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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## SRNL's Dr. Brian Looney Wins Orth Award

AIKEN, S.C. (July 21, 2015) – Savannah River National Laboratory's Dr. Brian Looney has been named the 2014 winner of the Donald Orth Lifetime Award of Merit, the highest distinction given by SRNL to recognize the ideals of technical excellence and leadership. Looney is a Senior Advisory Engineer at SRNL and an adjunct professor in the Environmental Engineering Science Department at Clemson University.

"We talk a lot about putting science to work, but no one lives that more than Brian," said SRNL Director Dr. Terry Michalske. "His enthusiasm for science and research is infectious. It takes a small amount of time being with Brian know that he has the passion and the excitement necessary to not only cut new paths in research, but to also mentor others along the way. His ability to take complex issues and communicate them in a manner that fosters understanding and innovation is a remarkable gift to the lab and our nation."

In accepting the award, Looney said no one can make advances in science by themselves. "It's the people who mentored me, who had the background research in a file cabinet waiting for me to get what I thought would be a new idea. It's my colleagues at SRNL, where we operate as a team to build on that past research. And it's the young people we mentor now who will one day turn to us with ideas on how to take our research further. That's the real meaning of excellence in science and technology – team work in reaching new goals."



*Dr. Brian Looney (L) is presented the Orth Award by Laboratory Director Dr. Terry Michalske (R).*



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# News from Savannah River National Laboratory

Looney has worked at SRNL for over 30 years and is recognized nationally and internationally as an expert in environmental cleanup, extoled not only by the Department of Energy, but also the Department of Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency. He has developed strategies to characterize and target specific areas of environmental contamination and has created remediation and monitoring technologies to address how conditions change over time.

Looney coined the phrase “enhanced attenuation” to define human intervention to work with the natural features of a geographic area to limit contamination and speed environmental remediation. He also co-edited a book on vadose zone remediation, which is still in demand today and is recognized as the leading research on the topic. Looney has received two prestigious R&D 100 Awards given by R&D Magazine to honor innovative technologies. He holds 11 patents related to environmental remediation and characterization. Looney received his Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science from Texas Christian University in 1978, and earned his doctorate degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of Minnesota, in 1984.

In presenting the honor, Dr. Michalske was joined by the award’s namesake, Dr. Donald Orth, and previous award recipients Al Boni (1999) and Robert Sindelar (2011). Orth is a former SRNL researcher who retired in 1992 after a distinguished 41-year career at the Savannah River Site. Other past Orth Award winners include Samuel Fink (2013), Joseph Cordaro (2012), and Carol Jantzen (2010).

The Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) is a multi-program applied research and development laboratory for the U.S. Department of Energy. SRNL applies state-of-the-art science and engineering to provide practical, high-value, cost-effective solutions for our nation’s environmental cleanup, nuclear security and clean energy challenges. Visit us on the web at <http://srnl.doe.gov>