

Sections in italics can be generic and are canned language.

TITLE PAGE

DECLARATION FOR THE RECORD OF DECISION

The Declaration functions as the abstract and formal authorizing signature page for the Record of Decision (ROD).

Unit Name and Location

Operable Unit Name and Building Number

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) Identification Number: OU-(insert number)

Savannah River Site

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Identification Number: SC1890008989

Aiken, South Carolina

United States Department of Energy

Include a paragraph that discusses the unit in terms of RCRA/CERCLA and Appendix C of the FFA.

Statement of Basis and Purpose

This section should contain the factual and legal basis for the selected remedy. Insert the following language:

This decision document presents the selected remedy for the (insert operable unit name), in (insert location). The remedy was chosen in accordance with CERCLA, as amended by the Superfund Amendments Reauthorization Act (SARA), and, to the extent practicable, the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP). This decision is based on the Administrative Record File for this site.

The State of South Carolina concurs with the selected remedy.

Description of the Selected Remedy

State that no CERCLA action is necessary for the operable unit (OU), although monitoring may be authorized to verify that no unacceptable exposures to potential hazards posed by the OU occur in the future.

Statutory Determinations

The lead agency should briefly state that no remedial action is necessary to ensure protection of human health and the environment.

Separate Page: Authorizing Signatures and Appropriate Titles

THE DECISION SUMMARY

The Decision Summary identifies the selected remedy and provides a substantive summary of the Administrative Record File that supports the remedy selection decision. Relevant information from technical source documents that support the decision should be summarized (e.g., RI/FS and risk assessment).

TITLE PAGE

DECISION SUMMARY TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

I. SAVANNAH RIVER SITE AND OPERABLE UNIT NAME, LOCATION, AND DESCRIPTION

Unit Name, Location, and Brief Description

Operable Unit Name and Building Number

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) Identification Number: OU-(insert number)

Savannah River Site

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Identification Number: SC1890008989

Aiken, South Carolina

United States Department of Energy (USDOE)

Savannah River Site (SRS) occupies approximately 310 square miles of land adjacent to the Savannah River, principally in Aiken and Barnwell counties of South Carolina (Figure 1). SRS is located approximately 25 miles southeast of Augusta, Georgia, and 20 miles south of Aiken, South Carolina.

The USDOE owns SRS, which historically produced tritium, plutonium, and other special nuclear materials for national defense and the space program. Chemical and radioactive wastes are by-products of nuclear material production processes. Hazardous substances, as defined by the CERCLA, are currently present in the environment at SRS.

The Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) (FFA 1993) for SRS lists the (insert OU name) as a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act/Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (RCRA/CERCLA) unit requiring further evaluation. The (insert OU name) required further evaluation through an investigation process that integrates and combines the RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) process with the CERCLA remedial investigation (RI) process to determine the actual or potential impact to human health and the environment of releases of hazardous substances to the environment.

II. SITE AND OPERABLE UNIT COMPLIANCE HISTORY

SRS Operational and Compliance History

The primary mission of SRS has been to produce tritium, plutonium, and other special nuclear materials for our nation's defense programs. Production of nuclear materials for the defense program was discontinued in 1988. SRS has provided nuclear materials for the space program, as well as for medical, industrial, and research efforts up to the present. Chemical and radioactive wastes are by-products of nuclear material production processes. These wastes have been treated, stored, and in some cases, disposed at SRS. Past disposal practices have resulted in soil and groundwater contamination.

Hazardous waste materials handled at SRS are managed under RCRA, a comprehensive law requiring responsible management of hazardous waste. Certain SRS activities require South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) operating or post-closure permits under RCRA. SRS received a RCRA hazardous waste permit from the SCDHEC, which was most recently renewed on September 5, 1995. Module IV of the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) portion of the RCRA permit mandates corrective action requirements for non-regulated solid waste management units subject to RCRA 3004(u).

On December 21, 1989, SRS was included on the National Priorities List (NPL). The inclusion created a need to integrate the established RFI program with CERCLA requirements to provide for a focused environmental program. In accordance with Section 120 of CERCLA 42 USC Section 9620, USDOE has negotiated a FFA (FFA 1993) with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and SCDHEC to coordinate remedial activities at SRS into one comprehensive strategy which fulfills these dual regulatory requirements. USDOE functions as the lead agency for remedial activities at SRS, with concurrence by the USEPA - Region IV and the SCDHEC.

