

# **SRSRA NEWSLETTER**

For SRS Retiree Association Members

David Zigelman, Editor

Volume 44 February 2010

## **“SRSRA Annual Meeting --- April 13, 2010”**

*(see page 2 for details)*

### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

Chairman’s Letter	1	Board Meeting Dates	7
SRSRA 2010 Annual Meeting	2	Treasurer’s Report	7
Message from Rep. Gresham Barrett	4	SRSRA Medical Interface Committee	7
Message from SRNS	5	SRS Activities	10
Membership	6	BC/BS Service Concerns	12
Newsletter Mailing	6	Benefits Contacts	12
SRSRA Web Site	6	SRSRA Membership Form for 2009-2010	13

### **CHAIRMAN’S LETTER**

If your ears were burning on October 30, 2009 it was because you were acknowledged and remembered at the National Day of Remembrance Honoring Cold War Warrior Patriots ceremony held at SRS. Your name was in a televised electronic scroll listing over 100,000 current and past SRS personnel. There was a brass band playing patriotic songs, media conducting interviews, representatives from most of the Congressional Delegation, DOE Headquarters, SRS senior management representing both DOE-SR and Contractors. A tent on the lawn in front of the badge office was packed with several hundred people including many retirees of all SRS generations. The ceremony was piped throughout the site live and I am told made part of the Spectrum Video presented at the Monthly Safety Meetings the following month. Your Chairman had the honor of being the first speaker after DOE SR Manager Mr. Jeff Allison conducted opening ceremonies and introduced visiting dignitaries. My message on behalf of you and all SRS Retirees follows:

“On behalf of the SRS Retirees, I'm very proud to stand before you today on our Day of Remembrance. It's a great honor to be here and to represent SRS retirees, some of the greatest workers in the history of our nation.

As someone who worked for more than 40 years in our industry, from Los Alamos to SRS with many stops in between, I believe I'm qualified to say the people of SRS exemplify the best of the American work ethic. From those who carved this great workplace out of the piney woods, to the men and women on site today, we have sustained a culture of excellence here that is unlike any other.

When I think of SRS people, these words come to mind:

**CRAFTSMANSHIP** to a center for excellence in many disciplines.

**COMMITMENT** to a job well done in a safe and responsible manner.

**LOYALTY** to mission, to country, to each other.

These are all trademarks of the SRS employees and it began with our "bricklayers", the retirees.

I'm very proud to stand before you today as someone who played a small role in the history of SRS and I know all of you feel the same sense of pride that I do. And the pride doesn't end with retirement. I'm very pleased to say that the SRS retirees are, and will continue to be, loyal supporters of the site's missions. In fact, one of our

two missions is to support the missions at the Savannah River Site. We never hesitate to voice that support at public hearings.

Thank you for this day.”

At the conclusion of my speech, Mr. Jeff Allison made comments with special recognition and thanks to the SRS Retiree Association acknowledging our continued contributions supporting SRS Missions. A DVD video has been produced by SRS. Look for a laptop playing the video at our Annual Meeting on April 13, 2010.

Your Board of Directors has been following, with great interest, Congressional progress on the Health Care initiative. We have concerns and once the dust clears and we see something concrete we will share those concerns with you and our Congressional Delegation. Representatives of your BOD attended, by invitation, a ground breaking of a new Biomass facility attended by DOE Secretary Chu, and most Congressional Delegates including Senator Graham and Majority Whip Clyburn. We made appearances at holiday social events with opportunities to speak on Retirees’ behalf. We are in dialog with the new SRS Contractor, the keeper of our benefits and had a meeting with SRNS executives on February 4, 2010. The message we heard was that we need to get DOE and congressional delegation support for additional funding before SRNS will put a pension adjustment in the SRS budget.

By now, you are probably aware of DOE’s announcement of February 17, 2010 to not fully fund the SRS pension plan. I received a courtesy call from SRNS shortly before the announcement was made. I was told that the decision was made by DOE-HQ and impacts all pension plans at all DOE sites. Although the announcement says that there will be no impact on current retirees, the SRSRA is concerned about future impacts of this decision on your benefits. We are therefore planning to meet with Jeff Allison of DOE-SR on March 4, 2010 to better understand this action and develop a further course of action. We are also planning on visiting our congressional delegation in Washington to discuss this action and our desire for a pension adjustment.

