

## Soil and Groundwater Cleanup

Almost two-thirds of 515 waste sites at SRS, ranging in size from a few square yards to tens of acres, have been closed. The remediation of these basins, pits, piles, burial grounds, landfills, tanks and associated groundwater contamination is regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.



## Defense Programs

SRS is the nation's sole source of tritium, a radioactive form of hydrogen. The SRS Tritium Facilities safely process, supply and recycle this vital component of the nuclear weapons stockpile. The Tritium Extraction Facility separates tritium from rods irradiated in a Tennessee Valley Authority reactor.



## Used Nuclear Fuel

SRS provides for safe receipt and interim storage of irradiated spent nuclear fuel assemblies from SRS reactors and from test and research reactors, domestic and foreign. The fuel is stored in an underwater facility in L Area until final disposition.



## History



During the early 1950s, SRS began to produce materials used in nuclear weapons, primarily tritium and plutonium-239. Five reactors were built to produce nuclear materials. Also built were support facilities including two chemical

separations plants, a heavy water extraction plant, a nuclear fuel and target fabrication facility, a tritium extraction facility and waste management facilities. Irradiated materials were moved from the reactors to one of the two chemical separations plants. In these facilities, known as "canyons," the irradiated fuel and target assemblies were chemically processed to separate useful products from waste. After refinement, nuclear materials were shipped to other DOE sites for final application.

## Want more information?

Site Tour Inquiries  
1.803.952.8467  
1.803.952.8994

or the SRS operator at 1.803.725.6211

[www.srs.gov/general/tour/index.htm](http://www.srs.gov/general/tour/index.htm)  
or by email at  
[janet.griffin@srs.gov](mailto:janet.griffin@srs.gov)  
[laurie.posey@srs.gov](mailto:laurie.posey@srs.gov)

SRS is owned by the U.S. Department of Energy and operated by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions.

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national security clean energy environmental stewardship

WELCOME TO THE  
**Savannah  
River Site**

## Savannah River National Laboratory

The Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) researchers put science to work to develop and deploy practical technology solutions to real-world challenges. SRNL scientists and engineers support and develop solutions to serve the nation in three major areas: national security, clean energy and environmental stewardship. SRNL, an applied research and development lab, achieves success for its customers through a consistent focus on safety (SRNL is the safest laboratory in the DOE Complex), security and quality.

## Defense Waste Processing Facility



The largest radioactive waste glassification plant in the world, the Defense Waste Processing Facility converts the radioactive liquid waste currently stored at SRS into a solid glass form suitable for long-term storage and disposal.

## Cleanup and Closure



With funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, cleanup activities at SRS have been greatly accelerated. Five capital ARRA projects were completed

ahead of schedule and under budget in FY 2011, including P and R reactor decommissioning, P and R ash basin remediation, and the Heavy Water Components Test Reactor decommissioning. By the close of 2011, the Site's industrial footprint was reduced by 73 percent. Shrinking the footprint positions SRS for potential future missions.



The Savannah River Site (SRS) is a key Department of Energy (DOE) industrial complex responsible for stewardship of the environment, the enduring nuclear weapons stockpile and nuclear materials. More specifically, SRS processes and stores nuclear materials in support of the national defense and U.S. nuclear nonproliferation efforts. SRS also develops and deploys technologies to improve the environment and treat nuclear and hazardous wastes left from the Cold War.