Operable Unit Operational and Compliance History

Include maps, a site plan, or other graphical presentations, as appropriate.

Provide an overview of the site, including the following:

- Size of site (e.g., acres).
- Geographical and topographical information (e.g., surface waters, flood plains, wetlands).

Provide a description of surface and subsurface features (e.g., number and volume of tanks, lagoons, structures, and drums at the site).

Provide a brief description of operating history, how the unit received waste that led to the current problems.

Provide information on any removal and remedial actions conducted under CERCLA or other authorities.

III. HIGHLIGHTS OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Insert the following language:

Both RCRA and CERCLA require the public to be given an opportunity to review and comment on the draft permit modification and proposed remedial alternative. Public participation requirements are listed in South Carolina Hazardous Waste Management Regulation (SCHWMR) R.61-79.124 and Sections 113 and 117 of CERCLA 42 USC Sections 9613 and 9617. These requirements include establishment of an Administrative Record File that documents the investigation and selection of the remedial alternative for addressing the (insert operable unit name) soils and groundwater. The Administrative Record File must be established at or near the facility at issue. The SRS Public Involvement Plan (USDOE 1994) is designed to facilitate public involvement in the decision-making process for permitting, closure, and the selection of remedial alternatives. The SRS Public Involvement Plan addresses the requirements of RCRA, CERCLA, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 1969 (NEPA). SCHWMR R.61-79.124 and Section 117(a) of CERCLA, as amended, require the advertisement of the draft permit modification and notice of any proposed remedial action and provide the public an opportunity to participate in the selection of the remedial action. The (insert proposed plan document name), a part of the Administrative Record File, highlights key aspects of the investigation and identifies the preferred action for addressing the (insert operable unit name).

The FFA Administrative Record File, which contains the information pertaining to the selection of the response action, is available at the following locations:

*US Department of Energy
Public Reading Room
Gregg-Graniteville Library
University of South Carolina – Aiken
171 University Parkway
Aiken, South Carolina 29801
(803) 641-3465*

*Thomas Cooper Library
Government Documents Department
University of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina 29208
(803) 777-4866*

The RCRA Administrative Record File for SCDHEC is available for review by the public at the following locations:

*The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
8901 Farrow Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29203
(803) 896-4000*

*Lower Savannah District Environmental Quality Control Office
218 Beaufort Street, Northeast
Aiken, South Carolina 29802
(803) 641-7670*

The public was notified of the public comment period through mailings of the SRS Environmental Bulletin, a newsletter sent to citizens in South Carolina and Georgia, and through notices in the Aiken Standard, the Allendale Citizen Leader, the Augusta Chronicle, the Barnwell People-Sentinel, and The State newspaper. The public comment period was also announced local radio stations.

The SB/PP 45-day (or 30-day) public comment period began on (insert date) and ended on (insert date). A Responsiveness Summary, prepared to address any comments received during the public comment period, is provided in Appendix A of the ROD. It will also be available in the final RCRA permit.

If there were any SRS CAB activities or recommendations regarding the operable unit, include a summary in this section.

[Note: Delete RCRA time period and reference to RCRA if a CERCLA only unit.]

IV. SCOPE AND ROLE OF THE OPERABLE UNIT WITHIN THE SITE STRATEGY

RCRA/CERCLA Programs at SRS

RCRA/CERCLA units (including the (insert operable unit name)) at SRS are subject to a multi-stage RI process that integrates the requirements of RCRA and CERCLA as outlined in the FFA (FFA 1993). The RCRA/CERCLA processes are summarized below

- *investigation and characterization of potentially impacted environmental media (such as soil, groundwater, and surface water) comprising the waste site and surrounding areas*
- *evaluation of risk to human health and the local ecological community*
- *screening of possible remedial actions to identify the selected technology which will protect human health and the environment*
- *implementation of the selected alternative*
- *documentation that the remediation has been performed competently*
- *evaluation of the effectiveness of the technology*

The steps of this process are iterative in nature, and include decision points which require concurrence between USDOE as owner/manager, USEPA and SCDHEC as regulatory oversight agencies, and the public (see Figure (insert appropriate figure number)){insert generic RCRA/CERCLA Logic flowsheet}.

Operable Unit Remedial Strategy

This section should summarize the lead agency's overall strategy for remediating SRS and describe how the operable unit remedial action fits into that overall strategy.

