



Contact: Will Callicott
SRNS Public Affairs
803.952.9583
will.callicott@srs.gov

For Immediate Release

DOE's SRS Continues Exemplary Environmental Performance

AIKEN, S.C. (Sept. 28, 2010) – The U.S. Department of Energy's Savannah River Site maintained its record of environmental excellence during 2009—a year in which site operations continued to result in minimal impact to the offsite public.

Data on the site's performance is contained in the SRS *Environmental Report for 2009*, which has been posted on www.srs.gov. Printed copies and accompanying CDs of the document are scheduled to be available in the next few weeks.

SRS environmental reports have been produced for more than 50 years. Copies are distributed to government officials, universities, public libraries, civic groups, news media, SRS employees and various interested individuals.

"We are pleased that the report confirms the Department's commitment to environmental compliance and safety and health best practices at this DOE site," said Jack Craig, DOE's acting manager for the Savannah River Operations Office. "This report shows that the Site's radioactive and chemical discharges to air and water were again below regulatory standards for environmental protection and public health protection during 2009. It also shows that the Site's air and water quality met appropriate standards, and the radiation dose caused by SRS discharges was smaller than natural background doses or safety-based dose standards. I would also note that during 2009, the site received no Notices of Violation from our regulators, which further validates the good work that has been done."

A key element in each year's environmental report is a calculation of estimated radiation dose to a hypothetical "maximally exposed individual." (The "maximally exposed individual" would be someone living at the SRS boundary 365 days per year; consuming milk, meat, and vegetables produced at that location; and consuming both untreated water and large amounts of fish from the Savannah River.)

The calculated radiation dose to such an individual for 2009 is 0.12 millirem—the same as in 2008, and less than 0.2 percent of the 100-millirem-per-year U.S.

Department of Energy standard. (A millirem is a standard unit of measure for radiation exposure.) By contrast, natural background radiation averages about 300 millirem per year to persons in the United States.

The environmental report includes graphics-depicted historical trends in site air and water monitoring that reflect the continuing reduction in releases as older facilities have been removed from service, and newer, more modern operations have come on line.

The report also documents SRS compliance with key environmental regulations that range from air and water protection to endangered species and historic preservation acts.

SRS personnel conduct extensive environmental monitoring within a 2,000 square-mile network extending 25 miles from SRS, with some monitoring performed as far as 100 miles from the site. This area includes neighboring cities, towns, and counties in South Carolina and Georgia. Thousands of samples of air, rainwater, surface water, drinking water, groundwater, food products, wildlife, soil, sediment and vegetation are collected by SRS and state authorities, and are analyzed for the presence of radioactive and nonradioactive contaminants.

The site environmental report can be accessed electronically at: <http://www.srs.gov/general/pubs/ERsum/index.html>. The report CD and web site also include extensive data tables referenced in the document, as well as annual reports from a number of other site organizations.

To receive a hard copy of the 2009 report and CD, call or write:

R.L. Fanning, Manager
Environmental Monitoring Services
Building 735-B
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions
Aiken, SC 29808

Telephone: (803) 952-8247
E-mail: ross.fanning@srs.gov

The report is published by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, the management and operating contractor for SRS. SRS is owned by the U.S. Department of Energy.

SRNS-10-68