



# PRESS NOTICE

## W. WALTER WILKINS UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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**October 22, 2009**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **FORMER SRS ENGINEER INDICTED FOR FRAUD**

Columbia, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney W. Walter Wilkins stated today that Joseph Ralph Lohre, Jr., age 46, formerly of the Aiken, South Carolina, area, was charged in a three-count Indictment with theft of government funds and making false statements, violations of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 641 and 1001. The Indictment alleges that between March 2006 and May 2008, LOHRE falsely claimed eligibility for housing benefits through a program administered by the National Nuclear Security Administration and that as part of his fraud, he submitted falsified documentation to support a false claim that he owned a permanent residence in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky. At the time, Lohre was working as an engineer contractor at the Savannah River Site.

The maximum penalty Lohre could receive is a fine of \$250,000 on each count. He could also receive up to ten years imprisonment on the single theft of government funds count and five years on each of the two false statement counts.

Mr. Wilkins stated that the case was investigated by agents of the United States Department of Energy, Office of Inspector General and that he has assigned the case to Assistant United States Attorney Dean A. Eichelberger of the Columbia office for prosecution.

The United States Attorney stated that all charges in this Indictment are merely accusations and that all defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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