

News from the Savannah River Site

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DOE HOLDS RIBBON CUTTING FOR NEW SALT WASTE PROCESSING FACILITY

Construction completed eight months ahead of schedule

AIKEN, SC (June 21, 2016) – The Department of Energy (DOE) Savannah River Site held a ribbon cutting today to mark the completion of construction on the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF). Dr. Monica C. Regalbuto, Assistant Secretary, DOE Office of Environmental Management, was the guest speaker for the event.

The Salt Waste Processing Facility is a key component of the liquid waste program at the Savannah River Site. SWPF will process the majority of the Site's salt waste inventory by separating the highly radioactive, but small volume of constituents for subsequent treatment via vitrification, from the predominate low radioactive, large volume salts that will be treated for disposal on site. Removing salt waste, which fills over 90 percent of tank space in the SRS tank farms, is a major step toward emptying and closing the Site's remaining 43 high-level waste tanks.

Regalbuto said the benefits of SWPF extend beyond the Savannah River Site's liquid waste mission.

"We are taking a collaborative approach to leverage what we have accomplished with SWPF to ensure successful start-up of other key facilities like the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit in Idaho and the Waste Treatment Plant in Washington State," Regalbuto said.

DOE is committed to getting this waste – and all waste – treated for disposal as safely, quickly and efficiently as possible.

"Once operational, the Salt Waste Processing Facility will be a cornerstone facility for tank closures at SRS and to Environmental Management's overarching mission of risk reduction," said Jack Craig, manager of DOE's Savannah River Operations Office.

Parsons, the contractor for the SWPF, completed construction of the facility in April, eight months ahead of the renegotiated schedule.

Executive Vice President of Construction Services for Parsons Government Services Anthony Leketa

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and Parsons Senior Vice President and SWPF Project Manager Frank Sheppard praised workers for the successful completion of the project.

“This is a key milestone for the project and for our workforce, who has performed so well by safely and efficiently completing construction activities on this facility,” Parsons Senior Vice President and SWPF Project Manager Frank Sheppard said.

“But more importantly, we are one step closer to our ultimate goal of beginning operations and accelerating the cleanup missions of the Savannah River Site,” said Sheppard.

The project will now transition to the testing and commissioning phase. Components and systems will be rigorously tested to ensure that they meet the DOE’s strict safety and design requirements for waste processing. Once commissioned, the SWPF will significantly increase the ability to empty and close the high-level radioactive waste tanks. The facility is currently scheduled to begin radioactive operations in December 2018.

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Dr. Monica C. Regalbuto, Assistant Secretary, Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Management, was the guest speaker for the ribbon cutting of the Salt Waste Processing Facility at the Savannah River Site.

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Officials of the Department of Energy and Parsons, the contractor for the Salt Waste Processing Facility, celebrate the completion of construction of the facility, June 21, 2016. The Salt Waste Processing Facility will be a key component of the liquid waste program at the Savannah River Site.