C. David Cowfer  
SRSRA Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

## **SRS RETIREE ASSOCIATION 2010 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

The 2010 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 13, 2010 at 1:30 PM. Please mark your calendar for this date and plan on joining your SRSRA Board of Directors and your other retiree friends for this important and informative event.

## **TIME AND LOCATION**

The doors will open for registration at 12:00 noon and the meeting will start at 1:30 PM. We expect the meeting to run for approximately 2 hours (with a break for refreshments). The meeting will be held at the Saint Angela Hall in Aiken, the same location as the 2009 Annual Meeting. Address is 118 York Street SE, Aiken SC. **PLEASE USE ON STREET PARKING.** A map of the area and location of the St. Angela Hall can be found on this link: <http://srsretirees.org/annualmtgmapbig.html>

## **SPEAKERS**

Garry Flowers, President of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), and executives from Savannah River Remediation (SRR), DOE-SR and several members of Congress from Georgia and South Carolina are expected to speak. Our Chairman, David Cowfer, will provide details concerning the State of our Association.

## **SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS**

As in past years, we'll have representatives from some of our "support" organizations available, including Blue Cross / Blue Shield, Medicare, SRSREA (formerly ORA), United Way, Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness, SRS Heritage, Project Life Saver, Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program, and SRS Human Resources People Support Service Center. If you have documentation you'd like to discuss with Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Medicare, etc, please bring it to the meeting.

## **REGISTRATION**

We've been hard at work refining and streamlining the registration operation to speed you through the process. Please register as soon as you enter the Hall.

## **ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

As we get ready for our annual SRSRA meeting a key part of the agenda will be to elect 15 individuals to serve as members of the Board of Directors for a two year term. Candidates for the Board seats include incumbents who have volunteered to serve another term, individuals currently participating on one of our Subcommittees, and individuals who self-identify themselves or are nominated by a current board member.

If you are elected to the Board, the expectations are that you will attend the monthly board meetings, get involved with general Board activities, and, become an active participant on one of the Board's Subcommittees.

As Chair of the Nominating Committee, Joe Yanek has been asking, during the past several newsletters, for interested individuals to contact him or a fellow Board member. So this is the "Last Call" for self-identification.

Joe and his committee will be wrapping up the proposed slate and starting to get all of the information ready for the meeting. Joe expects to have a full complement of candidates to present to the membership. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, Joe can be contacted via Email at "[JRYanek@Bellsouth.Net](mailto:JRYanek@Bellsouth.Net)".

## **DOOR PRIZES**

DOOR PRIZES TOTALING \$1,000 WILL BE AWARDED AT THE MEETING!

To win you must be a 2010 member of SRSRA; you must register before 1:30 at the Annual Meeting; and you must be present during the drawing.

## **REFRESHMENTS**

Refreshments will be served.

**The SRSRA Board of Directors looks forward to seeing you on April 13<sup>th</sup>.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **MESSAGE FROM REPRESENTATIVE GRESHAM BARRETT**

During the past seven years, I have had the honor of serving as a United States Congressman for the Third District of South Carolina. One of the greatest joys of my time in Congress has been working with the SRS Retirees Association. I applaud your organization's diligence in ensuring that the federal government's promises to each one of you are kept.

I find that this is a difficult job at times because as Administrations change, priorities often change as well. I know that you have certainly felt the effects of these changes. While the political landscape may have changed, my commitment to fight for issues that are important to you has not wavered during my tenure.

Our nation, state and local communities are facing many difficulties. We are seeing record unemployment rates, foreclosures and budget cuts—along with a whole host of other issues. The people that I have spoken with are frightened about what the future holds, and at times, I certainly share their fear. However, I have great faith in our nation and in the resilience of the American people. We have seen dark days before, and as in the past, I believe we will come out on the other side a stronger and more determined people.

In the meantime, there are many things we need to do to ensure America remains great. One such action is to fight for energy independence. This has been an important focus for me while in Congress. I believe that the Savannah River Site can and will play a prominent role in this effort. The Aiken area is a natural fit for advancing nuclear technology, as well as alternative energy, due to the collective expertise and experience which has stemmed from SRS. Bringing new missions to the site and new opportunities to the area has to remain a top priority.

