

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 8, 2026

Savannah River Site Resident Inspectors Activity Report for Week Ending May 8, 2026

Saltstone: While moving a mobile crane down an access road, the crane operator and four spotters noticed a pop near the boom of the crane and saw a power pole moving. The foreman identified that the boom of the crane had struck a powerline. The crane operator backed the crane up while lowering the boom, which freed the crane from the wire. The wire remained attached to the power pole but sagged onto a metal fence. The actions to free the crane from the powerline were completed prior to the site utilities group isolating power to the line, which is in accordance with current crane operation emergency response action guidance. The facility held a post-job review later that morning. Facility personnel identified that the required crane movement paperwork had not been filled out. This would have required the review of a travel map/sketch, the crane operator to walk down the travel path, and identification of all overhead power lines in the travel path. They also identified that the rigging crew did not have the required handheld lighting sufficient to adequately illuminate potential obstructions along the travel route at night, and that the boom should have been as low as possible during movement in accordance with site requirements. Additionally, they identified that the travel path for the crane was not discussed during the pre-job brief. SRMC management declared a company-wide crane movement stand-down until all the details of the event could be determined, and until management could meet with rigging personnel to emphasize the requirements associated with filling out the crane movement/set-up compliance paperwork. Facility management plans to perform an issue investigation and develop corrective actions to prevent recurrence.

Solid Waste Management Facility (SWMF): While preparing to move nine B-25 low-level waste containers at SWMF, an operator identified that labels on one of the containers did not match the container ID listed in the Consolidated Waste Tracking System (CWTS) inventory report. The B-25s were sent from the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) and received by SWMF earlier in March. SWMF discovered eight of the nine containers had incorrect waste characterization values (see 3/20/2026 report), segregated all nine containers, and held an issue investigation at that time. After the nonconformances were dispositioned, and while preparing to move the containers, an operator noticed the label discrepancy and notified the shift operations manager, who called a timeout. SRNL and SWMF generator certification officials (GCO), engineering, and operations verified that the label was misprinted, but that the waste container received was documented correctly in CWTS. Personnel from both SRNL and SWMF attended the issue investigation meeting for the label discrepancy, and they discussed the multiple opportunities missed in identifying the issue, from the SRNL waste generator and GCO to the SWMF operators receiving the containers. The SWMF receipt procedure has a criticality control step that requires the operator to verify the container labels against the CWTS and the waste manifest. As a result of this issue, both SRNL and SWMF are considering adding second-person verification to their procedures. SWMF and SRNL personnel performed an extent-of-condition review for the other eight containers and all in-process containers and found no additional issues.