Savannah River Emerging Issues that Challenge Traditional Remediation Contractor Roles

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Presentation to: Waste Management 2014 034 Panel









Who Is Ken Rueter?

- Began work as SRR President and Project Manager on September 16
- Most Recent Position
 - Chief Operating Officer East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP), 2011 to 2013
- Other Significant Positions:
 - Hanford Tank Operations Contract, 2008-2011
 - Idaho Closure Project/Thor Treatment Technologies, 2006-2008
 - Hanford Waste Treatment Plant, 2001-2006
 - Savannah River Site, 1986-2001
 - Defense Waste Processing Facility
 - Alternate Salt Team (Predecessor to SWPF)



Overcoming Recent Challenges

- SRR employees faced many changes in the past 6 months:
 - Workforce restructuring
 - Two-week furlough
 - New budget constraints
 - New SRR President
 - New method of business and project operation
 - Steam outage/damage that resulted in a hard freeze that curbed all work
 - Snow storm (Plant closure)
 - Historic ice storm (Plant closure)
 - Seismic event







Great Year in FY13 In Spite of Challenges



- Safety a top priority:
 - > 3 million hours in Total Workforce (includes subs) without a days-away injury
 - > 26 million hours in construction without a days-away injury
- Saltstone facilities proves capability to support increased salt waste processing
- Saltstone Disposal Units (SDU) 3 and 5 being used
 - SDU 6 under construction
 - First mega-vault
- Record performance during the fiscal year:
 - Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF): 40 canisters produced in August, most ever in one month since startup in 1996
 - Actinide Removal Process/Modular Caustic Side Solvent Extraction Unit (ARP/MCU) processed 1.3 million gallons of salt waste for the year, most every since startup in 2008
 - Saltstone facilities: 2 million gallons processed during the year, most ever since startup in 1990



Current Status



- Began Fiscal Year ~\$70 million less than the FY13 budget
- Facilities completed pre-planned first quarter of year maintenance outage
- All facilities now operating
 - ARP/MCU demonstrating Next Generation Solvent/demo in progress
- Closed Tanks 5 & 6 in December, nearly 2 years ahead of Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA) commitment
- Continue closure of Tanks 12 and 16
- Continue bulk waste removal from Tanks 15 and 26



Longer-Term Challenges

We do the right thing.





Aging Workforce

- Technical Schools
- Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics (STEM) Program
- Veterans support
- Co-op Program
- Nuclear Services Model

Aging Infrastructure/Equipment

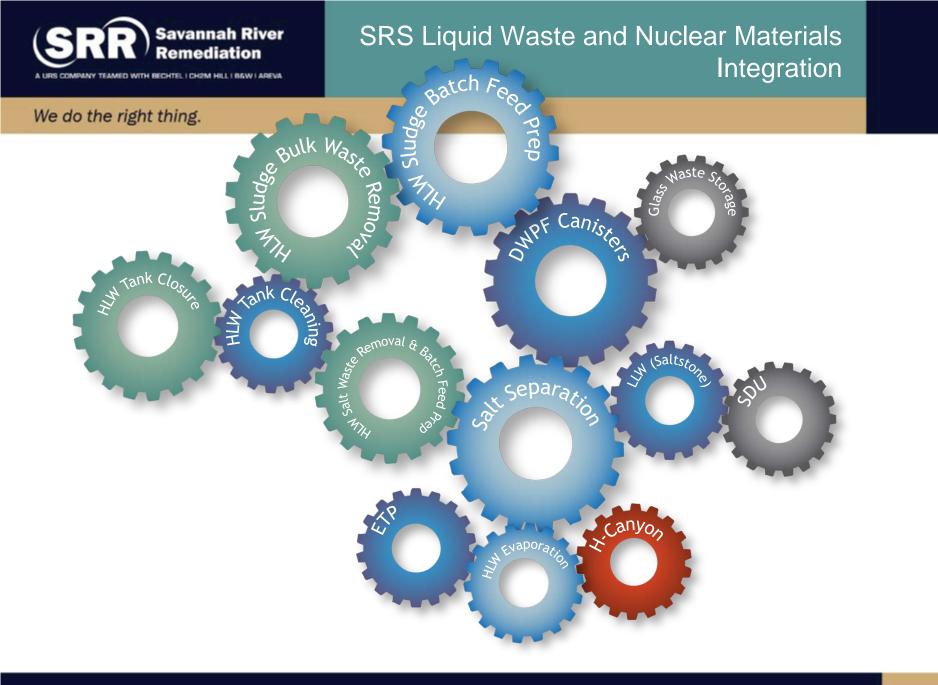
- Integrated Priority List

Funding/Capitalization

- Utilize available funding to operate Liquid Waste facilities in synchronous manner to balance objectives of maintaining Type III working space, supporting H-Canyon waste receipts, preparing the Liquid Waste system to support Salt Waste Processing Facility upon startup, and removing waste from the old-style tanks

Highly Integrated System

 Safe receipt from H-Canyon, treatment, and disposition of SRS liquid waste requires synchronization of several highly interdependent nuclear facilities and chemical operations



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Conclusion

- Our primary focus is on safe work
 - Protect workers, public, environment
- Continue to be good stewards of taxpayers' money
 - Seeking ways to cleanup while saving money long-term
 - Technology/knowledge is transferred to other sites, bringing more cost-savings
- Balance and plan for FY14 aligned to funding levels focused toward safe storage and project operational needs/priorities
 - Aging infrastructure
 - SWPF long-term integration
 - H Canyon mission
 - Progress on old-style HLW tank closure