Identify the potentially impacted watershed

Describe the scope of the problems addressed by action(s)

Describe how this action relates to other actions taken at this unit and eventually the watershed (include purpose of each action and sequence of the action in relation to other OUs or the watershed)

V. OPERABLE UNIT CHARACTERISTICS

Provide operable unit characteristics including maps, figures, and photos as appropriate to depict the nature and extent of contamination.

Conceptual Site Model for the (Insert Operable Unit Name)

Identify primary sources of contamination, contaminated media, migration pathways, exposure pathways, and potential receptors (insert the latest revision of the CSM).

Media Assessment

Briefly describe the investigation

Summarize the results of the investigation

Describe types of contamination by affected media (e.g., soils, vadose zone, groundwater) and by discrete unit (if appropriate) [e.g., Pit Soils, Sewer Line Soils, Groundwater, etc.]

- Identify whether RCRA listed or characteristic hazardous wastes are at the unit
- Quantity/volume of waste that need to be addressed
- Concentrations of contaminants of concern (COCs) in each medium

Identify principal and low-level threat wastes at the site (e.g., location of mobile/high toxicity source materials and non-mobile/low toxicity source material) [Note: Per USEPA guidance, some wastes can not be classified as either principal or low-level threats.]

Identify any other-site specific factors that may affect response actions at the site

Contaminant Transport Analysis

Describe location of contamination and known or potential routes of off-site migration including:

- Population and environmental areas that could be affected, if exposed
- Lateral and vertical extent of contamination
- Potential surface and subsurface pathways of migration

For sites with groundwater contamination, describe the following, if appropriate

- Aquifer(s) affected or threatened by site contamination, types of geologic materials, approximate depths, whether aquifer is confined or unconfined
- Groundwater flow directions within each aquifer and between aquifers and groundwater discharge locations (e.g., surface waters, wetlands, other aquifers)
- Confirmed or suspected presence and locations of non-aqueous phase liquids (NAPLs)
- If groundwater transport models were used to define fate and transport of COCs, identify the model used and assumptions

VI. CURRENT AND POTENTIAL FUTURE SITE AND RESOURCE USES

Land Uses

Describe current on-site land uses.

Describe reasonably anticipated future land uses and basis for future use assumptions

Groundwater Uses/Surface Water Uses

Describe current ground/surface water uses

Describe potential beneficial ground/surface water uses

If beneficial use is potential drinking water source, identify the appropriate time frame of projected future drinking water.

VII. SUMMARY OF OPERABLE UNIT RISKS

Summarize briefly the baseline risk assessment process utilizing text and table formats (see attached example tables and sample language). This section provides the basis for the no action decision. This section should conclude with the following statement:

No remedial action is necessary to ensure protection of human health and the environment.

VIII. EXPLANATION OF SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

If there are significant changes in the selected remedy from the preferred alternative identified in the proposed plan, then

Discuss the preferred alternative originally presented in the proposed plan

Describe the significant changes in the selected remedy

Explain the rationale for the changes and how they could have been reasonably anticipated based on the information presented in the proposed plan

IX. RESPONSIVENESS SUMMARY

The Responsiveness Summary serves the dual purposes of (1) presenting stakeholder concerns about the site and preferences regarding the remedial alternatives, and (2) explaining how those concerns were addressed and how the preferences were factored into the remedy selection process. This discussion should cross-reference sections of the Decision Summary that demonstrate how issues raised by the community have been addressed. SRS CAB recommendations or comments made during the public comment period should be summarized and responded to in the Responsiveness Summary.

This section should include the following statement:

The Responsiveness Summary is included as Appendix A of this document.

X. POST-ROD DOCUMENT SCHEDULE AND DESCRIPTION

This section is only required if monitoring is required. Identify by bullets the major post-ROD submittals and attach a schedule. If monitoring is not required, then the following statement can be used:

No remedial action will be performed at the (insert OU name); therefore, a schedule for post-ROD cleanup activities is not provided.

XI. REFERENCES

Provide a list of the references that are referred to in the ROD.

APPENDIX A - RESPONSIVENESS SUMMARY

**TABLES AND TEXT REFERENCED IN
SECTION VII. SUMMARY OF OPERABLE UNIT RISKS**

Note: The tables and text were obtained from the following reference:

USEPA, 1999. *A Guide to Preparing Superfund Proposed Plans, Records of Decision, and Other Remedy Selection Decision Documents*, United States Environmental Protection Agency Solid Waste and Emergency Response, EPA 540-R-98-031, OSWER 9200.1-23P, PB98-963241, July 1999