, President of the Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering (AACE) International, presented the awards in July at the AACE International’s 51st Annual Meeting in Nashville, TN.

The membership grade of Fellow is a selective and prestigious honor. Approval of Fellow is in recognition of professional attainment and significant accomplishment in cost engineering.

Mr. Pillai has been a member of the AACEI International since 1994. He is a Principal Project Controls Specialist and an active member of the Central Savannah River Area Section.



Asoka Pillai receives AACE Award

## Service Milestones

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

### 35 YEARS

Herbert L. Fennell  
Sue J. Stephens

George T. Tussey  
Richard B. Weiss  
Russell W. Wright

Willie E. Floyd  
Angela M. Ford  
Michael L. Gilles  
Dan P. Griggs

Debra S. Foutch  
Dennis Harris  
Steven D. Jahn  
Barbara R. Key  
Mark H. Layton  
Eric A. Nelson  
Joel A. Plagenhoef  
Stephen M. Saffron  
Leon Scott, Jr.  
Mark L. Wessel  
Wesley J. Young

### 30 YEARS

Jack L. Allen, Jr.  
Richard E. Babb, Jr.  
Esten C. Bledsoe  
John P. Bodie  
Eddie E. Bradley  
Fred A. Cheek, III  
Patricia J. Cummings  
Vivian A. Edwards  
Michael E. Eller  
Howard S. Etheridge  
Sammie L. Gary III  
Shirley M. Hightower  
Charles S. Holod  
Lenora S. Howard  
Mary D. Jones  
James V. Logan  
Jerry N. Lonon  
Phillip R. McGee  
Joan U. McKinney  
Kenneth L. McTeer  
Howard A. Morgan  
Calvin A. Padgett  
Thomas E. Reece  
Anthony T. Shih  
David S. Simpson  
Roger W. Stephens  
Jeffrey S. Stewart

### 25 YEARS

Arturo P. Corral  
Mahesh N. Gor  
Judith A. Hanzik  
Kathleen M. Melcher  
George Pondexter  
Roger W. Rabon  
Ronald I. Sanders  
Ronie B. Spencer  
Patricia P. Thomas

Dave N. Hoang  
Cynthia Holding-Smith  
Albert J. Hutko  
Edward A. Kyser III  
Sherry B. Lawver  
Antonio C. Lewis  
Lawrence W. Lunden  
David E. Manders  
Anthony Maxted  
Randall E. Morgan  
Jerry M. O'Leary  
Karen N. Palmer  
Dino M. Pierucci  
Christine C. Posey  
Mason N. Richardson  
Eric E. Smith  
Johnny F. Still  
Michael H. Tosten  
Robin W. Wainwright

### 10 YEARS

Donnie A. Edwards  
Donald R. Ludwick, Jr.  
Craig W. McMullin  
Christopher M. Mobley  
John W. Naylor  
Jeffrey J. Thibault  
Dennis W. Vinson

### 20 YEARS

Alberta H. Anderson  
Kirsten G. Aylward  
Karen A. Barley  
Jerry A. Bolin, Jr.  
Scott E. Booth  
Anthony Bowman  
Frank L. Boyd  
Patricia C. BRIGHTHARP  
Curtis L. Brown  
Patricia H. Buchanan  
Timothy P. Conner  
Donald Dorr  
Ruth J. Douglas  
Kerry A. Dunn  
Vivian M. Evans  
Kenneth R. Faircloth

### 15 YEARS

Richard H. Belles  
Richard P. Brown  
Barbara L. Brumbaugh  
Ghada S. Elchoufi  
Gary C. Feenstra  
Emmett D. Ferrell, Jr.  
Robert W. Fields

### 5 YEARS

Leonard T. Alexander  
Christopher E. Bagwell  
Heath E. Crutchfield  
Charles C. Foster  
Thomas C. Lane  
Jacob C. Nims  
Elizabeth J. Stockdale  
Serranzo D. Turner



### 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?

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