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For Immediate Release

## **DWPF POURS 10 MILLION POUNDS OF RADIOACTIVE GLASS**

AIKEN, S.C., (August 12, 2008) – The Savannah River Site’s Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) poured its 10 millionth pound of radioactive glass today, a milestone for the robust, 12-year-old facility.

DWPF leads the world in pouring environmentally acceptable borosilicate glassified, or vitrified, waste. It is the largest facility of its kind in the world.

The facility converts highly radioactive liquid waste, which is currently stored in 49 underground tanks at SRS, into a solid glass form suitable for long-term storage and disposal. Operations began in March 1996, and are expected to continue until about 2030. So far, DWPF has poured 2,562 canisters of glassified waste.

“DWPF continues to help us safely and efficiently dispose of radioactive waste,” said Terrel Spears, Assistant Manager for Waste Disposition Project, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)-Savannah River Operations Office. “SRS is a leader in turning waste into glass thanks to a dozen years of successful DWPF operation, which makes future tank closure possible.”

Steve Piccolo, Washington Savannah River Company (WSRC) President, said employees have consistently met or exceeded performance expectations at the facility.

“Our employees exercise rigorous, disciplined operations,” Piccolo said. “I am proud of their dedication, hard work and commitment to safety. And, I am delighted by this milestone. Removing waste from our waste tanks and immobilizing it in glass is an important mission for this Site.”

About 36 million gallons of liquid nuclear waste are now stored in 49 underground carbon-steel tanks at SRS. This waste has about 400 million curies of radioactivity, of which the vast majority will be vitrified at DWPF.

The glassified waste is stored on site until a federal repository is established.

SRS is owned by DOE. The Liquid Waste contract is managed by a team of contractors led by WSRC.

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### **The WSRC Team:**

Washington Savannah River Company LLC • Bechtel Savannah River, Inc. • BNG America Savannah River Corporation  
BWXT Savannah River Company • CH2 Savannah River Company