



The ENVIRONMENTAL BULLETIN *from the Savannah River Site*

U.S. Department of Energy Savannah River
“Accelerating Cleanup: Focus on 2006”
Discussion Draft

The just released “Accelerating Cleanup: Focus on 2006 Discussion Draft” is a key component of the Department of Energy’s (DOE) process for managing the legacy of nuclear materials production following the end of the Cold War.

It is designed to give states, regulators, and other stakeholders an opportunity to participate in the development of the entire Environmental Management (EM) program. EM will expand its policy of stakeholder participation in the annual budget preparation to an opportunity to participate in developing the long-term strategies of the program.

The process began in early 1996 when Assistant Secretary Alvin Alm assumed responsibility for the DOE Environmental Management Program. Each site was challenged to accelerate its EM program activities to achieve a vision of completing the cleanup at most sites by 2006. It was recognized that for some sites, like

Savannah River, the cleanup would extend beyond 2006 due to the variety of nuclear materials and extent of environmental risk that must be addressed.

The initial draft plan issued in July 1996 laid out an aggressive program for Environmental Management, which significantly improved life-cycle cost and schedule for achieving it. This served as the base working document from which an integrated, national plan could be formulated with stakeholder participation.

Since the initial draft, alternative strategies and working scenarios were tested and cross-complex issues were reviewed. Action plans were developed for their resolution and measurable performance indicators were identified for each scenario. The driver for the alternative scenarios was the development of a cost-effective, full compliance plan. Since EM’s compliance needs exceed the realities of shrinking future budgets, efforts intensified to identify and/or develop improved

operating methods through process reengineering and deployment of new or improved technologies. These performance enhancements became an integral part of the planning process. To the extent that performance enhancements are realized, site cleanup and site closures will be accelerated and life-cycle costs will be reduced.

The efforts since July 1996 are presented in the integrated National Discussion Draft and the individual site plans, which allow EM and the stakeholders to understand the impacts of the fiscal 1999 funding allocations, and in the broadest sense, represent the beginning (see “Cover story,” page 3)

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EM Integration ... What's it all about?

When Alvin Alm, assistant secretary for Environmental Management (EM) first announced his vision of completing cleanup at as many Department of Energy (DOE) sites as possible by 2006, he recognized that many issues facing DOE would have to be addressed using a national, complex-wide approach. EM hopes to make decisions on how to manage these "national issues" in a manner that is completed with stakeholder support so as to provide a sound path forward for the EM program.

One of the "national issues" facing DOE revolves around the intersite transfer of waste and nuclear materials, more commonly known as the EM Integration initiative. A team of DOE contractors have made various recommendations for increasing the efficiency and cost savings associated with the management of these materials. These recommendations are included in a report called, "A Contractor Report to the Department of Energy on Environmental Management Baseline Programs and Integration Opportunities."

Recommendations put forth in this report support Alm's goal to accelerate cleanup and cost savings,

while remaining technically defensible. Some of these recommendations may be incorporated into the draft "Accelerating Cleanup: Focus on 2006," which will be issued in the fall of 1997.

Because the Savannah River Site (SRS) is responsible for managing many of the materials included in this report, including: transuranic waste, mixed low-level waste, low-level waste, high-level waste and spent nuclear fuel, many of the recommendations within the report affect SRS. Most of the public involvement activities that will occur over the next few months for the "Accelerating Cleanup: Focus on 2006" Discussion Draft will include discussions on the recommendations contained within the EM Integration report to determine what role stakeholders believe SRS should play in the future management of wastes and nuclear materials in the DOE complex.

For additional information on the EM Integration initiative or for copies of the report, call Virginia Kay, (803) 725-5752, or Gail Jernigan, (803) 952-6969, or (800) 249-8155.



Opportunities to comment on discussion drafts

The Savannah River Site (SRS) will sponsor several opportunities between now and September for stakeholders to provide the Department of Energy (DOE) with input on "Accelerating Cleanup: Focus on 2006" Discussion Draft.