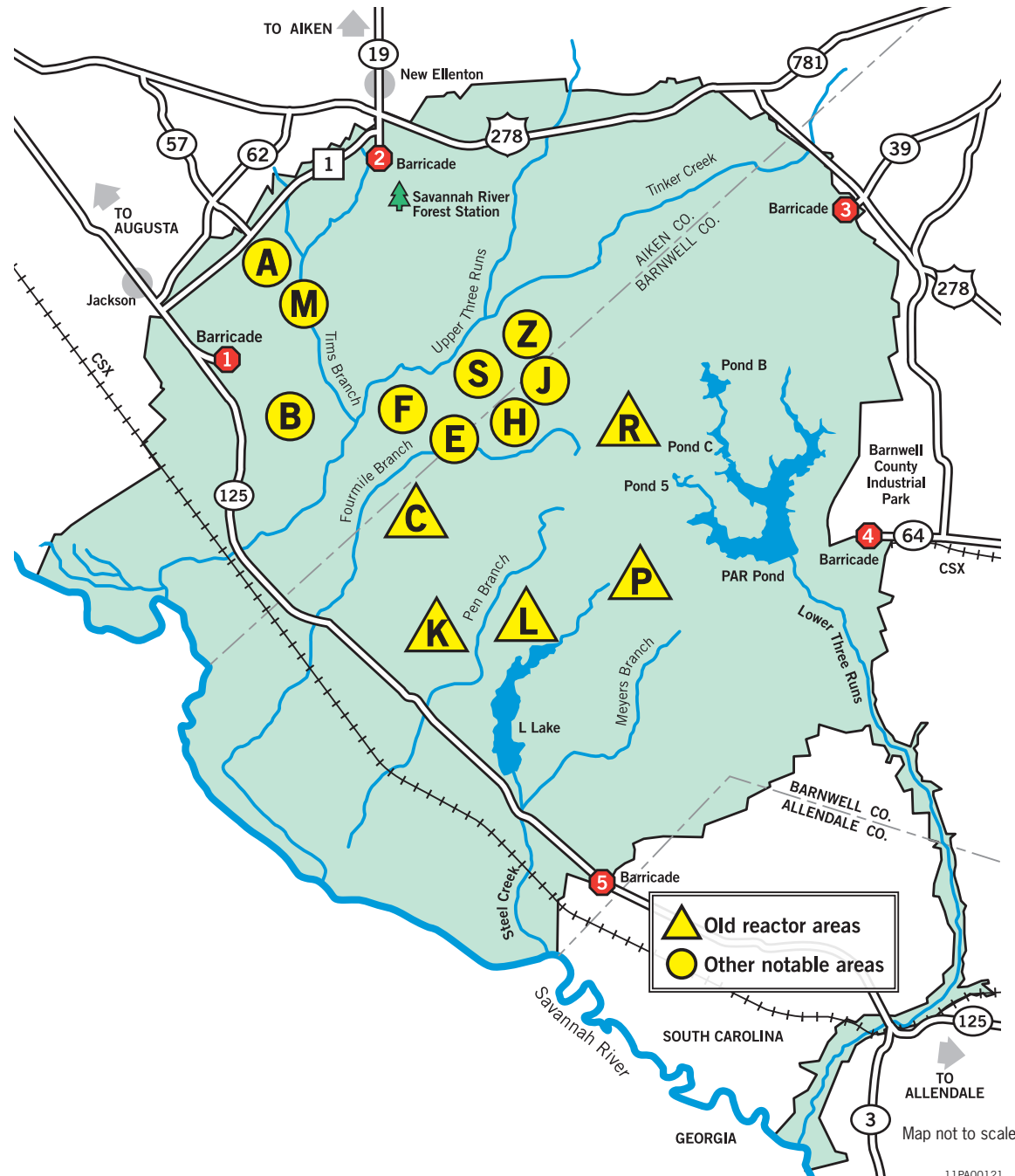
The SRS complex covers 198,344 acres, or 310 square miles, encompassing parts of Aiken, Barnwell and Allendale counties in South Carolina, bordering the Savannah River.

SRS is owned by DOE and operated by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions. Savannah River Remediation holds the Liquid Waste Operations contract.

## points of interest

Areas are indicated on map by letter designations.

- A:** Savannah River National Laboratory, Savannah River Ecology Lab
- B:** Whole Body Count Facility, Calibration Facility, Wackenhut Services Inc.
- C:** C Reactor
- E:** Low Level Waste Disposal Activities
- F:** F Tank Farm, F Canyon, MOX Construction Site, Waste Solidification Construction Site
- H:** H Canyon, H Tank Farm, Tritium Extraction Facility, Tritium Facilities
- J:** Salt Waste Processing Facility (Construction Site)
- K:** K Area Complex (K Reactor) Plutonium Storage
- L:** L Area Complex (L Reactor) Spent Fuel Storage, L Lake
- M:** Area Cleaned and Closed, Curation Facility
- N:** Central Shops
- P:** P Reactor (Deactivated and Decommissioned), PAR Pond
- R:** R Reactor (Deactivated and Decommissioned)
- S:** Defense Waste Processing Facility
- Z:** Saltstone Facility



## Safety

SRS has a long track record of being one of the safest sites in the DOE complex and one of the safest major industrial sites in the world. To that end, SRS has been recognized for its safe work by being awarded the Voluntary Protection Program's (VPP) STAR status. VPP is a joint DOE and Occupational Safety and Health Administration sponsored program. Protecting workers, the public, the environment, and national security interests is our highest priority.



## Environment

Originally farmland, SRS now encompasses a timber and forestry research center managed by the USDA Forest Service-Savannah River. The site also houses the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, an environmental research center operated for DOE by the University of Georgia. In 1972, SRS was designated as the first National Environmental Research Park. SRS is home to the bald eagle and the red-cockaded woodpecker, an endangered species. Other endangered species, including the shortnose sturgeon and wood stork, visit the Site from time to time. Other wildlife commonly found at SRS include alligators, white-tailed deer, wild turkeys and others.

