

Title: INTERIM SCDOT LEADER HALL LIKELY TO GET JOB FULL TIME AFTER FLOOD WORK
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INTERIM SCDOT LEADER HALL LIKELY TO GET JOB FULL TIME AFTER FLOOD WORK

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Haley announced her latest cabinet appointment Wednesday, after Hall has spent weeks directing repairs to nearly 600 roads and bridges washed out or damaged in this month's massive floods. Crews have fixed all but about 150 of those roads.

Hall is receiving high marks for her work after

the flood.

But South Carolina's road network was crumbling long before the waters rose.

The DOT also still has a board, with seven of eight members picked by the Legislature. That leaves the agency director to balance the sometimes competing wishes of the governor and lawmakers.

The Senate must approve Hall's nomination, but several lawmakers have said they support her.

The Associated Press



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Title: **Interim DOT leader Hall gets full time job ater flood work**
 Author: BY JEFFREY COLLINS Associated Press
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Interim DOT leader Hall gets full time job after flood work

BY JEFFREY COLLINS

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The interim director of the S.C. Department of Transportation did such a good job helping rebuild South Carolina roads after this month's massive floods that Gov. Nikki Haley decided to ignore her typical practice of looking for an outsider to run state agencies.

Haley announced Wednesday she will ask the state Senate to make 20-year DOT engineer Christy Hall the permanent director of the state's roads agency.

The governor said she offered Hall the job on Sept. 30, but couldn't make the announcement before the massive floods from Oct. 3 to Oct. 5 crippled the road

network. Nearly 600 roads and bridges were washed out or damaged. Crews have fixed all but about 150 of them.

"Now I don't have to give you a list of credentials because you saw her in action," Haley said.

But Hall will also face challenges that affected the DOT long before the waters started to rise. The state's roads have been crumbling for years, with some estimates saying DOT needs \$500 million extra a year for decades just to get roads to fair condition.

The DOT also still has a board, with seven of eight members picked by the Legislature. That leaves the

agency director to balance the sometimes competing wishes of the governor and lawmakers.

Hall is the third director at DOT in less than two years.

"The last two DOT secretaries have been disasters mainly because they did not have the intuitional knowledge of the agency," said Sen. Larry Grooms, chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee.

Grooms said Hall has worked countless hours since the floods and shown leadership right down to the local level of her agency.

"She has been nothing short of phenomenal," the Charleston Republican said. "When a leader was needed,

a leader stepped up."

Hall said all she will deal with the ongoing problems of poor road maintenance once this crisis has passed.

"We're still very much focused on recovery efforts. That has taken a lot of my time," Hall said.

Hall has an engineering degree from Clemson and also worked in road design and financing in her 20-plus years with the agency.

This is the second time Hall has been interim director.



ONLINE

Extended story can be found at aiken-standard.com

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AP PHOTO/JEFFREY COLLINS

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, left, announces she wants to make interim Department of Transportation Secretary Christy Hall, right, the permanent director of the agency in Columbia. Both the governor and lawmakers gave Hall high marks for the DOT's work fixing roads and bridges damaged by massive floods in October 2015.

Title: **AECOM awarded contract to build Volvo's S.C. plant**
 Author: By DERREK ASBERRY dasberry@aikenstandard.com
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AECOM awarded contract to build Volvo's S.C. plant

BY DERREK ASBERRY
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AECOM announced last week it has been selected by Volvo Car Group to deliver a new manufacturing plant in Berkeley County near Charleston.

Construction of the facility will signify Volvo Car's first U.S.-based production plant.

Volvo announced in May its selection of the Palmetto State to invest \$500 million for the new factory.

The factory will be capable of making 100,000 vehicles per year and bring 4,000 jobs by 2020, Volvo reported earlier this year.

AECOM, a Fortune 500 engineering design firm, reported in an Oct. 13 press release that it will have overall responsibility for the conceptual design, project design management, environmental permitting management, program/project management, construction management and start-up and commissioning for the plant and supporting infrastructure.

AECOM Industrial Group Chief Executive Seth Deutsch said the company's strong presence in South Carolina, among other attributes, positioned it well to work with Volvo Cars to execute the project.

"Our commitment to the automotive industry dates back to

Our commitment to the automotive industry dates back to 1928, when one of AECOM's pioneering companies completed its first design-build automotive project.

Seth Deutsch, AECOM Industrial Group chief executive

1928, when one of AECOM's pioneering companies completed its first design-build automotive project," Deutsch said in the press release. "We are proud to work with Volvo Cars on this important project."

According to AECOM, the designing firm offers a "fully integrated infrastructure and support services firm, with a broad range of markets, including transportation, facilities, environmental, energy, water and government."

South Carolina's partnership with Volvo dates back to bidding wars among several other states to ink an agreement with the Swedish company. South Carolina was announced as a finalist in March along with North Carolina and Kentucky.

In the end, Volvo settled on South Carolina due to various agreements and incentives promised by Gov. Nikki Haley and

other state leaders.

