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**For Immediate Release**

## **New Highly Efficient, Clean Energy Steam Plant Begins Operations at the Savannah River Site**

AIKEN, S.C. (October 24, 2008) – Savannah River Site (SRS) officials have replaced a 1950s-era, coal-powered, steam generating power plant with a new, state-of-art facility that burns “biomass” – waste wood from the logging industry and other sources.

The new A-Area plant provides steam for industrial uses to the Savannah River National Laboratory and administrative facilities.

“This precedent-setting facility demonstrates the U.S. Department of Energy’s commitment to design facilities that promote clean, efficient operations for an environmentally responsible future,” said Under Secretary Clarence H. “Bud” Albright, Jr., at a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by congressional staff, county government representatives, local elected officials, and community leaders.

Construction was funded and managed under a unique agreement that allowed repayment of the project costs over a period of nine years. The capital cost of the project is approximately \$10 million, with an average projected savings of \$1.5 million per year. Savings generated from the new system will be used to pay the total costs of the project.

“The new plant will contribute significantly toward the Department’s meeting President Bush’s 2007 Executive Order that federal agencies conduct energy-related activities in an environmentally, economically and fiscally sound, integrated, continuously improving, efficient, and sustainable manner,” said Jeffrey Allison, Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office Manager. “This is another example of the importance we at SRS place on conserving energy and protecting future generations from the effects of pollution.”

With the startup of operations, the A-Area steam plant uses two new 30,000 lbs./hr. steam boilers to replace the existing coal-fired boilers. The original plant, installed in 1951, is too large for today’s reduced A-Area steam requirements, resulting in the venting of excess steam and reduced plant efficiency; the boiler plant is also past its useful life, requiring additional maintenance and repair.

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The wood-based fuel for the A-Area steam plant is being obtained from local vendors while options are being explored for the use of on-site biomass materials. The new system will result in lower environmental emissions, less energy consumption, lower operating and maintenance costs, and compliance with new Clean Air and Water Act standards.

One of the new boilers, a wood-fired boiler, provides the majority of the steam required for the area. The other will be a standby, fuel-oil fired boiler that will operate during maintenance periods for the wood-fired boiler and during periods of peak demand for steam.

The new plant was designed and built as part of a collaborative process among the Department of Energy, Washington Savannah River Company and Honeywell Building Solutions.

The Site's operating contractor, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC completed startup testing and will be responsible for the plant's operation.

A second upgrade project involving antiquated steam plants in the D, K and L Area is scheduled for completion in Fiscal Year 2011.

SRS is owned by the U.S. Department of Energy and the management and operating contractor is Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC.

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