Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Fact Sheet Issued for L Area Southern Groundwater Operable Unit

The United States Department of Energy, United States Environmental Protection Agency, and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control announce the availability of a Pre-construction Fact Sheet for the L Area Southern Groundwater Operable Unit (LASG OU). This fact sheet provides a description of the remedial actions selected for the LASG OU at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

The LASG OU is a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act/Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (RCRA/CERCLA) unit. The L Area Southern Groundwater OU (LASG OU), a RCRA/CERCLA unit, is located in the south central portion of the Savannah River Site (SRS). LASG OU comprises approximately 950 acres between the groundwater divide north of L Area and the channel of Steel Creek beneath L Lake.

L Reactor and the surrounding facilities produced special nuclear materials for national defense from 1954 until 1988. The refined contaminants of concern (RCOCs) (tetrachloroethylene (PCE), trichloroethylene (TCE), and tritium) were released to the environment at these L Area facilities and migrated to the water table aquifer in sufficient quantities to exceed the maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) in three well defined plumes. These plumes have been characterized by 93 groundwater monitoring wells and 109 cone penetrometer technology (CPT) tests. The source units for the three plumes have been remediated under previous records of decision (RODs), depleted, or reconditioned for new missions.

The remedial action (RA) selected for LASG OU is monitored natural attenuation with institutional controls (MNA/ICs). The principal processes for natural attenuation of the RCOCs are dispersion, dilution, and radioactive decay. The anticipated future land use for the LASG OU is industrial. Land use controls will be implemented and maintained to prevent exposure of current or future workers or hypothetical future residents. Groundwater modeling indicates that contaminant levels in the western tritium plume will be depleted below MCLs in about 30 years and in the commingled VOCs and tritium plumes will be depleted in about 90 years.

The Pre-construction Fact Sheet for the SRS L Area Southern Groundwater OU is available at the following locations: DOE Public Reading Room at the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina (USC)-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC; Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at USC in Columbia, SC; Reese Library at Augusta State University in Augusta, GA; and Asa H. Gordon Library at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA.

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