Pre-Solicitation Site Tour

November 29, 2006

Time	Event	Script
	Badging Process Begins	
	WSI Inspects buses and all hand-carried bags	IF YOU KNOW ANYTHING AT ALL ABOUT SRS, YOU KNOW WE HAVE A VERY STRONG SAFETY COMMITMENT. WE'RE ONE OF THE SAFEST PLACES IN THE WORLD TO WORK. IT'S A SITE RULE THAT YOU STAY IN YOUR SEATS AND AT ALL TIMES. IF THE DRIVER SEES YOU STANDING OR WITHOUT YOUR SEAT BELT FASTENED, HE/SHE WILL STOP THE VAN/BUS. AS YOU GET ON AND OFF THE BUS, PLEASE USE THE HANDRAIL. ALSO, IF YOU HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS, THEY NEED TO BE RETURNED TO YOUR PERSONAL VEHICLE OR CHECKED IN WITH THE BADGE OFFICE BEFORE WE BEGIN OUR TOUR: COMPUTER, PALM PILOT, TWO-WAY PAGER, CAMERA AND UNDEVELOPED FILM, TAPE RECORDER, BINOCULARS, CELLULAR PHONE, DRUGS OR ALCOHOL, KNIFE WITH BLADE LONGER THAN 3 INCHES, OR SIMULATED GUN.

Tour Begins

THE SAVANNAH RIVER SITE IS 310 SQUARE MILES (198,334 ACRES) AND COVERS PARTS OF AIKEN, ALLENDALE AND BARNWELL COUNTIES. IT'S 1 PERCENT OF THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, JUST A LITTLE SMALLER THAN NEW YORK CITY, ABOUT ¼ THE SIZE OF RHODE ISLAND. AND THIS IS STILL NOT THE LARGEST WEAPONS SITE IN THE DOE COMPLEX – THE NEVADA TEST SITE, IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY AND THE HANFORD SITE, IN WASHINGTON STATE, ARE BIGGER.

THE SITE BEGAN JULY 25, 1950, WHEN PRESIDENT TRUMAN ASKED E.I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS TO BUILD A FACILITY TO PRODUCE MATERIALS – MAINLY TRITIUM AND PLUTONIUM-239 – FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS. CONSTRUCTION BEGAN AFTER THE FOLLOWING NOVEMBER, AND THIS AREA SAW A BOOM IT'S NEVER SEEN BEFORE OR SINCE. THE CONSTRUCTION WORKFORCE NUMBERED MORE THAN 38,000, BY FAR THE LARGEST IN THE SITE'S HISTORY.

BUILDING SRS MEANT ABOUT 6,000 PEOPLE, 1,500 FAMILIES, HAD TO BE RELOCATED FROM THEIR HOMES IN SIX TOWNS AND SEVERAL SMALL COMMUNITIES FORMERLY LOCATED ON THIS SITE: ELLENTON, DUNBARTON, MEYERS MILL, LEIGH, ROBBINS AND HAWTHORNE. THE PRIMARY INDUSTRIES WERE AGRICULTURE AND THE LEIGH BANANA CRATE COMPANY.

BEFORE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, FAMILIES WOULD RETURN TO SRS TO SEE THEIR FORMER HOME SITES,

CEMETERIES, CHURCHES, WORK SITES, SCHOOLS, ETC. THE SAVANNAH RIVER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROGRAM KEEPS DETAILED RECORDS ON WHO OWNED WHAT PIECES OF LAND, FOR HISTORICAL PURPOSES. CAN THEY COME ON THE SITE NOW?

WE STILL HAVE 36 CEMETERIES ON SITE. 122 WERE MOVED OFF SITE DURING CONSTRUCTION.

ORIGINAL SITE CONSTRUCTION CONSISTED OF FIVE PRODUCTION REACTORS, TWO CHEMICAL SEPARATIONS AREAS, TRITIUM FACILITIES, A HEAVY WATER EXTRACTION PLANT, WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT FACILITIES. IT WAS THE LARGEST INDIVIDUAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN UNITED STATES HISTORY.

