



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

EPA requests public comment

Notice of Intent to approve a request for a determination that certain debris is no longer contaminated by hazardous waste at the Savannah River Site

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 4, requests public comment upon a notice of intent to approve a request to determine that certain debris at the Savannah River Site (SRS) in Aiken, South Carolina, is no longer contaminated with hazardous waste. The request was submitted to EPA, Region 4, by the Westinghouse Savannah River Company (WSRC), in accordance with current hazardous waste regulations under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Specifically, the RCRA Land Disposal Restrictions (LDR) regulations and regulations on the identification and listing of hazardous waste contain the requirements for this kind of determination.

WSRC has requested that EPA determine that debris from closing two wastewater treatment facilities and for future disposal of a research melter at SRS is no longer contaminated with hazardous waste. The debris will consist of tanks from the M-Area Liquid Effluent Treatment Facility (LEFT); the vitrification unit and storage tanks from the Vendor Treatment Facility (VTF); and the research melter from the Savannah River Technology Center (SRTC). The vitrification unit is a type of furnace that makes waste less hazardous by turning it into glass. The SRTC research melter is also a glass-making unit and is used for studying and testing of highly radioactive hazardous waste.

The Regional Administrator for EPA, Region 4, intends to approve the request and determine that the LEFT, VTF, and

SRTC debris described above is no longer contaminated with hazardous waste for the following reasons:

1. The Regional Administrator believes that WSRC has demonstrated that the debris can be cleaned so that only small amounts of hazardous chemicals will remain on the debris, and they will not be dangerous to human health and the environment.

2. WSRC will dispose of the debris in accordance with the Atomic Energy Act, which will protect human health and the environment from radioactivity and the small amounts of hazardous chemicals that remain on the debris.

Copies of the request, the notice of intent to approve, and all relevant documents are available for review by the public at the EPA Library located at

U.S. EPA, Region 4
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-562-8190

The public review and comment period is from March 22, 1999, to April 20, 1999. Please submit comments in writing to Mr. John Hankinson, Jr., Regional Administrator, at the above EPA address. A public meeting will be held if significant interest is expressed. A request for a public meeting should be made in writing to Mr. Hankinson. Before reaching a final decision, the Regional Administrator will take into account all public comments on this request for a determination that the debris described above is no longer contaminated with hazardous waste.

MORE INFORMATION

Copies of these documents are also available for review by the public at the following locations:

- **South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control**

**Lower Savannah District
Environmental Quality Control
218 Beaufort Street, N.E.
Aiken, SC 29801
Myra C. Reece, Director
Phone: 803-641-7670
FAX: 803-641-7675**

- **DOE Public Reading Room
Gregg-Graniteville Library
University of South Carolina
at Aiken**

**171 University Parkway
Aiken, SC 29801
803-641-3465**

Copies of the documents may be obtained from Dr. Judy Sophianopoulos at the above EPA address or by calling 1-800-241-1754 and leaving a message for Dr. Sophianopoulos with your name, address and phone number. She will return your phone call and respond to questions.

Technical questions can be directed to :

**Jim Moore
WSRC Public Involvement
803-725-5663.**

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The SRS Environmental Bulletin

For more information on this or other
cleanup and compliance activities at
SRS, please contact:

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