By the Numbers
Savannah River Site

Updated May 2021

The Savannah River Site was constructed in the 1950s to produce the basic materials necessary in the fabrication of nuclear weapons, primarily tritium and plutonium-239. Five reactors were also built in an effort to produce these materials for our nation's defense programs. In 1951, the Savannah River Laboratory was created to support these efforts.

Nearly 19.7M

gallons of material, including decontaminated salt solution, transferred to the Saltstone Production Facility, resulting in more than 27.65 million gallons of saltstone produced.

8 waste tanks

have been operationally **closed to date.**

>3,300

Spent Nuclear Fuel bundles are stored in L Basin, which provides safe underwater storage of SNF from Foreign and Domestic Research Reactor programs.

341 miles

of pre-tensioned wire strand was used to wrap the wall of SDU 7. The tank's wall was designed to expand outward as the Saltstone Disposal Units are filled, and the wire strand ensures the structural integrity of the tank wall is maintained while waste is being added.

2 of 5

reactors deactivated and decommissioned (P and R). Two of the remaining SRS nonoperational reactors (L and K) have been retrofitted to allow for nuclear material storage. The third non-operational reactor (C) is used for training.

1/3

of the U.S. weapons grade plutonium was produced at Savannah River Plant from 1953 to 1988.

By 2028

the Surplus Plutonium Disposition project in K Area will have expanded the capacity to dilute surplus plutonium oxide. Following waste characterization activities, the diluted plutonium will be packaged for shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant for geological repository disposal.

9 years

The amount of time the low enriched uranium solution sent to the Tennessee Valley Authority would power every home in South Carolina, permanently eliminating the equivalent of about 500 nuclear weapons.

>4,250

canisters of glassified radioactive waste produced at the Defense Waste Processing Facility since it began operations in 1996.

~1.56M

cubic yards of ash and materials was remediated as part of the D Area Ash Project. The project cleaned up nearly 60 years of by-products from the now-closed, coal-powered D Area Powerhouse.

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