IN OCTOBER 1952, THE FIRST OPERABLE PRODUCTION FACILITY – THE HEAVY WATER EXTRACTION FACILITY – WAS COMPLETED. THIS PLANT WAS USED TO EXTRACT DEUTERIUM, WHICH IS AN ISOTOPE OF HYDROGEN, FROM THE RIVER WATER. IN DECEMBER 1953, R REACTOR ACHIEVED ITS FIRST CRITICALITY. THE ENTIRE SITE WAS UP AND RUNNING BY 1955.

TO PUT THIS IN PERSPECTIVE, OUR DEFENSE WASTE PROCESSING FACILITY TOOK 13 YEARS TO COMPLETE, FROM GROUNDBREAKING TO RADIOACTIVE OPERATIONS.

INCLUDING PURCHASING THE LAND, THE ENTIRE SITE COST JUST OVER $1 BILLION. THIS IS ABOUT ONE

YEAR'S BUDGET NOW (APPROX. 1.6 BILLION). THE DEFENSE WASTE PROCESSING FACILITY VITRIFICATION BUILDING ALONE COST A BILLION DOLLARS, AS DID THE K REACTOR RESTART EFFORT OF THE EARLY 1990S.

DURING CONSTRUCTION, WE MOVED 39,150,000 CUBIC YARDS OF EARTH. THAT'S ENOUGH TO BUILD A 10-FOOT WALL FROM ATLANTA, GA., TO PORTLAND, ORE.

THE AMOUNT OF STRUCTURAL AND REINFORCING STEEL USED WAS EQUAL TO A TRAIN 38 MILES LONG.

THIS AREA WAS CHOSEN FOR SEVERAL REASONS:

THE SAVANNAH RIVER AND THE QUALITY OF ITS WATER, WHICH WAS NEEDED AS COOLING WATER FOR THE REACTORS AND AS STEAM FOR CHEMICAL PROCESSING AND HEATING; THE LARGE AREA OF MOSTLY UNDEVELOPED LAND; THE CLIMATE, WHICH LENT ITSELF WELL TO QUICK CONSTRUCTION; THE COMMUNITY SUPPORT, TO NAME JUST A FEW.

WE ARE ONE OF THE LARGEST PRIVATE EMPLOYERS IN SOUTH CAROLINA, WITH APPROXIMATELY 10,500 SITE EMPLOYEES, OF WHICH APPROXIMATELY 2/3 ARE PART OF THE M&O CONTRACT.

SRS IS THE NATION'S FIRST NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH PARK, DESIGNATED AS SUCH IN 1972. IT'S IDEAL FOR ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH, BECAUSE IT'S A LARGE AREA OF PROTECTED LAND AND, NATURALLY, HAS BECOME A HAVEN FOR ANIMALS.

SRS IS LIKE A CITY. WE HAVE OUR OWN RAIL

SYSTEM, SEWAGE SYSTEM, MEDICAL CLINIC, POWER SYSTEM, FIRE DEPARTMENT, POLICE FORCE, EVEN A TELEVISION STUDIO, A PRINT SHOP AND A PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO.

OUR ROAD SYSTEM IS EXTENSIVE. THERE ARE 230 MILES OF PAVED ROADS, INCLUDING THE STATE'S FIRST CLOVERLEAF INTERSECTION. AND THERE ARE MANY, MANY ADDITIONAL MILES OF DIRT AND GRAVEL ROADS THROUGHOUT THE SITE. WE MAINTAIN IT ALL OURSELVES.

OUR FIRST STOP IS THE SAVANNAH RIVER NATIONAL LABORATORY.

SRNL briefing

Continue to A/M Area

UPPER A-AREA WAS THE SITE'S MAIN ADMINISTRATION AREA AND SUPPORT AREA. THOSE BUILDINGS ARE BEING SCHEDULED FOR DEMOLITION AS WE TRY TO REDUCE THE SITE FOOTPRINT AND ASSOCIATED COSTS.

M AREA WAS PRIMARILY A METAL FABRICATION AND FINISHING OPERATION. THIS IS WHERE THE SITE'S NUCLEAR PRODUCTION PROCESS STARTED.

