



# FACTS

ABOUT THE SAVANNAH RIVER SITE

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## Disposition of Surplus SRS Facilities

Born amid Cold War tensions, the Department of Energy's (DOE) Savannah River Site (SRS) played a critical role in our country's national security strategy for more than 40 years.

Due to changes in missions, however, many SRS facilities are no longer needed to produce or process nuclear materials. This situation poses a challenge for SRS to place and maintain these facilities in a safe, low cost condition until they can be safely disposed.

These facilities range in size and complexity from large nuclear reactors to scores of small storage buildings. Many SRS facilities have underground structures such as basements, storage tanks and piping that require a large amount of digging to be reached. Some even tower over 100 feet high. Since these facilities are generally located within one of the site's nuclear industrial areas, they may be surrounded by other buildings that are occupied or are still being used; demolishing them can be extremely difficult. Since 2003, more than 260 buildings covering over 2.5 million square feet have been demolished.

### What Is Facility Disposition?

Disposition is the process that begins once DOE decides a facility is no longer needed to support defense, research, or other program missions and declares it as surplus. In certain cases some of the facility's systems and components may remain operational to support activities throughout the disposition process.

The facility disposition process is divided into four activities:

- **Shutdown/transition:** The process of terminating operations in a controlled manner and the planning for remaining disposition activities.
- **Deactivation:** A facility is placed in a stable and known configuration by removing the chemical and radioactive materials, shutting down or mothballing the facility equipment and mitigating hazards.
- **Safe Storage:** If the facility does not phase directly to decommissioning, then a dormant period incurs, involving only surveillance and maintenance (S&M) of the facility to ensure safety of the worker, the public and the environment. S&M activities are performed during the entire disposition process to ensure all structures, systems and materials are monitored adequately to ensure a safe configuration is maintained.
- **Decommissioning:** The facility is placed in its final end state, whether that involves dismantlement, decontamination, or some other activity such that the land is available for either unrestricted use or for limited applications.

### Current Decommissioning Program

The current decommissioning program concentrates on reducing risk, cost and facility footprint across SRS with the intent of pursuing geographic area closures. All facilities in T Area, the first industrial area to be closed under the Area Completion process, have been demolished and final waste unit cleanup and closure was completed in 2006. M Area, also near the site boundary, has completed demolition work and all heavy water facilities have been decommissioned in D Area. These areas will be followed by other area closures that border the site.

The SRS vision is to complete facility decommissioning and area closures by the year 2031.

*January 2008*

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WASHINGTON SAVANNAH RIVER COMPANY

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