Thank you for allowing me to share a few of my thoughts with you. I greatly appreciate your friendship and kind support through the years, and I look forward to continuing to work for and with you for years to come.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff if you have questions or need help with any federal matters.

Sincerely,  
J. Gresham Barrett  
United States Congress

\*\*\*\*\*

## **MESSAGE FROM SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS (SRNS)**

While I have had a chance to meet a number of you since arriving in September, this is the first opportunity I have had to address you as a group. I am very pleased to have the chance to share my views with you and look forward to our continuing association and communications – your newsletter provides a perfect venue for that.

As I approach six months at SRS, I continue to be impressed by the caliber of employees working at this site. You have left a legacy that is being well served today and will be strengthened as we go forward with the same emphasis on safety, performance and commitment to our national mission that you demonstrated as an employee of the site.

I also recognize that you played a vital role in achieving DOE's defense mission during the Cold War. That is a service milestone to be honored and preserved.

Our company is now in its second year at SRS and we are extremely focused on three main objectives that will make us a stronger more competitive company.

First, we need to perform our current mission safely, delivering our work products in a quality manner and on the timeline expected by our customers. Second, we need to be excellent stewards of \$1.4 billion of Recovery Act funding, taking every action we can to reduce the environmental footprint from past operations and prepare SRS for future use. And, third, we are working hard to attract new business to grow our mission at SRS and provide a sustainable future for our employees, our communities and our customers. That includes you.

SRNS is proud to be the M&O Contractor at SRS. We bring strong safety and performance ethics to the site from Fluor, Northrop Grumman and Honeywell, and have continued to reach into our parent companies for help where we need it. Please be assured that we fully committed to doing the job right and plan to be here for a long time.

I look forward to meeting and working with you in the years ahead.

Garry Flowers, President & CEO  
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

\*\*\*\*\*

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Your membership in the SRS Retiree Association is critical to our success in protecting your benefits. Please renew now for 2010 and/or 2011, or join for the first time, using the form attached to this newsletter. The cost is only \$15.00 annually for a retiree (and no additional charge for a retired spouse), and \$5.00 for a surviving spouse. Encourage your retired SRS friends to join as well. Our membership for 2009 was more than 1000 retirees and survivors, which provides strength when discussing your issues with elected officials and the Savannah River Site. Although our membership is strong, there are still many retirees who have not joined. For 2010 we want to strengthen the effectiveness of the SRSRA even more through the continued commitment of current members, as well as adding new members. Please join now to help us look out for your interests!

To join SRSRA, please send your membership payment, along with an application form to SRS Retiree Association, PO Box 5686, Aiken, SC 29804. You can use the application provided at the end of this newsletter or access the form from our website at [www.srsretirees.org](http://www.srsretirees.org) and click on "Membership". You can also contact Kent Sullivan, Membership Chairman, at 803-279-9570 for assistance or questions.

With your support we can really have an impact in protecting our future pension and benefits!

\*\*\*\*\*

## **NEWSLETTER MAILING**

**Questions and comments related to the Newsletter may be addressed to David Zigelman, Newsletter Editor, at [zigelman@gforcecable.com](mailto:zigelman@gforcecable.com).**

A number of emails continue to be returned for incorrect addresses, recipient mailbox over quota, recipient not accepting mail from SRSRA, and several others indicating that our database needs some "tuning up". These "error messages" result in the newsletter being sent by hard copy at additional cost to the SRSRA. If you have an active email address, or have changed your address recently and are not receiving SRSRA communications by email, please contact [membership@srsretirees.org](mailto:membership@srsretirees.org). Our email program allows us to reach the vast majority of members more quickly with news. Other pluses are quicker distribution of the Newsletter and less cost of copying and mailing hard copies. Thanks to all of you who are receiving your Newsletter by e-mail.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **SRSRA WEB SITE**

The SRSRA web site includes a wealth of information of value and use to our retiree members. Most importantly, it includes the most recent contact information for benefits administrators at SRS and Blue Cross/Blue Shield. A new search engine feature makes finding documents much easier. Any suggestions on

changes/additions to the web site should be sent via e-mail to: [webmaster@srsretirees.org](mailto:webmaster@srsretirees.org). An SRSRA Membership Form is also available on the web site.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **BOARD MEETING DATES, TIME AND LOCATION**