SRS HAS THE LARGEST NON-PUBLIC RAIL SYSTEM IN THE UNITED STATES. IT ORIGINALLY INCLUDED 64 MILES OF TRACK. WHEN THE SITE WAS IN THE PRODUCTION MODE, THE RAIL SYSTEM WAS USED TO TRANSPORT COAL TO POWERHOUSES, AND NUCLEAR

MATERIALS AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT.

TODAY, THE SITE OWNS 20 FLAT CARS AND TWO MODERN LOCOMOTIVES. THE SYSTEM COVERS 35 MILES OF MAINTAINED TRACK, PRIMARILY TO MOVE INCOMING, SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL TO STORAGE BASINS, AND TO HAUL CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS.

A/M Area briefings

Continue to F Area

F AREA, ONE OF THE SITE'S TWO CHEMICAL SEPARATIONS AREAS. F CANYON COMPLETED ITS LAST PUREX PROCESSING IN MARCH OF 2002, AND IN 2003, ALL HAZARDOUS AND RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS THAT WERE PART OF PROCESSING WERE REMOVED.

FB LINE HAS COMPLETED PACKAGING PLUTONIUM MATERIALS TO THE DOE 3013 STANDARD IN ITS NEW PACKAGING AND STABILIZATION FACILITY. SHIPMENTS OF DEPLETED URANIUM OXIDE HAVE BEEN SHIPPED FROM F AREA TO UTAH. NUMEROUS F AREA SUPPORT BUILDINGS HAVE ALREADY BEEN DEMOLISHED.

F CANYON HISTORICALLY RECOVERED PLUTONIUM-239 AND URANIUM-238 BY REPROCESSING ALUMINUM-BASED FUEL AND TARGETS FROM SITE REACTORS, OR MATERIAL FROM OTHER DOMESTIC TEST AND RESEARCH REACTORS.

IT IS CALLED A CANYON BECAUSE OF ITS LONG,

NARROW SHAPE.

H CANYON IS THE ONLY FUNCTIONAL PROCESSING FACILITIES OF ITS KIND IN THE COUNTRY.

THE CANYONS ARE 835 FEET LONG, 122 FEET WIDE AND 66 FEET TALL.

ALL OPERATIONS IN THE CANYONS ARE DONE REMOTELY. SINCE THEY BEGAN OPERATIONS IN 1954, NO ONE HAS BEEN INSIDE THE "HOT" CANYONS, WHICH ARE THE MOST RADIOACTIVE PROCESSING AREAS ON SITE. NO ONE WILL EVER GO IN THERE AGAIN.

MATERIALS ARE TRANSPORTED TO THE CANYONS IN SHIELDED CASK CARS.

PLUTONIUM-239 HAS ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF THE CRITICAL MATERIALS NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS STOCKPILE. SRS PRODUCED ABOUT 36 METRIC TONS OF PLUTONIUM FROM 1953-1988.

THESE MATERIALS WERE RECOVERED THROUGH A CHEMICAL PROCESS IN WHICH FUELS AND TARGETS WERE DISSOLVED AND RAN THROUGH SOLVENT EXTRACTION CYCLES. THAT REMOVED FISSION PRODUCT WASTE AND SEPARATED THE PLUTONIUM FROM THE URANIUM. THE FISSION PRODUCTS WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES. THE FIRST SOLVENT EXTRACTION CYCLE REMOVED 99 PERCENT OF THE FISSION PRODUCTS. THE REMAINING CYCLES RECOVERED SPECIFIC MATERIALS.

PURIFIED PLUTONIUM SOLUTION WAS TRANSFERRED TO FB LINE, THE PORTION OF THE FACILITY LOCATED ON TOP OF THE CANYON. THERE IT WAS CONCENTRATED, PRECIPITATED AND REDUCED TO METAL FORM.

IN CONTRAST TO THE CANYON, WHERE ALL WORK WAS DONE REMOTELY, WORK IN FB LINE WAS MAINLY HANDS-ON, GLOVEBOX WORK IN WHICH WORKERS STAND OUTSIDE A GLASS BOX, USE THICK RUBBER GLOVES THAT ARE A PART OF THE BOX, AND PERFORM WORK INSIDE THE BOX WITH THE GLOVES. THE PRIMARY FUNCTION FOR FB LINE WAS TO PERFORM MATERIAL CHARACTERIZATION ACTIVITIES.

