NEWS from The Savannah River Site



Media Contact: Bruce Cadotte

(803) 952-9172

bruce.cadotte@srs.gov

For immediate release

BECHTEL CONSTRUCTION HONORED FOR SAFETY ACHIEVEMENT

Aiken, S.C. (Jan. 11) – Bechtel officials held a ceremony at the Savannah River Site this week to recognize the safety achievements of Construction workers. Recently, the site's "direct hire" construction department surpassed 17 million hours worked without losing any time due to a job-related injury or illness. The last lost-time injury occurred in June 1998.

"I've never seen anything like it," said John Mathis, corporate safety manager for Bechtel's U.S. and international government and infrastructure business unit. "Our Savannah River construction employees are serious about achieving zero accidents, and it shows in their performance."

Management praised Construction workers and their supervisors for their professionalism and dedication to be the best. Larry Simmons, president of Bechtel Savannah River, Inc, told workers, "You make me proud. You accept the challenge of performing every task safely and never compromise your high value for safety."

As a token of the company's gratitude and in recognition for this world class performance, workers received jackets carrying the words "World Class Construction Safety" and the Bechtel logo.

Construction Manager Ben Young held the event at the site's pipe shop, where many of the safe hours were logged. "Safety is a constant challenge," Young said. "We can't rest on our accomplishments. We do construction work, which is hazardous. Our workers, who come out of the local Building Trades, are professionals in their chosen crafts. They have built a world class culture of safety and professionalism."

Business agents from the Augusta Building Trades were invited to participate. Abe Dial, BSRI's General Construction Superintendent, said, "The local unions are in partnership with us in protecting their members from work-related hazards, and we appreciate all that they do to provide us with trained, qualified craftsmen."

WSRC President Bob Pedde said the Construction achievement is one of several positive signs about the continuing strength of the SRS safety culture.

"Overall, 2005 was the safest year we've experienced in WSRC's history. It's gratifying to see all of the ways people demonstrate each day that safety is a value, even as some of the work we're performing increases our hazard potential. Construction continues to set a remarkable pace, and the entire workforce is accepting the challenge of improving on a world-class performance," Pedde said.

WSRC, a Washington Group International Company, operates the Savannah River Site for the U.S. Department of Energy. The WSRC team includes Bechtel Savannah River Inc., BNG America Savannah River Company, BWXT Savannah River Company and CH2 Savannah River Company.

WSRC -06-01