The SRSRA Board of Directors meets at 10:00 A.M. in the Conference Room at Harbor Chase Assisted Living (formerly Eden Gardens) off Silver Bluff Road near Woodside Executive Park. Association members may attend Board meetings and participate, but may not vote on Board issues. If you ever plan to attend a meeting, be sure to contact a BOD member to confirm that the meeting date and time has not changed. **BOD meeting dates are listed on the website but are generally on the first Tuesday each month unless impacted by a holiday or special event.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **TREASURER'S REPORT** - Stan Smith, Treasurer

This report covers the October 2009 through January 2010 period.

Opening Balance	\$45,089
Income	\$5,140
Expenses	<u>\$1,536</u>
Closing Balance	\$48,693

All income during this period was from member dues payment. The major expenses were for Volume 43 Newsletter printing, Postage (including P.O. Box rental, bulk mail postage deposit, and stamps), miscellaneous printing and supplies, and website management.

The closing balance includes \$30,500 in CDs.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **SRSRA MEDICAL INTERFACE COMMITTEE**

### **New Prescription Drug Program Policy**

Under your prescription drug benefits program effective January 1, 2010, you are only authorized to get up to a 90-day supply of **generic** prescriptions at a retail pharmacy. You are only authorized to fill up to a 31-day supply at the pharmacy for **preferred brand and non-preferred brand name** drugs. You can get a 90-day

supply of preferred brand and non-preferred brand name drugs by using mail order service offered through Caremark. If you prefer to get a 90-day supply of any brand name drug, you would need to contact Caremark to set up mail order service. You can contact Caremark at 1-888-963-7290 or you can contact Caremark at 1-866-465-2496 for Caremark FastStart service where a Caremark FastStart representative will complete a mail service order form for you and contact your doctor for your prescription. You'll need your member ID number, the name of your drug, your doctor's name and phone number and your shipping address. You will also need to provide a credit card number to pay for your mail-order prescription, along with the expiration date for the card you use. If you prefer your doctor call in, there is a separate Physician's FastStart phone number that your doctor can use to call in the prescription for you at 1-800-378-5697. For faster processing, make sure you give your doctor your member ID number, your mailing address, and your phone number. Once the doctor calls in the prescription, Caremark will contact you to get your payment information.

SRSRA recommends that you consult with your doctor before changing from a name brand drug to a generic drug.

### **Tracking the Deductible and Out of Pocket Limits on your BCBS Account**

One of our members recently had a situation where BCBS misinterpreted implementation of the deductible and out of pocket limits in our health benefits plan. The member's wife had major surgery in early January; BCBS processed the hospital, surgeon, anesthesiologist, etc claims in accordance with the 90/10 split provisions of our plan. Needless to say, the \$2,000 out of pocket limit was quickly met. (Note: In our plan, payments to hospitals, surgeons, etc are not subject to the deductible.) The BCBS computer program then started applying prescription drug purchases, made afterwards, towards the \$400 deductible limit. When questioned, the BCBS Service Center said that theoretically we could pay as much as \$2,400 out of pocket. (\$2,000 plus the \$400 deductible) The SRNS benefits department quickly became involved and BCBS agreed that our plan included an absolute limit of \$2,000 out of pocket. Our member's wife's account has now been corrected.

The message for the SRSRA membership: we recommend you track progress towards meeting the deductible and out of pocket maximum. If the retiree uses the internet, all medical claims should be followed, especially for any serious illness. The method is: start at "My Insurance Manager". For prescriptions, click on "My Pharmacy Manager" (file folder label at top of screen). Then click on "Visit here for Drug Claims Information and History". A very nice printable list of prescriptions will then appear. All other claims are found under the "Claim Status/Explanation of Benefits" (file folder label at top of screen). If the retiree does not use the internet, he needs to track prescriptions manually. Any discrepancies should be quickly brought to BCBS' and the site Service Center's attention.

### **Medication Errors**

#### **Medication Errors Common In the Carolinas**

**By Mark Massing, MD, PhD, MPH, Director of Research,  
and Jeana Partington, BSN, RN, CPHQ, Care Improvement Specialist  
Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence (CCME)**

CCME's interactive website promotes awareness and education and helps to improve drug safety across diverse provider settings in the Carolinas.