F CANYON AND FB LINE HAS BEEN DEACTIVIATED AND ARE NOW IN STABLE, SAFE CONDITIONS AND WILL UNDERGO PERIODIC SURVEILLANCE UNTIL FINAL DECOMMISSIONING.

PLUTONIUM DISPOSITION IS A MAJOR PART OF THE SITE'S FUTURE. TWO FACILITIES WILL BE CONSTRUCTED IN F AREA IN THE NEAR FUTURE: A MIXED OXIDE FUEL FACILITY AND A PIT DISASSEMBLY AND CONVERSION FACILITY.

IN THE PIT DISASSEMBLY AND CONVERSION FACILITY, PITS CURRENTLY IN EXCESS NUCLEAR WEAPONS WILL BE DISASSEMBLED AND CONVERTED INTO FEED FOR THE MOX FACILITY. THIS IS PART OF THE M&O CONTRACT SCOPE AND IS AN NNSA MISSION

IN THE MOX FACILITY, EXCESS PLUTONIUM METAL

WILL BE CONVERTED INTO AN OXIDE POWDER, SUITABLE FOR BURNING IN A COMMERCIAL REACTOR TO PRODUCE ELECTRICITY. THIS IS AN NNSA CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UNDER A SEPARATE CONTRACT.

THE NEW PLUTONIUM COMPLEX IS EXPECTED TO BE OPERATING IN THE F AREA WITHIN THE NEXT 10 YEARS.

F Area Briefings

Continue to E Area

E AREA IS WHERE THE SITE'S LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL ACTIVITIES TAKE PLACE.

THIS AREA WAS FORMERLY USED AS A BURIAL GROUND. FROM THE 1950S TO 1980S, LOW-LEVEL WASTE – CONTAMINATED TOOLS, SHOE COVERS, PROTECTIVE CLOTHING, ANYTHING WORN OR USED IN A RADIATION AREA – WAS PUT INTO STEEL BOXES AND INTO TRENCHES ABOUT 10 FEET DEEP. THEN THE BOXES WERE COVERED UP WITH CLAY AND SOIL. THIS AREA IS NOW KNOWN AS THE OLD RADIOACTIVE WASTE BURIAL GROUND.

FUTURE DISPOSAL PRACTICES WILL DEPEND LARGELY ON OUR WASTE GENERATION WHICH IS DECREASING DRAMATICALLY. SHALLOW LAND BURIAL MAY RETURN AS AN OPTION FOR SOME WASTE.

E-Area Briefings

Continue to H Area

H AREA IS THE HOME OF: H CANYON AND HB LINE; THE SITE'S TRITIUM FACILITIES INCLUDING THE TRITIUM EXTRACTION FACILITY, AND A COMPREHENSIVE SITE TRAINING FACILITY.

H CANYON IS OUR ONLY OPERATING CHEMICAL SEPARATIONS FACILITY. H CANYON HISTORICALLY RECOVERED NEPTUNIUM-237 AND URANIUM-235, TARGET AND FUEL SOURCES FOR NUCLEAR REACTORS. URANIUM SOLUTIONS HAVE BEEN ACCUMULATED OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS AS A RESULT OF PROCESSING SPENT FUEL RODS FROM SRS REACTORS AND SOME OFFSITE REACTORS. THESE SOLUTIONS ARE A VIABLE SOURCE OF MATERIAL FOR COMMERCIAL FUEL FABRICATION WHEN MIXED WITH NATURAL URANIUM. THE HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM BLEND DOWN PROJECT, WHICH CONVERTS WEAPONS-USABLE URANIUM INTO LOW ENRICHED URANIUM FOR USE IN THE PRODUCTION OF ELECTRICITY, BY BLENDING DOWN SURPLUS HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM SO THAT IT IS NO LONGER USABLE FOR WEAPONS.

