



Decontamination & Decommissioning

Client

US Department of Energy
Savannah River Operations Office

Location

Aiken, SC, USA

To achieve significant results quickly, CH2M HILL worked closely with the workforce to incorporate an aggressive Integrated Safety Management into all work activities. In addition, strong working relationships were established with the SRS regulators, DOE, and teaming companies to foster the success of the project work.

Savannah River Decommissioning, Demolition, and Disposition Activities

Project Description

CH2M HILL is performing decontamination, decommissioning, demolition, and disposition activities for 12 areas at the DOE Savannah River Site, a tritium and plutonium production plant which has provided support to national defense programs since 1950.

The work scope includes demolition of 253 buildings, completion of 99 fuel zones in the Fuel Fabrication Facility, disposal of 50,500 cubic feet of legacy waste, disposal of all decontamination and demolition wastes, glovebox removal, and closure of security areas.

CH2M HILL is responsible for all phases of the scope, including planning, baseline development and change control, execution, and integration with environmental remediation end states.

On contract assumption in August 2003, CH2M HILL transitioned workscope from the prime contractor, reorganizing the fragmented groups onsite into one organization and changing the culture from an operational function-based culture to a project culture. We also established solid relationships with the state regulator, DOE, and the other teaming companies at SRS.

To ensure worker safety during decontamination and decommissioning, CH2M HILL uses thorough work planning and a meticulous "cold and dark" process which ensures the removal of all energy sources from a building prior to the onset of invasive decommissioning / demolition activities. In the performance of D&D work, the CH2M HILL team has responded appropriately to many unexpected work conditions (for example identifying beryllium, mercury or highly acidic uranium nitrate residues) in locations where they were not expected. These situations were safely handled using appropriate stop work authority and subsequent hazards reviews and appropriate work controls to allow work to proceed safely.

CH2M HILL works closely with DOE safeguards and security to maintain security over areas until nuclear materials and classified materials are removed, then downgrade the area to a more cost-effective security posture.