

TO OUR READERS

Highlights

Annual Site Environmental Reports (ASERs) are required by U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Order 231.1B (Environment, Safety, and Health Reporting) to assess field environmental program performance, site-wide environmental monitoring and surveillance effectiveness; and confirm compliance with environmental standards and requirements.

The ASERs are prepared in a manner that addresses likely public concerns and solicits feedback from the public and other stakeholders. Savannah River Site (SRS) began publishing the ASERs in 1959.

Readers can find the SRS Annual Environmental Report on the World Wide Web at the following address:

<http://www.srs.gov/general/pubs/ERsum/index.html>

The Savannah River Site Environmental Report for Calendar Year 2015 is an overview of environmental management activities conducted on and in the vicinity of the SRS from January 1 through December 31, 2015. This report includes:

- A summary of implemented environmental management systems designed to facilitate sound stewardship practices, as well as the compliance with applicable environmental regulations and laws intended to protect air, water, land, and other natural and cultural resources that have been impacted by SRS operations.
- The results of effluent monitoring and environmental surveillance of air, water, soil, vegetation, biota, and agricultural products to determine radioactivity in these media. The results are compared with historical data, background measurements, and/or applicable standards and requirements in order to verify that SRS does not adversely impact the environment or the health of humans or biota.
- Discussion of the potential doses to members of the public from radioactive releases from SRS operations compared to applicable standards and regulations; and from special case exposure scenarios.
- The quality assurance and quality control program which ensures that samples and data collected and analyzed are reported with utmost confidence.

The report addresses three general levels of reader interest:

- The first is a brief summary with a “take-home” conclusion. This is presented in the “Highlights” text box at the beginning of each chapter. There are no tables, figures, or graphs in the “Highlights”.

A lay person with little scientific background may comfortably read the “Highlights” and key terms.

- The second level is a more in-depth discussion with figures, summary tables, and summary graphs accompanying the text. The chapters of the annual report represent this level, which requires some familiarity with scientific data and graphs.

A person with some scientific background can read and understand this report.

- The third level includes links to supplemental and technical reports and websites that support the annual report. The links to these reports may be found in the chapters or on the SRS Annual Environmental Report webpage.

This level is directed toward scientists who would like to see original data and more in-depth discussions of the methods used and results.

The SRS Environmental Report webpage contains reports from multiple years with the 2015 report being the latest. The report folders feature:

- 1) The full report with hyperlinks to all supplemental information or reports.
- 2) A folder titled “Maps” contains figures with environmental sampling locations for the various media samples. These figures are identified as “Maps Figure” within the text of the report.
- 3) Annual reports from other SRS organizations.

The Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), LLC develops this report as the Management & Operations contractor to the Department of Energy for the SRS. In addition to SRNS, the contributors to the annual report include Savannah River Remediation (SRR), LLC, Parsons Government Services, Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR), Chicago Bridge & Iron Areva MOX Services, LLC, Centerra-SRS, Ameresco Federal Solutions, Inc.; Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL) and U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS). Links to their websites may be found on pages 1-3 through 1-6 of this report.

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