Medication errors are among the most common medical mistakes, harming at least 1.5 million people every year. According to a report from the Institute of Medicine (IOM), the extra medical costs of treating drug-related injuries conservatively amounts to \$3.5 billion a year in hospitals alone. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) responded to this problem with a national drug safety initiative implemented at the state level by its Medicare Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs).

CCME, the QIO for North and South Carolina, has joined with Medicare managed care plans in the Carolinas in a Medicare-sponsored patient safety program focusing on medication prescribing errors. CCME works closely with physicians, pharmacists, and prescription drug plans throughout the Carolinas providing information and resources to reduce medication errors.

Medication errors occur commonly in the elderly population and among Medicare beneficiaries across all medical settings. CMS and CCME monitor rates of potentially inappropriate medication (PIM) use in older Medicare beneficiaries and potential drug-drug interactions (DDI) in the entire Medicare population. Data are obtained using Medicare Part D administrative claims. In South Carolina, 24.8% (PIM) of persons 65 years of age and older were using potentially inappropriate medications, and 8.8% (DDI) were taking multiple potentially interacting medications from April to September 2008. In North Carolina, 22.6% (PIM) of persons 65 years of age and older were using potentially inappropriate medications, and 9.1% (DDI) were taking multiple potentially interacting medications from April to September 2008.

Causes of inappropriate medication use are numerous and not completely understood. They are frequently the result of poorly coordinated and fragmented medical care delivered to patients seen in multiple settings by multiple physicians. The persistence and prevalence of PIM and DDI in the Medicare population support the need for quality improvement projects to improve drug safety.

Medications can be considered inappropriate in the elderly when their risks outweigh their benefits. The Beers list identifies medications that should be avoided in persons 65 years of age or older because they are ineffective, pose an unnecessarily high risk, or because a safer alternative is available.

The elderly population generally uses more prescription medications, placing them at a higher risk of drug-drug interactions. The estimated incidence of drug interactions rises from 6% in patients taking two medications a day to as high as 50% in patients taking five medications a day. Inappropriate prescribing is common in the ambulatory setting, in nursing homes, and in emergency departments. Exposure to inappropriate medications is associated with increased risk of adverse drug reactions and hospitalization.

The CCME drug safety program helps to reduce medication errors through physician education and reminders. Data from administrative claims are used to identify physicians prescribing PIM and DDI. There are many classes of drugs involved in DDI and PIM. Drug-specific rates were reviewed by a team of pharmacists and physicians. Specific drugs with especially high impact were selected as the focus of this program. The team

identified two drugs frequently prescribed with risks that typically exceed benefits: propoxyphene (**Darvon/Darvocet**) and clonidine (**Catapres**).

Studies have suggested that propoxyphene is no more effective than acetaminophen or aspirin in reducing pain, and in most studies it was less effective. Propoxyphene's side effects include dizziness, sedation, drowsiness and confusion, potentially leading to falls and hip fractures. Propoxyphene's active metabolite has a cardiotoxic and arrhythmic effect. Its long half-life of 30–36 hours poses a high risk of accumulation if given repeatedly, especially in the elderly who are prone to increased serum concentration levels or reduced elimination of propoxyphene. Clonidine, in combination with a beta blocker, can have synergistic effects possibly resulting in AV block, bradycardia and hypotension. Hypertensive crisis and death can result on abrupt withdrawal of clonidine or beta-blocker when this combination is used.

CCME's interactive website, **Drug Safety Measures in the Carolinas Medicare Population**, provides access to comprehensive reports of DDI and PIM within demographic groups for Medicare Part D enrollees at the county, regional, and state level in North and South Carolina. CCME's website also offers quality improvement tools, prescription safety information, and materials related to the topics of DDI and PIM for older adults. To visit the site, please go to **[www2.thecarolinascenter.org/drugsafety](http://www2.thecarolinascenter.org/drugsafety)**.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **SRS ACTIVITIES (INCLUDES DOE, SRNS AND SRR)**

### **Ground Broken for New Renewable Energy Fueled Facility**

Recently, Secretary of Energy Steven Chu was joined by members of the South Carolina and Georgia Congressional delegation to break ground on a new renewable energy fueled facility at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The new Biomass Cogeneration Facility replaces a deteriorating, inefficient coal powerhouse and oil-fired boilers at a savings of approximately \$35 million a year in energy and operation and maintenance costs and reduces air emissions, including 100,000 tons per year of greenhouse gas emissions.

