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For Immediate Release

Savannah River Construction Employees Continue World-Class Safety

AIKEN, S.C. (November 5, 2008) – The Department of Energy's management and operating construction workforce at the Savannah River Site achieved a milestone almost unheard of in the construction industry – 22 million man hours without a lost time injury or illness.

The construction organization, which currently employs about 500 people, hasn't sustained an injury serious enough to cause an employee to miss work in over 10 years. "This is a phenomenal accomplishment in that industry," says Chuck Munns, President and CEO, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC (SRNS), "and credit goes to the Site and its employees.

"This is incredible," says Munns. "In an average construction company, employees would have sustained more than 300 injuries over this 10-year period. That our people have been able to go 10 years and work 22 million hours without anybody getting seriously hurt is absolute proof that a zero-injury workplace isn't only possible – it's here."

A typical construction company has a lost workday case every 71,428 hours, which represents a total of 308 injuries avoided over the past 22 million hours.

"Many people used to believe that injuries in construction are unavoidable," says Rich Slocum, SRNS's vice president for Site Infrastructure and Project Support, the organization responsible for the construction forces. "Our people have proven that construction can be done safely, just by doing the right things and applying ZERO incidents as a philosophy, an expectation, and a way of performing work day in and day out."

The Savannah River Site is owned by the U.S. Department of Energy. SRNS is the management and operating contractor.

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