



# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY**

**SAVANNAH RIVER OPERATIONS OFFICE  
AIKEN, SC 29802**

**NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:**  
Jim Giusti, DOE, (803) 952-7697  
[james-r.giusti@srs.gov](mailto:james-r.giusti@srs.gov)

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Paivi Nettamo, SRNS, (803) 292-2484  
[paivi.nettamo@srs.gov](mailto:paivi.nettamo@srs.gov)

## **SRS Demolishes Massive Cooling Tower, Continues Progress on Environmental Footprint Reduction**

(Aiken, S.C.) – The Savannah River Site’s (SRS) massive K Cooling Tower was safely demolished today as part of the Site-wide Footprint Reduction Initiative funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

As the second-largest cooling tower to be demolished worldwide, the 450 foot-tall and 345 foot-wide tower posed a unique challenge to SRS project managers and commanded the attention of even the most seasoned industry veterans.

“The Cooling Tower demolition project is unlike any other closure initiative taking place at the Site,” said Dewitt Beeler, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) director of Area D&D Projects. “It isn’t every day that we deal with the demolition of a structure the size of the K Cooling Tower, and it was clear early in the process that we needed expert help.”

After weighing a variety of demolition possibilities, SRS managers chose to hire American DND to complete the work. For the project American DND hired an experienced team from Controlled Demolition Inc. (CDI), a Maryland-based, family-owned company with more than six decades of experience in controlled demolitions.

CDI employees carefully planned each increment of work to prepare for D-Day, or Demolition Day.

In all, more than 3,860 holes were drilled at strategically selected spots on the tower and loaded with explosives. The charges were detonated in a controlled fashion involving precise sequencing and timing to ensure the tower fell in a selected impact-zone.

**Savannah River Operations Office**  
P.O. Box A  
Aiken, SC 29802

**(803) 952-7697**

<http://sro.srs.gov/index.html>

Now that the tower has been brought to the ground, the rubble will be transported to an on-site landfill for permanent disposal.

“The demolition of the K Cooling Tower marks the achievement of a significant milestone in the Recovery Act mission at SRS. It has allowed us to create new jobs while reducing the site’s cleanup footprint,” said Rita Stubblefield, Deputy Federal Project Director for the Department of Energy.

Demolition of the tower – which was situated just east of K-Reactor and built in 1992 to cool the water in a reactor in support of national defense initiatives – moves SRS closer to its goal of achieving a 67% operational footprint reduction with the \$1.6 billion federal investment it received under the Recovery Act.

For additional information on the Department of Energy’s Office of Environmental Management and the Savannah River Site, can be found at <http://www.em.doe.gov> or <http://www.srs.gov>. For more information about the SRS Recovery Act Project, please visit [www.srs.gov/recovery](http://www.srs.gov/recovery).

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