"What (Volvo) knew was if we build it, we build it well; we build it with quality, we build it with loyalty, and we build it with pride," Haley said during a May press conference.

Meeting the agreements proved to be controversial as some legislators wanted to borrow money for Volvo incentives versus appropriating funds from the state's carry over dollars.

There were additional discussions among lawmakers on whether money should go toward Volvo or toward repairing aging roads and bridges.

In the end, the state legislature

agreed to give more than \$216 million to counties for road repair and \$70 million for redesigning the area near the Berkeley County exit on I-26 as part of the Volvo acquisition.

AECOM's local presence, formerly URS before it was purchased by AECOM in July 2014, is not expected to be impacted by the Volvo contract.

In September, AECOM and the City of Aiken brokered a five-year lease, keeping the international organization in its Newberry Street location in downtown Aiken until 2021.

The Newberry Street building, which houses the Aiken Community Playhouse, was the centerpiece of a publicly-funded revitalization project completed a decade ago that also included the Newberry Street Festival Center.

Workers at the Newberry Street location largely work internationally on the management of nuclear sites, including the Savannah River Site.

Derrek Asberry is the SRS beat reporter for the *Aiken Standard*.

Title: **Haley names DMV director to lead disaster recovery efforts**
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Haley names DMV director to lead disaster recovery efforts

ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA — Gov. Nikki Haley has put the Department of Motor Vehicles' director in charge of coordinating disaster relief efforts from this month's floods with government agencies and nonprofits.

Haley announced Monday that retired Army Col. Kevin

Shwedo is the state coordinator for flood recovery. Shwedo has led the DMV since January 2011.

Haley said Shwedo can apply the customer service skills used to improve the DMV to his new role. She also said his military background will help in coordinating with the Federal Emergency Management

Agency.

Haley said the new job won't cost taxpayers anything. Shwedo's salary of \$123,000 won't change.

Shwedo will return to his DMV job when a disaster coordinator is no longer needed. Haley gave no time frame for that.

An acting director will run the DMV for now.



Title: **Gov. Haley, Aiken lawmakers talk SRS impact**
 Author: BY DERREK ASBERRY dasberry@aikenstandard.com
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Gov. Haley, Aiken lawmakers talk SRS impact

BY DERREK ASBERRY
dasberry@aikenstandard.com

S.C. governor, Aiken lawmakers talk impact of Savannah River Site over the past 65 years:

Gov. Nikki Haley

"Our partnership with Savannah River Site means jobs for the Aiken area, and for the entire state, and we celebrate this milestone with everyone in the SRS family.



Haley

The highly skilled workforce at SRS has given our state another reason to be proud; and they know that when the feds threaten our jobs and rich natural resources or fail to keep promises, we're going to get loud because we have their back."

S.C. Sen. Tom Young, R-Aiken

"For more than 60 years, SRS has been the backbone of the economy in Aiken County. Our state legislative delegation understands the important role that SRS provides to the CSRA, our state and the nation. Our community and DOE have worked well together for more than 60 years, and we must con-

tinue that partnership. SRS and its talented workforce



Young

continue to be a leader in providing vital work for our nation and the world in nuclear materials operations and waste management, in long-term energy needs and in national security. Together, we must encourage federal policymakers to fully fund the important missions at SRS."

S.C. Rep. Bill Clyburn, D-Aiken

"SRS really means a whole lot for this area. The site has kept our young people here and employed them



Clyburn

and has also brought a lot of expertise to the area which has added to the growth. There used to be a time when you could park anywhere downtown and now you can hardly find a space at times because of the growth. Our education system has also been of a better quality because of SRS. To continue that growth, there needs to

be new missions; and we need to sell our programs in terms of letting people know about the technology. We need to make it a place people want to come to, and that's something we can all work together on promoting."

S.C. Rep. Bill Taylor, R-Aiken

"The contributions by SRS to Aiken County, the CSRA and to the defense of America are monumental. Foremost, the dedication of tens of thousands of SRS work-



Taylor

ers over decades helped win the Cold War and keep our country safe. That mission continues in different ways to this day. Without SRS, our lives in Aiken County would be far different. Starting in the '50s, the influence of a highly educated workforce can be seen as a positive influence in every aspect of the intellectual, civic and social aspects of our area. This area has been deeply enriched by SRS; and, in return, we must recognize and appreciate this national asset while supporting its missions in the areas of environmental stewardship, innovative technology, national security and energy independence."



Title: **S.C. Republicans**

Author:

Size: 3.41 square inch

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S.C. Republicans

Isn't it interesting that the whole country is again laughing at South Carolina's Republican state officials? Watch Nikki Haley, Sen. Tim Scott, Lindsey Graham and Joe Wilson squirm as they try to ask FEMA for aid to S.C., after years of attempts to destroy and remove the agency. The newspapers in Washington, D.C., are having a blast excoriating this group who shames the S.C. majority.