The public comment period on both the national and SRS discussion drafts will be open until September 9, 1997. To learn more about the 2006 plan, DOE and the SRS Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) will hold the following meetings and workshops for the public:

- Public meeting to introduce the Discussion Draft plans to the public on June 26, 6:30 p.m., at the Stevenson-McClelland Building, Aiken, South Carolina.

- SRS CAB Risk Management and Future Use Subcommittee workshop on the SRS Discussion Draft plan, July 9, 9 a.m., 703-41A, SRS.

- SRS CAB Risk Management and Future Use Sub-

committee workshop on the SRS Discussion Draft plan, July 12, 9:30 a.m., Hampton Inn, Savannah, Georgia.

- Public meeting with Alvin Alm, assistant secretary for DOE's Environmental Management Program to discuss the national and SRS discussion draft plans on July 15, 6:30 p.m., at the North Augusta Community Center, North Augusta, South Carolina.

- SRS CAB Risk Management and Future Use Subcommittee meeting to discuss the subcommittee's position on the national and SRS discussion draft plans on July 21, 7 p.m., at the University of South Carolina-Aiken, Aiken, South Carolina.

As additional meetings or workshops are scheduled, SRS will inform the public. If you have any questions, call Virginia Kay, (803) 725-5752, or Gail Jernigan, (803) 952-6969, or (800) 259-8155.



Action plans for cleanup

As the Department of Energy (DOE) began developing its strategic plan to clean up as many sites in the DOE complex as possible by 2006, many issues were identified that could impede progress if they were not addressed in an integrated and consistent manner. Additionally, many of the identified issues require they be addressed from a national perspective.

In an effort to address these issues, DOE has developed actions plans that define planning assumptions around these issues and the recommended path forward to resolve the issues.

These action plans have been developed at the site level, as well as the national level. The national action plan rolls together many individual issues for joint resolution and is being managed through the EM Integration recommendations.

While some of the issues are included in national "Accelerating Cleanup: Focus on 2006" Discussion Draft, all are listed in a document called, "Supplement: Issues and Opportunities Related to the Ten-Year Plan." As could be expected, the Savannah River Site is included in both documents. DOE

recognizes that with the release of the Discussion Draft, refinement of these action plans may be required and that possibly new action plans may even need to be developed. As the public provides input to DOE on the Discussion Draft, this will be determined.

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("Cover story," continued from Page 1)

of the long range EM planning process.

During the summer of 1997, stakeholders have the opportunity to influence the EM planning strategies by commenting on the Discussion Drafts issued for a 90-day public comment period on June 12, 1997, and participating in planned workshops on a local and national basis. In parallel to the public review of the national and local plans, stakeholders will be involved in the formulation of site-proposed fiscal 1999 budgets.

The 90-day public comment period ends on September 9, to permit the completion of the EM fiscal 1999 budget for submittal to the OMB on September 30, 1997, and the preparation of the National Draft 2006 Plan (Discussion Draft with stakeholder comments incorporated). Stakeholders will have the opportunity to participate in finalizing the Draft 2006 Plan through

a series of workshops during November and December. The output of these efforts will be the National and Site Initial 2006 Plan release early in 1998, and the 1999 budget submittal to Congress in February 1998.

Copies of the national and site plan are available by calling Gail Jernigan, (803) 952-6969, or (800) 249-8155, or by electronic mail at gail.jernigan@srs.gov. These plans are also available on the Internet at:

www.em.doe.gov/acc2006

Comments on the plans can be made to Virginia Kay with the Department of Energy, (803) 725-5752, or by electronic mail at virginia.kay@srs.gov, or by writing her at: Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office, P.O. Box A, Aiken, South Carolina 29802

Savannah River Operations Office

U.S. Department of Energy
Savannah River

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*Accelerating Cleanup: Focus
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Discussion Draft*

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