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For immediate release

## **DOE'S SRS Achieves Excellence in Compliance, Continues Low Radiation Impact, According to 2007 Environmental Report**

Aiken, SC (Sept. 30, 2008) – The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Savannah River Site (SRS) recorded an outstanding year in environmental compliance during 2007, and its operations continued to result in minimal radiation impact to the offsite public, according to the SRS Environmental Report for 2007. The annual report is being posted on the internet this week, with hard copies and accompanying CDs of the document scheduled to be available in the next couple of weeks.

"We are pleased that the report confirms the Department's commitment to environmental compliance and safety and health practices at this DOE site," said Jeffrey Allison, DOE's Savannah River Operations Office manager. "SRS continues to be operated in a way that meets appropriate regulatory standards, and that minimizes any impact to communities that surround the site. The data also continue to show that radiation dose caused by SRS discharges is smaller than natural background radiation and safety-based dose standards."

SRS environmental reports have been produced for more than 50 years. Copies are distributed to government officials, universities, public libraries, environmental and civic groups, news media, SRS employees, and various interested individuals.

Based on its strong showing in a number of major audits, SRS operated for the entire 12-month period covered by the environmental report with no Notices of Violation (NOVs) from its primary regulator—the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control—or from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The site also recorded no Clean Air Act or Clean Water Act permit condition exceedances, marking the first time it has operated a full calendar year with no NOVs or permit exceedances.

The report notes that the largest radiation dose a hypothetical maximally exposed individual (MEI) could have received from SRS operations in 2007 was estimated to be 0.10 millirem—50 percent less than the 2006 dose of 0.20 millirem. (A millirem is a standard unit of measure for radiation exposure.) Nontypical exposure pathways are not included in the standard calculations of the MEI doses; they are considered and quantified



separately because they apply to low-probability scenarios, such as consumption of fish caught exclusively from the mouths of SRS streams, or to unique scenarios, such as volunteer deer hunters.

The calculated MEI dose of 0.10 millirem is less than 1 percent of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) all-pathway dose standard of 100 millirem per year, and is small when compared with the natural average dose of about 300 millirem per year to people in the United States.

Environmental monitoring is conducted extensively within a 2,000-square-mile network extending 25 miles from SRS, with some monitoring performed as far as 100 miles from the site. The area includes neighboring cities, towns, and counties in Georgia and South Carolina. Thousands of samples of air, rainwater, surface water, drinking water, groundwater, food products, wildlife, soil, sediment, and vegetation are collected by SRS and state authorities and analyzed for the presence of radioactive and nonradioactive contaminants.

SRS's compliance with environmental regulations and with DOE orders related to environmental protection also provides assurance that onsite processes do not adversely impact human health or the environment.

The site environmental report can be accessed on the internet at the following address: <http://www.srs.gov/general/pubs/ERsum/index.html>. The report will be available by early October in hard-copy format and on a CD located inside its back cover. The CD and website also include extensive data tables referenced in the report—as well as annual reports from a number of other site organizations.

To receive a copy of the 2007 report and CD, call or write:

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