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For Immediate Release

Area Schools Compete in DOE's National Science Bowl[®] *America's Future Scientists and Engineers Show What They Know*

AIKEN, S.C., (Feb. 6) –America's next generation of scientists and engineers will soon put their knowledge to the test in the country's largest science tournament. The Department of Energy's National Science Bowl[®] involves 12,000 high school students from 1,800 schools across the United States. It is the only educational event and academic competition of its kind that tests students' knowledge in all areas of science and is sponsored by a federal agency.

“Developing the students who will be our next generation of scientists and engineers is critically important for the future economic health of our nation,” said Jeff Allison, Manager, Department of Energy-Savannah River Operations Office. “This competition is a highly productive and rewarding way for DOE and the employees at SRS to encourage our youth to consider a career in the fields of science and engineering.”

To reach the national competition, teams must win one of the 65 regional tournaments. The first regional tournament began in January; the last regional tournament will be held in March.

Five CSRA high schools will compete against 15 other teams from South Carolina in the 15th annual Department of Energy Regional Science Bowl at The University of South Carolina Aiken Saturday, Feb. 11. Competition begins at 9 a.m. at USC Aiken's Business and Education Building.

Aiken High School, Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School, Evans High School, Lakeside High School, and North Augusta High School are the local contestants.

Regional champion teams will receive a trip to Washington, D.C., April 27-May 1, to tour museums, and participate in Science Day seminars and the national academic science competition.

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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

Since DOE's National Science Bowl[®] began in 1991, more than 100,000 high school science and mathematics students – and their teachers – have participated. Competing teams are quizzed on biology, chemistry, physics, astronomy, earth science, general science and mathematics. This year's top three teams will win prizes including scientific research trips to France and U.S. DOE laboratory sites.

Student teams, which consist of four students, an alternate and a teacher/coach, practice for months before the competition. Many student teams even test their knowledge against scientists at major corporations or DOE National Laboratories, who volunteer their time to help students prepare to answer the very challenging questions.

The competition's questions are so complex that they often even stump professional scientists. For example:

- *Physics* – Assuming $g = 10$ meters per/sec², if a pulley is used to lift a 1 Kg weight 2 meters high, how much work in SI units was expended to overcome friction if 20 Newton's of effort was used? Answer: 20 Joules
- *General Science* – This fungus is the causative agent for what was known in medieval times as St. Anthony's fire and is now used as a source for certain drugs. Answer: Ergot

More information about DOE's National Science Bowl[®], including the list of regional science bowl competitions, is available at <http://nationalsciencebowl.energy.gov>.

In addition to DOE, the Washington Savannah River Company, Bechtel Savannah River Incorporated, BNG America Savannah River Corporation, BWXT Savannah River Company, CH2 Savannah River Company and the University of South Carolina Aiken are partners in putting together this year's regional Science Bowl.

SRS is owned by the Department of Energy and operated by a team of companies led by WSRC, a subsidiary of Washington Group International.

Note to Editors: See attached agenda. Reporters are welcome to attend the event. *Reporters wishing to attend should call the media contact listed above.* Attached is a list participating schools.

2006 DOE Savannah River Regional Science Bowl Teams

Aiken High School, Aiken, SC
Andrew Jackson High, Kershaw, SC
Boiling Springs High, Boiling Springs, SC
Conway High School, Conway, SC
Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School, Augusta, GA
Dorman High School, Spartanburg, SC
Dutch Fork High School, Irmo, SC
Evans High School, Augusta, GA
Fort Mill High School, Fort Mill, SC
Hanahan High School, Hanahan, SC
Irmo High School, Irmo, SC
James F. Byrens High School, Duncan, SC
Lakeside High School, Evans, GA
Laurens District 55 High School, Laurens, SC
North Augusta High School, North Augusta, SC
Stratford High School, Goose Creek, SC