

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 24, 2026

Savannah River Site Resident Inspectors Activity Report for Week Ending April 24, 2026

Lockout/Tagout (L/T): The resident inspectors (RIs) met with SRNS personnel to discuss L/Ts for hazardous energy control. The RIs noted that some L/Ts at H-Canyon no longer had specific steps for safe energy state (SES) determination and only required initials and date that a SES determination was performed. The RIs noted that without steps on how to perform the SES, or a step for the determiner to record how it was performed, they have lost an opportunity for the proper work groups to review and approve how and where those safe energy checks should have been performed, and it could make any reviews following the SES determination more challenging. Site procedures on hazardous energy control require that the shift manager verify steps in determining SESs are completed before establishing the L/T. SRNS personnel indicated that the pre-job briefing should cover how the SES determination is to be performed and that, per a standing order from February 2025, the shift manager is expected to have a verbal discussion with the determiner on SES determination. Given previously identified hazardous energy control issues (see 2/6/2026 report), SRNS has been taking action to improve electrical worker proficiency by developing hands-on training. However, training the workforce will likely take time before the desired proficiency can be achieved.

The RIs also met with SRMC and reviewed several examples of approved L/Ts. SRMC L/T writers typically include steps in the L/T body that document the SES determination points. SRMC personnel briefed that they opt to include more steps in the L/T body to add rigor in the SES determination process, and that including a step for reviewing the associated work packages also helps when scope is added to an L/T to ensure that personnel perform a second SES determination if the additional scope changes the boundary upon which the first SES determination was performed.

Protective Actions: The RI met with SRMC emergency management personnel to discuss issues associated with personnel's ability to effectively implement protective actions that require personnel to remain indoors and shut down ventilation systems in the event of a radiological or chemical release. This issue has been identified at numerous facilities at SRS (see 12/19/2025, 12/26/2025, 1/9/2026, 2/13/2026, and 4/3/2026 reports). In response to these issues, SRMC is implementing a structured, two-phase improvement approach. Phase I will focus on implementation of actions such as conducting facility walkdowns to assess current conditions, developing and installing standardized ventilation shutdown signage, and standardizing ventilation shutdown actions where possible. Phase II will focus on verification and revalidation of the Phase I actions, some of which are currently in progress, and will include actions such as periodic facility walkdowns and personnel engagement. Additionally, SRMC plans to develop and issue protective action refresher communications and/or training for the workforce. SRMC has communicated a goal to have these actions complete by the end of June 2026. The RI is encouraged that SRMC has decided to address this issue using a standardized approach rather than having each facility implement actions independently, which could have the potential for inconsistent, confusing, or inadequate corrective actions.