"By investing in energy efficiency, we are creating good jobs that can't be outsourced. This project will employ 800 workers during construction and about 25 people during permanent operations," said Secretary Chu in addressing an audience of over 150 stakeholders (including SRSRA Board of Director members) and employees during the groundbreaking ceremony at SRS. "The money from those paychecks will go straight back into the local economy and drive even more economic recovery." Joining Secretary Chu for the ceremonial groundbreaking were: South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford, U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham, House Majority Whip James Clyburn, U.S. Representative Gresham Barrett, U.S. Representative John Barrow, U.S. Representative Joe Wilson, DOE-Savannah River Manager Jeffrey Allison, DOE Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management Dae Chung and Ameresco President and CEO George Sakerallis.

Under the Department's largest ever Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC), DOE contracted with Ameresco Federal Solutions, Inc. (Ameresco) to finance, design, construct, operate, maintain and fuel the new biomass facility over the term of the 20-year contract valued at \$795 million.

## **100th Recovery Act TRU Shipment Leaves SRS for Permanent Disposition**

Transuranic (TRU) waste leaving the Savannah River Site (SRS) by truck on Nov. 19 for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), near Carlsbad, N.M., marked the 100th shipment for the Recovery Act Project and the 128th shipment for the 2009 calendar year. The milestone brings the Site one shipment closer to final disposition of its inventory of legacy waste generated since the Site began operations in the early 1950s.

## **Under Secretary of Energy Visits SRS**

Kristina Johnson, DOE Under Secretary Of Energy, and Dr. Inès R. Triay, DOE Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, toured SRS on Jan. 11. In addition to briefings on SRNL projects, they were able to see first hand the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Projects, H Tank Farm and P Reactor.

The tour ended with a DOE All-Hands meeting, and Ms. Johnson left the group with these remarks. "During my visit, I was able to see first-hand some of the successes we have had at SRS, which would not have been possible without the commitment, talent and expertise of so many of the contractors and federal employees at Savannah River. We have made significant progress in the Department's environmental legacy cleanup goals - saving or creating more than 2,500 jobs, accelerating the decontamination and decommissioning work at the site, and increasing the shipments of transuranic waste from SRS to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

As the process continues, I promise to keep an open line of communication and I encourage you to share your thoughts and concerns with either Assistant Secretary Triay, or myself. We are always willing to listen about steps we can take to help further the success at the Savannah River Site."

## **SRR Makes the Most of First Six Months as SRS Liquid Waste Contractor**

Since becoming the liquid waste contractor on July 1, Savannah River Remediation (SRR) has made some tremendous strides in a short period of time, according to Jim French, SRR President and Project Manager.

Here are some of the milestones achieved:

- SRR employees have just reached a safety milestone by working 1.5 million hours without an injury causing a lost workday, adding to an already impressive mark of working more than 12 million hours over the last several years without a lost work day injury. A lost workday injury is defined as any work-related injury or illness that results in days away from work.
- Surpassing a 2009 performance goal of filling 81 canisters with glassified radioactive waste, SRR employees have produced 95 canisters, bringing the total to over 2,833 canisters filled since operations of the Defense Waste Processing Facility, the largest radioactive waste vitrification facility in the world, began operations in March 1996. This production represents over 11 million pounds of radioactive sludge being treated and the removal of nearly 20 million curies from SRS waste.
- By continuing to refine and enhance the Interim Salt Disposition Project, SRR employees have demonstrated achieving the required attainment rate of processing 40,000 gallons of salt waste in a week at a rate of four to six gallons per minute - a projected attainment rate necessary to achieve closing 22 waste tanks in eight years. SRS is the only place in the DOE complex where salt waste is being disposed.

