

New Tanks at SRS Will Reduce Lasting Radiation

By Anna Dolianitis

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After traveling by barge from Pennsylvania to Hardeeville and reaching Aiken by truck, six processing tanks intended to be major players in the Savannah River Site's Salt Waste Processing Facility's missions were installed this week, with the remaining four expected in mid-June.

The six tanks, ranging in volume capacity from 6,000 to 45,000 gallons, were delivered over the weekend and installed, bringing the Site closer to finishing construction on the SWPF.

The SWPF will treat radioactive salt waste stored in 47 underground tanks at SRS and process 33 million gallons of the stored radioactive salt waste for final disposition.

Once the remaining four tanks are delivered and installed next month, the roof will be placed on the facility.

Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office manager Dave Moody said that the installation of the large vessels, along with the announcement last month that SRS is prepared to close two liquid waste tanks for the first time in 15 years, is promising.

"On the heels of last month's start to grout and close Tanks 18 and 19, this SWPF construction milestone is added proof of the progress being made to reduce the environmental legacy of radioactive waste at SRS," Moody said.

Lou Jackson, SWPF project manager and senior vice president of Parsons, the contractor responsible for designing, building, starting up and operating SWPF for one year, said that the tank installation will help the facility to safely execute waste cleanup at SRS.

"As SWPF continues taking shape on the SRS horizon, installation of these tanks pushes facility construction to more than 60 percent complete and demonstrates Parsons is committed to getting the job done safely and effectively," Jackson said.

The SWPF is expected to become fully operational by 2015.

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Nuclear waste processing tanks during fabrication



Tanks nearing completion



Tanks during shipment from Pennsylvania to South Carolina by barge.

