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## Conduct of Operations (ConOps) Sustainment

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## Why ConOps



• Conduct of Operations (ConOps) is a program that aims to *minimize the likelihood and consequences of human or system failures* by executing operational and management tasks in a *deliberate and structured manner*.



### **Nuclear Work Model**





## **Changes in our Workforce**

Average Tenure: 16 years (2018) → 9 years (2024) 46% of employees < 5 years SRNS service 86% of employees have been in their current role < 5 years 5-Year Hiring Projection (FY24-FY28): 7,800 5-Year Anticipated Growth: 4,300



FY19-FY24 FSE Hires



## **Preparing the Workforce - Apprenticeship**



- Goals: Enhance workforce readiness, bridge gaps in skills and institutional knowledge, and develop workforce pipeline
- Initiated in 2019
- Three College Partners
  - Aiken Technical College (SC)
  - Denmark Technical College (SC)
  - Augusta Technical College (GA)
- Nine (9) Month Program
  - Technical College Classroom Training
  - Site Specific Classroom Training
  - Hands-On WSB Training
- 24 registered apprenticeships
- "Earn while you learn", Nuc Fund Certificate



The first joint cohort of SRS Production Operator Apprentices at Aiken Technical College.



## **Training the Workforce - Qualification**



- Apprenticeship (9 months)
- Facility Specific (6 months 18 months)
  - Classroom Training
  - On-the-Job Training/ Job Performance Measures / Practical Factor Evaluations
  - Under Instruction
  - Oral Evaluation
- Initial Qualification
- Re-Qualification Requirement (Every 2 years)



## Sustainment – Continuing Training

Goals: Maintain and enhance the ability of personnel to perform job assignments in nuclear setting Four (4) hours per month, 2 – year cycle Fixed and Flexible components



WSB – Waste Solidification Building

#### Key Elements

- Direct and frequent SME engagement
- Focus on "why" along with "when", "where", and "how"
- Broad sharing of facility specific resources
- Extensive evaluated-components (e.g. drills)
- Maximize field training time; Utilize WSB, Walk-Through Guides









## **Sustainment – Operational Excellence Plans**

# **SRNS**

#### Sustainment Plans – focused, documented, purposeful strategy to sustain ConOps Excellence

#### Examples of elements included:

- Expectations for MFO Target Lists
- FLM Shadowing
- Post Job Reviews
- HPI
- Independent Oversight
- ConOps Minutes
- Red-Circle Readings

#### Elements tracked via facility and program schedules

- Quarterly All-Hands
- CT Program Improvements
- Task Previews/Readiness
- SICAMs
- Quad Charts



MFO – Management Field ObservationFLM – First Line ManagerCT – Continuing TrainingHPI – Human Performance ImprovementSICAMs – Safety Improvement Compensatory Action & Measures



#### **Management Field Observations**

Facility level / EM Management Review Boards

Assessments

Metrics / KPI

**Independent Evaluation Board** 

**Federal oversight** 



Figure - ConOps Severity Metric (simulated data)





- Conduct of Operations (ConOps) is how we ensure we conduct operations at SRNS safely and effectively, using a deliberate and structured approach
- Foundation of Strong ConOps performance established through comprehensive Hiring and Training Programs (Apprenticeships, Qualification Programs, Continuing Training)
- Sustainment of Strong ConOps performance achieved through Contractor Assurance Programs (Ops Excellence Plans, Monitoring & Trending)

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