- SRR employees continue preparations to close four old-style waste tanks. Target for closing the tanks is late 2011, meeting all regulatory milestones.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **BC/BS SERVICE CONCERNS**

We receive letters from retirees trying to get proper Blue Cross/Blue Shield reimbursement for their medical bills. Most of the problems occur when the retiree/patient lives out-of-state (i.e., no longer in SC). If you have records of BC/BS service problems to share with SRSRA members, please **send a letter outlining your case to both:**

**Dale Friar, Medical Benefits Committee**  
SRS Retiree Association  
P.O. Box 5686  
Aiken, SC 29804

**Kaye Bozeman, Major Service Representative**  
I-20 at Alpine Road AV-100  
Columbia, SC 29219

or e-mail your information to: [KAYE.BOZEMAN@bcbsc.com](mailto:KAYE.BOZEMAN@bcbsc.com), or Fax: 1-803-264-9353. You can also call Gari Howard, your BC/BS service representative, toll-free at (800) 868-2500, ext. 45805. As a last resort, you can call Kaye Bozeman at 800-288-2227, extension 44452 or 803-264-4452.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **BENEFITS CONTACTS**

**People Support Service Center (a one-stop service for most HR and payroll activities and questions).**

- ◆ **803-725-7772 (local area SC and GA)**
- ◆ **800-368-7333 (long distance)**
- ◆ [service-center@srs.gov](mailto:service-center@srs.gov) (e-mail contact for this new service)

### ◇ **Life, Health, Dental**

Becky Proveaux 803-725-3759  
Rosalee Bennett 803-725-3757  
Wanda McGee 803-725-0531  
Cindy McClintock 803-725-7004

### ◇ **Pension**

Pat Smith 803-725-7722  
Katherine Hutto 803-725-4775

### ◇ **Internal Medicine Partners** 706-792-5075 (Annual Physical Examinations)

### ◇ **SRNS Savings Plan** 800-360-2747 <http://resources.hewitt.com/srns>

### ◇ **Westinghouse Corp. Pension** 800-581-222

### ◇ **Westinghouse Corp. SIP** 800-581-3366 <http://westinghouse.csplans.com>

### ◇ **Safety Eyeglass Office**

Tom Cuny **803-208-8515**

### ◇ **Blue Cross/Blue Shield of SC** 800-325-596 [www.southcarolinablues.com](http://www.southcarolinablues.com)

### Option 1 for Medical

### Option 2 for Dental

### Option 3 for Pre-Cert/Med Authorization

### ◇ **Medicare Helpline** 800-633-4227

### ◇ **Medicare Web Site** [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

### ◇ **Value Options** (mental health & substance abuse assistance) 800-333-6557

\*\*\*\*\*

**Savannah River Site Retiree Association Membership Application**

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to RENEW my membership in the SRSRA  
(...and I am willing to serve on the Board of Directors) \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to JOIN the SRSRA  
(...and I am willing to serve on the Board of Directors) \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

\_\_\_\_\_ My spouse is also retired from SRS and wants to JOIN the SRSRA  
(...and my retired SRS spouse is willing to serve on the Board of Directors) \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

\_\_\_\_\_ I am the surviving spouse of an SRS retiree and wish to join/renew my membership in the SRSRA  
(...and I am willing to serve on the Board of Directors) \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

**Annual Dues:**

**Current Year**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 for Retiree  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$0 for Retiree's Spouse (also retired from SRS)  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$5 for Retiree's Surviving Spouse

**Next Year**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 for Retiree  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$0 for Retiree's Spouse (also retired from SRS)  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$5 for Retiree's Surviving Spouse

**SRS RETIREE NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**SRS Retired or Surviving SPOUSE'S NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**SRS RETIREE RETIRED FROM:**SRNS \_\_\_\_\_ WSRC/SRR \_\_\_\_\_ BSRI \_\_\_\_\_ BWXT-SRC \_\_\_\_\_ BNFL-SRC \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

**SPOUSE RETIRED FROM SRS:**SRNS \_\_\_\_\_ WSRC/SRR \_\_\_\_\_ BSRI \_\_\_\_\_ BWXT-SRC \_\_\_\_\_ BNFL-SRC \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

**SRS RETIREE** DATE OF RETIREMENT \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

**SRS RETIRED OR SURVIVOR SPOUSE** DATE OF RETIREMENT \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: **SRS Retiree Association**  
**P. O. Box 5686**  
**Aiken, SC 29804**  
**Attn: Kent Sullivan, MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN**