



FACTS

ABOUT THE SAVANNAH RIVER SITE

FB Line

FB Line, located on top of F Canyon at the Savannah River Site (SRS), was constructed in the early 1960s to receive plutonium-239 nitrate solution produced in F Canyon and convert it to a solid form. Solutions were transferred from the canyon and concentrated in the FB Line. Then, in subsequent operations, the plutonium was precipitated, filtered, dried and finally reduced to metal form, called a button, about the size of a hockey puck. Employees performed processing activities using equipment enclosed in gloveboxes, to protect them and operating areas from the radioactive material.

This process continued until March 2002, when all scheduled operations to stabilize plutonium-bearing materials from the SRS production era were completed successfully and ahead of schedule.

For nearly two years after those operations were completed, FB Line's focus was to stabilize and package legacy nuclear materials for safe, long-term storage. This process involved packaging materials using a process in which stabilized plutonium is placed in rugged, welded stainless steel cans. The technology was developed at SRS. FB Line was the first facility in the DOE complex to successfully use this new method of packaging.

After materials were stabilized and packaged, they were shipped to other site locations until the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility is ready. In February 2005, those operations were also completed safely, successfully and ahead of schedule.

The facility has now been deactivated and awaits its final end state, to be determined by the Department of Energy after a period of evaluation and public involvement. It is being maintained in a safe state until those decisions are made.

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WASHINGTON SAVANNAH RIVER COMPANY

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