HB LINE, LOCATED ON TOP OF H CANYON, HAS PRODUCED PLUTONIUM-238 FOR NASA. IN 1995, SRS COMPLETED A FIVE-YEAR CAMPAIGN TO SUPPLY PLUTONIUM-238 FOR NASA'S CASSINI MISSION, AN UNMANNED EXPEDITION TO THE PLANET SATURN, WHICH WAS LAUNCHED OCTOBER 13, 1997 AND ARRIVED AT THE RINGED PLANET JULY 1, 2004, AFTER A FLAWLESS FLIGHT.

THE TRITIUM FACILITIES, ARGUABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT DEFENSE FACILITIES IN THE FREE WORLD. THE TALL STACKS ARE PART OF THE OLD FACILITY. THE NEW FACILITY, WHICH CUTS RELEASES TO LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF THE PREVIOUS RATE, IS A ONE-ACRE, STATE-OF-THE-ART UNDERGROUND BUILDING WHERE OUR NUCLEAR WEAPON COMPONENTS ARE SERVICED. THE VERY FACT THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS NEED SERVICING USED TO BE CLASSIFIED. TRITIUM, WHICH HELPS BOOST THE EXPLOSIVE POWER OF THERMONUCLEAR WEAPONS, HAS A HALF-LIFE OF 12.5 YEARS. THAT MEANS THAT IN 12.5 YEARS, HALF OF THE TRITIUM IN A NUCLEAR WEAPON TURNS TO HELIUM. THE TRITIUM RESERVOIRS, COMPONENTS IN A NUCLEAR WEAPON THAT CONTAIN TRITIUM, ARE BROUGHT HERE FROM DOE FACILITIES OR MILITARY UNITS IN THE FIELD, WHERE THE TRITIUM IS RECYCLED AND PURIFIED.

IN ADDITION, SRS IS THE HOME OF THE NEW TRITIUM EXTRACTION FACILITY, PART OF THE NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION'S COMMERCIAL LIGHT WATER REACTOR PROGRAM, THE FIRST SOURCE FOR THE PRODUCTION OF NEW TRITIUM SINCE THE SRS REACTORS SHUT DOWN IN 1988. THE TRITIUM WILL BE PRODUCED IN TENNESSEE AT TVA, AND SHIPPED TO SRS FOR EXTRACTION BECAUSE OF OUR EXPERTISE.

THE TESTING PHASE OF THE TRITIUM EXTRACTION

FACILITY BEGAN IN FY05 AND THE FACILITY IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN NORMAL OPERATIONS IN FY07.

ALSO HERE IS THE CENTRAL TRAINING FACILITY, WHICH IS USED FOR ALL TRAINING REQUIRED ON SITE.

H Area Briefings

Continue to B Area

B AREA IS NOW THE MAIN ADMINSTRATIVE AREA FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, IT'S M&O CONTRACTOR AND THE NNSA NONPROLIFERATION PROJECT OFFICE AND ITS CONTRACTOR.

B AREA IS ALSO HOME TO WACKENHUT SERVICES INC., WHICH IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST PRIVATE SECURITY CONTRACTOR. SRS IS THEIR LARGEST CONTRACT. WACKENHUT HAS BEEN AT SRS SINCE 1983.

WSI EMPLOYS ABOUT 880 PEOPLE, AND THEIR SERVICES INCLUDE ACCESS CONTROL (BARRICADES AND CHECK POINTS), TRAFFIC CONTROL, SABOTAGE PREVENTION AND SWAT TEAM SERVICES. VEHICLES INCLUDE CARS; TWO HELICOPTERS FOR RAPID RESPONSE, RESCUE AND PARAMEDIC PURPOSES; AND A BOAT USED TO PATROL THE RIVER. THE HELICOPTER HANGAR IS ON THE RIGHT.

THE WACKENHUT K-9 UNIT USES HIGHLY TRAINED NARCOTIC- AND EXPLOSIVE-SNIFFING DOGS HERE AND, UPON REQUEST, IN THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES. THESE ARE BELGIAN MALINOIS (PRONOUNCED MAL-

EN-WAH) DOGS, AND THEY TAKE THEIR COMMANDS IN DUTCH, ENGLISH AND HAND SIGNALS. THEY WORK WITH ONE HANDLER EACH.

