

# Emerging Issues With U.S. DOE Prime Contractors

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President and CEO Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC March 3, 2009



Waste Management Conference 2009

Phoenix, Arizona

# Approaching Today's Topic

Issues facing Savannah River Site – may be common to us all to some degree

- Transition
- Interfacing and integrating
- Human Capital
- Managing and sustaining growth
- Funding drivers and issues



### **The Savannah River Site**



#### About 310 square miles

- Fourth largest DOE site in the United States (behind Nevada Test Site, Idaho National Laboratory and Hanford Site)
- About the size of the District of Columbia
- SRS workforce: Approximately 11,000
  - Prime contractor (about 55 percent)
  - DOE-SR and DOE-NNSA
  - Other contractors
- Main customers
  - DOE-EM
  - NNSA-DP
  - NNSA-NN
  - States of South Carolina and Georgia



#### SRS Value Streams – "The Whole Elephant"

#### Unparalleled anywhere

- Nuclear reprocessing and/or packaging for disposal
- Nuclear material storage
- Tritium excellence
- SRNL applied science
- Cleanup progress, techniques, and experience

- Enabled by:
  - Geography and geology
  - Experienced workforce
  - Proven procedures and culture
  - Unique facilities
  - Involved and progressive stakeholders
  - Congressional support
  - Entrenched nuclear culture



# **Interfacing and Integrating**

Transition from single prime contract to an M&O contract, supporting a growing number of contractors and Federal agencies

- Issues
  - Integrated Site Priority List
  - Integrated Site schedule
  - Common communication process between site contractors
  - Inconsistent language and expectations in individual contracts
  - Rigid financial infrastructure that doesn't integrate easily with all contractors
  - Structure of MOAs

- We work seamlessly through the following framework, which is a work in progress
  - Organization new and distinct
  - Governing documents
    - Contracts
    - Interface management policies and plan
    - Memoranda of Understanding
    - Service Level Agreements



### Human Capital – SRS Employment





## **Human** Capital

Securing a next-generation workforce

- Invaluable knowledge in the minds of the workers
- Average age of SRS workforce: 51
  - Over 60 percent of the current workforce is retirement eligible
- Challenges
  - Preserve the knowledge and experience that makes SRS unique
  - Selectively hire the talent that will secure SRS's future in the DOE complex
- Issues
  - Economy
  - Competition
  - Nuclear Renaissance



## **Managing Growth – SRNL Vision**







## **The DOE/EM Corporate Laboratory**

Unique technical capabilities applied to reduce technical uncertainties in order to assist sites in meeting cleanup requirements by providing applied research and development in the areas of:

Managing surveillance and packaging of nuclear material



Characterizing processing, and stabilizing high-level radioactive waste





Supporting waste stabilization through modeling and flowsheet development

Monitored Natural Attenuation





D&D of nuclear plants

9





Closing high-level radioactive waste storage tanks



Managing, storing, & processing spent nuclear fuel





Processing, packaging and transporting, and disposing of legacy nuclear materials



Characterizing and cleaning up groundwater and soil

## Managing Growth – Our Role in NNSA's Complex Realignment

Effective and efficient Tritium R&D production and packaging

#### NNSA objective

- Create a smaller, safer, more secure, and less expensive enterprise that leverages the scientific and technical capabilities of the workforce, and meets national security requirements
- SRNS approach Reduce current footprint while integrating new Tritium R&D functions
  - SRNS has a proven capability for footprint reduction
  - SRS has a proven track record on assuming new missions
  - SRNL has a proven R&D track record
  - Tritium R&D will be accommodated in existing SRS footprint, thereby reducing the overall Complex footprint
  - SRS already has over 75 percent of the required Tritium R&D capabilities; implementation schedule for the remainder to be complete by 2012
- Result more efficient, less complex footprint











# **Effective Funding**

Common issue everywhere

- Pension
  - Contribution requirements complete against work scope
- Fuel
  - Prices up 38 percent (for coal)
  - Prices up 35 percent (for unleaded, diesel and ethanol)
- Planning, coordinating, executing



## **Outcomes**

#### Enduring

### Operational excellence:

 Safe, secure and <u>effective</u> operations to deliver Site products

### Operational efficiency

 Continuous improvement for mature, modern business and management processes to produce <u>efficient</u> Site

### Productive, mature relationships

- With DOE/NNSA and with stakeholders
- Compliance, improvement, responsiveness

#### Products

- Nuclear materials
  - Reuse
  - Temporarily store
  - Package, ship, dispose
  - Reform nonproliferation
- Liquid waste
  - Radionuclides to glass
  - Chemicals to saltstone
  - Tanks empty
- Environmental risk reduction
- Reduced and reused site active footprint
- Applied science from SRNL
- Nuclear renaissance



### Summary: Preserving the Future of EM and SRS

- Many issues, much opportunity
- Align with new administration
- Renewed focus on environment and energy security
- Keep the momentum and progress moving forward
  - Work together
  - Meetings like this
  - Networking
  - Sharing lessons learned and best practices

