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Savannah River National Laboratory Completes Injury-Free Year

AIKEN, S.C. (January 19, 2011) – When the ball dropped marking the end of 2010, employees at the U.S. Department of Energy’s Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) had one additional reason to celebrate: a full year of safe performance. SRNL’s employees completed all of 2010 without a recordable injury.

DOE operating sites and laboratories traditionally have safety records that are better than industry as a whole, but SRNL’s achievement is exceptional, even by DOE standards. SRNL’s injury-free year was a continuation of a safe streak that began in August of 2009, the last time an SRNL employee experienced a recordable injury. A “recordable” injury refers to an occupational injury or illness that requires medical treatment beyond basic first aid.

“SRNL is a double source of pride for the Department of Energy,” said Dr. David Moody, DOE-Savannah River Operations Office Manager. “The Laboratory employees perform important, high-quality research and development work, and they do it in a way that keeps them free from harm.”

Dr. Terry Michalske, SRNL Director, says that, while achieving a Total Recordable Case rate of zero is an outstanding achievement, the statistics are not the real accomplishment. “What is important is that since August of 2009, each person working in SRNL has been able to come to work and return home each day without a serious injury. That is truly something for which we can be proud!

“The nature of research and development work means that our employees are constantly dealing with something new,” he continues. “That makes it especially important that they think through potential hazards in advance, be alert to what is happening, and be willing to stop work if something doesn’t seem right.”

Established in 1951, SRNL was designated as a National Laboratory in 2004. From 2004-2009, SRNL’s safety performance has been the best among the DOE National Laboratories.

SRNL is DOE’s applied research and development national laboratory located at the Savannah River Site. SRNL puts science to work to support DOE and the nation in the areas of environmental management, national and homeland security, and energy security. The management and operating contractor for SRS and SRNL is Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC.

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