AS YOU'VE TRAVELED AROUND THE SITE TODAY, YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THAT POWER LINES THAT CROSS THE ROADS HAVE ORANGE BALLS ON THEM. THIS IS TO WARN THE SITE'S HELICOPTER PILOTS.

B AREA IS ALSO HOME FOR HWCTR (PRONOUNCED HECTOR) – HEAVY WATER COMPONENTS TEST REACTOR. IT WAS BUILT IN THE EARLY 1960S TO PROVE THAT HEAVY WATER TECHNOLOGY, WHICH IS WHAT SRS REACTORS USE, CAN BE USED TO PRODUCE ELECTRICITY. IT WAS PROVEN, BUT THE TECHNOLOGY WAS SCRAPPED IN THIS COUNTRY, ALTHOUGH IT IS THE BASIS FOR CANADA'S CANDU REACTORS.

HWCTR HAS BEEN PERMANENTLY SEALED AS PART OF A LONG-TERM DECOMMISSIONING PLAN.

B AREA IS ALSO THE HOME OF A NEW WHOLE BODY COUNTER FACILITY, WHICH COUNTS THE AMOUNT OF RADIATION YOU HAVE IN YOUR BODY. RADIATION WORKERS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A WHOLE BODY COUNT AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR. ALSO HERE IS A CALIBRATION FACILITY, WHICH MAKES SURE ALL THE INSTRUMENTS USED TO DETECT RADIATION ARE FUNCTIONING PROPERLY.

Lunch Stop in H Area

Continue to N Area

N AREA IS OUR CENTRAL RECEIVING AREA. THIS IS WHERE SUPPLIES FROM PAPER CLIPS TO HEAVY MACHINERY COME IN.

ALSO IN CENTRAL SHOPS ARE CONSTRUCTION SHOPS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION – SHEET METAL, PIPEFITTING, WELDING, CARPENTRY, SIGNS – YOU NAME IT.

C AREA IS ONE OF THE SITE'S FIVE REACTOR AREAS. C REACTOR RAN FROM 1954-1985 BEFORE BEING SHUT DOWN FOR MAINTENANCE. THERE WAS A CRACK IN THE TANK THAT WAS NEVER SUCCESSFULLY REPAIRED. IT WAS THE SECOND SRS REACTOR TO SHUT DOWN PERMANENTLY.

Continue to K Area

K Area Briefing

WE'RE TURNING INTO K AREA NOW, THE HOME OF THE UNITED STATES' LAST OPERATING PRODUCTION REACTOR. IT SUSTAINED ITS FINAL NUCLEAR REACTION DURING A DEMONSTRATION RUN IN 1992.

K REACTOR IS BEING USED FOR PLUTONIUM STORAGE. L REACTOR'S DISASSEMBLY BASIN – LARGE POOL IN THE BOTTOM OF THE REACTOR – IS BEING USED FOR SPENT FUEL STORAGE. C REACTOR IS BEING USED AS A DECONTAMINATION FACILITY.

ALTHOUGH NONE OF OUR REACTORS WILL EVER RUN AGAIN, THE BUILDING HERE IN K AREA IS STILL VERY MUCH A NATIONAL ASSET. MUCH OF THE BUILDING IS BEING RENOVATED TO STORE SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL FROM ACROSS THE DOE COMPLEX.

Continue to L Area

L LAKE

ON THE RIGHT IS L LAKE, WHICH IS THE COOLING LAKE FOR L REACTOR. C REACTOR HAS NO COOLING LAKE OR TOWER. PAR POND SERVED P AND R REACTORS. L LAKE IS 1,030 ACRES.

L LAKE IS INTERESTING BECAUSE, DURING THE YEARS IT WAS IN OPERATION, ITS EXISTENCE MEANT THAT L REACTOR HAD TO SHUT DOWN DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS. ENVIRONMENTAL LAW STATES THAT THE WATER IN A COOLING RESERVOIR CANNOT EXCEED 90 DEGREES. DURING A SOUTH CAROLINA SUMMER, ALMOST ANY BODY OF WATER, COOLING RESERVOIR OR NOT, IS MORE THAN 90 DEGREES. SO NATURAL CIRCUMSTANCES FORCED L REACTOR TO BE INACTIVE THREE MONTHS OUT OF THE YEAR.

