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For Immediate Release

Former Fuels Production Facility Gone from SRS Skyline

AIKEN, S.C., (March 30, 2006) –The sprawling 247-F nuclear complex at the Savannah River Site (SRS) is now no more.

After three years of planning and deactivation, demolition has been safely completed at the facility, which once covered nearly 100,000 square feet in SRS's F Area, located near the center of the 310-square-mile site. The project's scheduled completion date was November 2006, a schedule that once seemed daunting. Workers completed the task eight months early.

"You have done something never done before at SRS," project manager Bill Stephens wrote in a congratulatory letter to his crews. "You have completed the deactivation, decommissioning and demolition of a nuclear facility, and you accomplished all of this with a positive safety attitude and team spirit like I have never seen before. You should all feel proud of this accomplishment."

247-F demolition created nearly one million cubic feet of debris. Transporting these materials to their ultimate destination – SRS's waste management facilities – took 78 flatbed trucks, 55 intermodal containers (railroad boxcar size containers 20 and 40 feet long), and more than 1,000 rolloff pans.

From 1985-1989, 247-F took uranium feed stock and converted it to a form suitable for use as fuel in United States' Naval vessels. In 1989, the facility was shut down because its services were no longer needed. From 1989-1997, 247-F was in a surveillance & maintenance (S&M) mode. From 1997-2002, only rare S&M entries were made.

Then, in 2003, it was determined that the complex should be torn down within WSRC's current contract period, which expires in September 2006. A small planning team took over the facility and began planning deactivation and demolition.

That team faced an almost overwhelming task. The years that the facility was left idle and unoccupied had left their mark in the form of significant industrial hazards. There were no utilities and only temporary string and pedestal lighting. There were industrial hygiene concerns in the form of visible mold colonies, which required personnel to wear respirators to enter the facility.

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

Also, 247-F was still a radiological facility, with trace amounts of uranium-235 still present. And, the technology, configuration and information in 247-F were still classified. Rooms were packed with structures and gloveboxes that could not be taken out in their existing configuration, for security reasons.

Finally, 247-F workers faced some of the toughest conditions at SRS, working in high heat, dressed out in protective clothing, wearing respirators all day every day.

“This team worked in some of the harshest conditions possible, but they never lost their focus on safety and taking care of each other,” says Stephens. In the end, the crews finished all their tasks safely.

The site is owned by DOE and operated by a team of contractors led by WSRC, a subsidiary of Washington Group International.

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