

The Savannah River Site Environmental Bulletin

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2013 Monitoring Report States SRS Environmentally Safe

Last year, the Savannah River Site continued to safely complete goals related to its missions while maintaining its record of environmental excellence. The site's radioactive and chemical discharges during 2013 were well below federal, state and DOE regulations and standards, set to protect the public, environment and site workers.

According to the 2013 Savannah River Site Environmental Report, the total radiological dose from SRS releases was estimated at 0.19 mrem for 2013. This equates to less than one percent of the 100 mrem per year limit set by the Federal Government for radiation exposure to the public from all sources combined.

In comparison, the yearly dose to the average person living in the United States from naturally occurring radionuclides found in our bodies, the earth and received from the sun is 311 mrem. Typically, Americans receive an annual dose of 13 mrem just from using household products.

"The report confirms that operations at SRS are being conducted in a manner that protects site workers and the environment," said Amy Meyer, Manager, Sample Data Management, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS). "For decades, SRS has effectively and successfully worked with state and federal regulators to ensure SRS waterways and surrounding communities continue to be safe."

Employees of DOE primary contractor SRNS collect environmental samples from sources found both on and off site. Samples are collected from neighboring cities, towns and counties located in Georgia and South Carolina. Each sample is checked for tritium and other radionuclides (radioactive atoms with an unstable nucleus), metals and other chemicals that could potentially be in the environment because of activities at SRS. SRNS personnel collect more than 5,000 samples of air, water, soil, sediment, food products, freshwater fish, seafood, wildlife, plants and trees each year.

SRS also gathers samples at four water treatment facilities that use water from the Savannah River. Two of these facilities are located in Beaufort, S.C., one is in Savannah, Ga., and one is in North Augusta, S.C. No monitored drinking water results were over the maximum contaminate levels set by the states of South Carolina and Georgia or the EPA.

The Savannah River Site Environmental Report for 2013 is available online at:

<http://www.srs.gov/general/pubs/ERsum/index.html>

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