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For Review Only

## **SRS Achieves First Area Closure**

AIKEN, S.C., (November 30, 2006) – With the completion of remediation work at the Savannah River Site’s T Area, SRS has achieved its first area closure, transforming a former industrial area into a grassy field.

T Area is the first area at SRS closed under an “area closure” concept endorsed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. Under the area closure concept, entire areas are closed as one project, rather than individual waste sites within the area being closed one at a time. The new approach saves countless man hours and regulatory paperwork, both at SRS and at the agencies.

“This is a significant accomplishment, both in cleanup and in working together as a team,” says Jeff Allison, manager, DOE-Savannah River. “From beginning to end, this has been a prime example of good teamwork between the Department, Washington Savannah River Company (WSRC), the state and the federal regulators. I’m happy to help celebrate our first area closure.”

T Area was chosen as the first area to close largely because of its location at the periphery of the site and its position on the Savannah River. By closing areas at the site’s periphery first, the SRS footprint shrinks into an operational area at the center of the site, effectively protecting public health and the environment.

During SRS’s production years, T Area – also known as TNX – served as the gateway to SRS. Equipment was brought via river to the site and unloaded in T Area, where it was tested and evaluated before being used in the production facilities. More recently, T Area was used to model and evaluate the vitrification process now used in the Defense Waste Processing Facility, where waste is transformed into glass for final disposition at a national repository.

In 2001, DOE decided there was no further mission for T Area. The first step in the closure process was the demolition of the buildings in the area, which was initiated in 2002. In the fall of 2004, that demolition work was completed, involving 28 buildings covering 128,000 square

### **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

feet. The area was then handed over to WSRC's Soil & Groundwater Closure Projects organization for final remediation.

Cleanup included removal and offsite disposal of 91 cubic yards of highly contaminated soil, the construction / installation of a 10-acre geosynthetic cover system, and the application of 435,600 square feet of sod and grass over the geosynthetic cover system. Final remediation work was completed in August 2006, 48 months earlier than the original regulatory schedule.

"I'm very happy with the way the T Area closure work was performed," says Leo Sain, the WSRC executive vice president responsible for environmental remediation work. "The Soil & Groundwater Closure Projects organization did an exceptional job, and they did it safely. While they were accomplishing this tremendous amount of work, they were reaching one safety milestone after another and have now worked nine years without a lost workday case. In the end, that's what's important."

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

WSRC-06-??