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**For Immediate Release**

## Area Children to Benefit from SRS “Toys for Tots” Campaign

*Over two decades of toy collection merit special celebration*

AIKEN, S.C. (Dec. 6, 2012) – Employees at the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site (SRS) are celebrating more than 20 years of supporting the U.S. Marine Reserves Toys for Tots campaign with the collection of more than 14,200 toys this year alone.

SRS Toys for Tots Chair Julie Kirby said, “Our hearts go out to area parents in need, many of whom consist of the working poor and single mothers. This time of year they need a little help to provide a gift to brighten Christmas day for their children. Many of these families have been hit hard by the continuing recession.”

Today’s event marks one of the largest toy contributions to date at SRS, an effort requiring several large trucks and numerous volunteers.

The annual event is sponsored by SRS construction employees with the support and participation of the Department of Energy-Savannah River; National Nuclear Security Administration-Savannah River;



*Employees at the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site recently celebrated more than 20 years of support for the U.S. Marine Toys for Tots Program with the help of Santa and one of his elves. More than 242,200 gifts have been donated by SRS employees since annual collection campaigns began in 1991. The 2012 campaign marked one of the largest toy contributions to date at SRS, an effort requiring several large trucks and numerous volunteers.*

*The Savannah River Site is owned by the U.S. Department of Energy and is managed and operated by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC.*

Savannah River Remediation; URS Site Testing Contracts; WSI Savannah River Site Team; Parsons; The Augusta Building and Construction Trade Council; Baker Concrete; and Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC. These companies and employees contribute in a variety of ways, including the donating of unwrapped toys, adopting a “Christmas Angel” or making a monetary contribution.

For the eleventh year, SRS construction employees also sponsored the Salvation Army’s Angel Tree program, enabling SRS employees to adopt 170 area children. Many SRS employees chose to give more than 2,040 clothing and accessory items to Angel Tree recipients.

Toys for Tots began in 1947, when Major Bill Hendricks, USMCR, and a group of Marine Reservists in Los Angeles, collected and distributed 5,000 toys to needy children. The 1947 pilot project was so successful that the Marine Corps adopted Toys for Tots in 1948 and expanded it into a nationwide campaign.

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