

Media Contact: Bruce Cadotte
(803) 952-9172
bruce.cadotte@srs.gov

For immediate release

SRS WINS THREE “BEST IN CLASS” POLLUTION PREVENTION AWARDS

AIKEN, S.C. (Feb. 14)—The Department of Energy’s Office of Environmental Management has selected three SRS Pollution Prevention Award entries as “Best in Class” for 2006 from among over 60 submitted nationally.

The awards were announced by Mark Gilbertson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Cleanup and Acceleration at DOE headquarters in Washington.

In the Waste/Pollution Prevention category, SRS’s decommissioning and demolition efforts and resulting waste disposition activities were cited for protecting the environment and avoiding the generation of additional waste during the D&D of 56 buildings in 2005.

The creation and use of a standardized waste identification document in D&D, which requires a detailed characterization of materials to be removed and optimizes removal operations and waste disposal, received major credit for helping to save \$9.3 million during the year.

SRS received two awards in the Recycling category.

The first was the site’s effort to reuse and recycle items typically not included in its recycling program, such as excess supplies from DOE’s Rocky Flats site in Colorado and damaged transport containers from the Department of Defense. The Defense containers were refurbished and used to package and dispose of waste at a net savings to taxpayers. Several hazardous chemicals, such as elemental mercury, “have also been reclaimed and reused in substantial quantities and at significant savings,” DOE’s award letter said.

The second was the restart of the site’s elemental lead recycling program. SRS had stopped lead reclamation for administrative and technical reasons, including a question of the required purity of lead in shielding applications. The site resolved the issues and established criteria for identifying, collecting and processing excess lead inventory. This effort allows for reusing all of a growing amount of excess radiologically clean lead onsite. It also complements the D&D program by providing a pathway for clean lead collected from those activities. This avoids the need to buy expensive preformed lead shielding while minimizing disposal of scrap lead as waste.

(more)

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

“These achievements underscore our commitment to be good stewards of the environment here at SRS,” said Bob Pedde, president of Washington Savannah River Company. “I’m very proud of the ingenuity our people show in preventing pollution and the beneficial effect they have had on our environment. It’s especially gratifying to know that the Department of Energy recognizes our effort.”

The winners will be considered for further federal recognition.

WSRC-06-06