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For Immediate Release

## **Major DOE Deactivation Work Complete in F Area**

AIKEN, S.C., (October 2, 2006) – Washington Savannah River Company (WSRC) has completed all deactivation work required in its current contract for the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Savannah River Site’s (SRS) F Area, resulting in a significant reduction in operational costs and making available additional resources for other cleanup efforts.

“I am extremely proud of the DOE and WSRC team’s hard work and dedication that it took to achieve this significant milestone. They did an incredible job,” said Jeff Allison, DOE’s Savannah River Operations Office Manager. “F Canyon and FB Line are now in stable, safe conditions that will undergo periodic surveillance until final decommissioning.”

F Canyon and FB Line deactivation was a major part of WSRC’s current contract with DOE. This work, known as “threshold” work, was required to be finished by the end of November. It was finished in early August, three months early. DOE validated the contract activities as complete shortly afterward.

“This is a major, major success for the site, WSRC and DOE,” says WSRC President Bob Pedde. “The people involved in this accomplishment have done a great thing, both over the 50 years F Area was operating and in the last three years as they’ve safely deinventoried and deactivated these incredibly complex nuclear facilities. This is a major achievement for the Site and the country.”

Completing F Area deactivation work was challenging. It included:

- Deactivating F Canyon – a major nuclear facility 835 feet wide, 122 feet wide and 66 feet high – and taking it to a low-maintenance state
- Stabilizing, packaging and shipping more than 2,000 plutonium items – each of which had its own unique challenges – to a single facility elsewhere at SRS with other similar materials

### **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

- Deactivating and demolishing the 200,000-square-foot 247-F complex, which produced materials for the U.S. Navy in the 1980s and was subsequently shutdown.
- Deactivating and demolishing 49 support facilities in F Area, each of which presented industrial, chemical and/or radiological challenges

In addition, removal of nuclear materials from the F Area Materials Storage (FAMS) facility which for decades was a vital part of the site's material production and management operations, has allowed for the downgrading of the security category of the facility. This downgrading reduces the dedicated security forces required which frees additional resources to be used for cleanup.

As deactivation work in F Area has been completed over the past three years, personnel have been reassigned elsewhere at SRS. With the completion of F Canyon deactivation, more than 85 percent of the F Area workforce is free to focus on other SRS cleanup priorities.

Significant nuclear missions have been conducted almost continuously in F Area since the mid-1950s. Here, one-third of the nation's weapons-grade plutonium was produced. F Canyon and FB Line chemically separated and purified nuclear materials for the national defense.

SRS is owned by DOE and operated by a team of contractors led by WSRC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Washington Group International.

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