THERE ARE TEMPERATURE SENSORS THROUGHOUT THE LAKE.

IT WAS FORMED BY A CONSTRUCTION DAM, BUILT BY THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS.

L AREA

L REACTOR BECAME OPERATIONAL IN 1954. IT WAS

PLACED IN STANDBY IN 1968, AND RESTARTED IN 1985 TO MEET INCREASED REQUIREMENTS FOR NUCLEAR MATERIALS.

L BASIN IS THE SITE'S ONLY ACTIVE SPENT FUEL STORAGE BASIN AND IT ACCEPTED ITS FIRST FUEL IN EARLY 1997.

L AREA IS 82 ACRES AND IS SITUATED EIGHT MILES FROM THE NEAREST PLANT BOUNDARY.

L Area Briefing

Continue to P Area

P REACTOR, IS ONE OF FIVE SRS REACTORS – K, C, P, L AND R. R RAN FROM 1953-64, AND WAS RETIRED FOR REDUCED PRODUCTION. NEITHER C NOR R EVER RESTARTED.

THE OTHER THREE SUPPLIED THE NATION'S DEFENSE NEEDS UNTIL THE LATE 1980S, WHEN THEY WERE ALL SHUT DOWN TEMPORARILY FOR VARIOUS CAUSES – MAINTENANCE, OUTAGES, UPGRADES, ETC. THIS STATUS TURNED OUT TO BE PERMANENT.

SRS REACTORS ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM COMMERCIAL POWER REACTORS. SRS REACTORS OPERATED AT MUCH LOWER POWER AND PRESSURE LEVELS, SIMILAR TO THAT IN YOUR HOME HOT WATER HEATER. THE WATER IN THE REACTORS NEVER BOILED; IT WAS 170 DEGREES F WHEN IT LEFT THE REACTOR. THE WATER WAS DISCHARGED FROM THE REACTOR INTO SITE

STREAMS AND ON TO THE SAVANNAH RIVER AND SWAMP.

P Area Briefing

PAR POND SERVED P AND R REACTORS. PAR IS AN ACRONYM FOR P AND R.

PAR POND IS 2,640 ACRES.

ORIGINALLY PAR POND WAS TO BE RAP LAKE. BECAUSE OF THE SITE'S PROXIMITY TO THE AUGUSTA NATIONAL, HOME OF THE MASTERS GOLF TOURNAMENT, IT WAS CHANGED TO PAR. IT WAS CHANGED TO POND, RATHER THAN LAKE, BECAUSE OF THE ALLITERATIVE QUALITY. IT'S A MAN-MADE LAKE, 40 FEET DEEP AT THE DEEPEST POINT.

THERE'S EXCELLENT FISHING IN THE SITE'S TWO COOLING LAKES, ESPECIALLY PAR POND. THERMAL POLLUTION – WARM WATER – IS A CONCERN TO US, BUT IT REALLY BENEFITED SOME OF THE SITE'S INHABITANTS. ONE OF THOSE WAS LARGEMOUTH BASS.

RECREATIONAL FISHING IS, OF COURSE, PROHIBITED, BUT THE SITE'S ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAM INCLUDES SAMPLING FISH. THIS USED TO BE DONE WITH REGULAR FISHING POLES. THE AVERAGE WAS ONE CATCH FOR EVERY FIVE CASTS, AND THE AVERAGE SIZE CATCH WAS FIVE POUNDS.

AS YOU CAN IMAGINE IF YOU'RE A FISHERMAN,

SOME MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THOUGHT IT WAS WELL WORTH THE FINE THEY PAID TO FISH ON PAR POND. ONE GENTLEMAN FROM BARNWELL WAS CAUGHT 27 TIMES.

PAR Pond Briefing

Return to A-Area

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND PATIENCE TODAY. WE HAVE ABOUT A 15-20 MINUTE DRIVE BACK TO A AREA BEFORE WE ARE DONE WITH THE TOUR.

Tour Ends In A-Area