

**United States Department of Energy**  
**Interim Action Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan Fact Sheet**  
**for the H-Area Tank Farm Waste Tank 16**  
**SRR-CWDA-2015-00139**

---

**Savannah River Site, South Carolina**

**December 2015**

---

## **INTRODUCTION**

This fact sheet summarizes the Interim Action Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan for the H-Area Tank Farm (HTF) Waste Tank 16 located at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The United States Department of Energy (USDOE) owns the SRS, which is contractor operated. Hazardous substances that are regulated under the federal law requirements of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act are managed at the SRS as part of a comprehensive cleanup program.

HTF waste tanks and ancillary structures are governed by a South Carolina Industrial Wastewater (IWW) Construction Permit. HTF waste tanks and ancillary structures that contain residual hazardous metals and radionuclides are stabilized (i.e., grouted) when operationally closed and removed from the permit. An interim remedial action is needed to address the period between removal of individual waste tanks and ancillary structures from the IWW Construction Permit until final closure of the entire HTF Operable Unit when all waste tanks and ancillary structures are removed from service. The Interim Action Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan for Waste Tank 16 outlines the range of interim remedial alternatives evaluated to ensure that maintenance and monitoring activities are implemented during the interim period. The document describes how the public can comment on the proposed interim action through written comments and by participating in public meetings.



## **H-AREA TANK FARM BACKGROUND**

The HTF occupies a 45-acre site within an area of the SRS commonly referred to as the General Separations Area (GSA), which encompasses E, F, H, J, S, and Z Areas, consisting of 29 liquid waste tanks, three evaporator systems, over 74,800 linear feet of transfer pipelines, eight diversion boxes, one catch tank, two concentrate transfer systems and ten pump pits. There are four major waste tank types in HTF that range in size from 750,000 gallons (Type I tanks) to 1.3 million gallons (Type III/IIIA and Type IV tanks) that have varying degrees of secondary containment and intra-tank interference, such as cooling coils and columns. HTF was constructed to receive waste generated by various SRS production, processing, and laboratory facilities. The use of HTF isolated these wastes from the environment, SRS workers, and the

**United States Department of Energy**  
**Interim Action Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan Fact Sheet**  
**for the H-Area Tank Farm Waste Tank 16**  
**SRR-CWDA-2015-00139**

---

**Savannah River Site, South Carolina**

**December 2015**

---

public. With HTF and its sister facility, F-Area Tank Farm, facilities are in place to pretreat the accumulated sludge and salt solutions (supernate) to enable the management and treatment of these wastes within other SRS facilities (i.e., Defense Waste Processing Facility and Saltstone Production Facility). These treatment facilities convert the sludge and supernate to more stable forms suitable for permanent disposal in a Federal Repository or the Saltstone Disposal Facility, as appropriate.

DOE is in the process of removing the waste tank and ancillary structures from service in accordance with a Industrial Wastewater General Closure Plan and tank system-specific Closure Module that has been prepared pursuant to the South Carolina Pollution Control Act, S. C. Code Ann., Section 48-1-10, et seq. (1985) and all applicable regulations implementing that Act.

This Interim Action Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan is specific for Waste Tank 16 which is a Type II tank that was operationally closed and removed from service in 2015. Waste Tank 16 was isolated from the remaining HTF operating facility and stabilized with grout. No ancillary structures are associated with the waste tank.

### **INTERIM REMEDIAL ACTION GOALS**

The objective of the interim remedial action is to prevent premature degradation of the engineered barriers (i.e., grout) associated with the stabilization of Waste Tank 16 that has been operationally closed and removed from service.

### **PROPOSED REMEDY**

The proposed interim remedy for Waste Tank 16 is Annual Visible Engineered Barriers Inspection and Maintenance for the interim period from the time of removal from service until a final remedial action is determined for the HTF Operable Unit. Annual visual inspections will be conducted to ensure that the physical integrity of the engineered barriers (i.e., visible grout) is not damaged or deteriorated and to verify there is no water accumulation in surrounding areas. The current land use for the HTF is industrial with USDOE maintaining control of the land. The HTF is currently in the operation phase and access is controlled by the SRS facility security and administrative controls. Additional land use controls are not part of this interim action.

The interim remedy for Waste Tank 16 is selected in an Interim Record of Decision and will also become applicable to each HTF waste tank, group of tanks and ancillary structures as they are removed from service. The Interim Record of Decision will be modified via an Explanation of Significant Difference document to include additional waste tanks and ancillary structures as they are removed from service and stabilized.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control concur with the proposed remedy.

**United States Department of Energy**  
**Interim Action Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan Fact Sheet**  
**for the H-Area Tank Farm Waste Tank 16**  
**SRR-CWDA-2015-00139**

---

**Savannah River Site, South Carolina**

**December 2015**

---

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

The 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  
471 University Parkway  
Aiken, South Carolina 29801  
(803) 641-3320

Thomas Cooper Library  
Government Documents Department  
University of South Carolina  
1322 Greene Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29208  
(803) 777-4866

Hard copies of the Interim Action Statement of Basis/Interim Action Proposed Plan for the H-Area Tank Farm Waste Tank 16 are available at the following locations:

Reese Library  
Government Information Section  
Augusta University  
2500 Walton Way  
Augusta, Georgia 30906  
(706) 737-1744

Asa H. Gordon Library  
Savannah State University  
2200 N. Tompkins Road  
Savannah, Georgia 31404  
(912) 356-2183

**HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS**

The public comment period for the Interim Action Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan for H-Area Tank Farm Waste Tank 16 begins February 16, 2016 and ends March 31, 2016. To request a public meeting during the public comment period, to obtain more information concerning this document, or to submit written comments, contact one of the following:

Amy Joslin  
Savannah River Remediation, LLC  
Dir. of Public Affairs & Project Communications  
Savannah River Site  
Building 766-H  
Aiken, South Carolina 29808  
(803) 208-1956  
amy.joslin@srs.gov

The South Carolina Department of Health  
and Environmental Control  
Attn: David Scaturro, Director  
Division of Waste Management  
Bureau of Land and Waste Management  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201  
(803) 898-2000