



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Record of Decision Issued for the L-Area Burning/Rubble Pit, Gas Cylinder Disposal Facility and L-Area Rubble Pile Operable Unit

The United States Department of Energy (DOE), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) have selected remedial approaches for Savannah River Site's (SRS) L-Area Burning/Rubble Pit (LBRP), Gas Cylinder Disposal Facility (GCDF) and L-Area Rubble Pile (LRP) operable unit (OU). A 45-day public comment period for the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan and the associated draft Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit modification was held from August 1, 2001 to September 14, 2001.

DOE, EPA, and SCDHEC have reviewed the risks associated with the LBRP, GCDF and LRP OU at SRS and have determined that the preferred remedial actions for these units are as follows:

- (1) for the LBRP source unit - No further action.
- (2) for the GCDF source unit – No further action.
- (3) for the LRP source unit – Removal and disposal of contaminated soils/debris. After removal, institutional controls including long term site maintenance will be implemented
- (4) for groundwater – A Groundwater Mixing Zone/Monitored Natural Attenuation (GMZ/MNA) with institutional controls will be implemented as long as groundwater concentrations exceed regulatory standards.

The LBRP was a shallow, unlined excavation measuring approximately 29 ft wide, 230 ft long, and 10 ft deep, and was used from 1951 to 1978 as a waste burning and burial pit. The GCDF is located adjacent the LBRP and was 14 ft wide, 27 ft long and 3 ft deep trench, used in the mid- to late- 1970's for the venting and disposal of gas cylinders. In 1997, a removal action was implemented with the primary objective of removing all principal threat waste (i.e.

batteries) from the pit and GCDF. Subsequent soil samples from the base of the excavation confirmed that no contamination remained at the LBRP and GCDF. Both areas were back filled to grade with clean soil.

The LRP is approximately 500 ft long and 120 ft wide, consisting of rubble and soil piles randomly scattered throughout the area. It is not known when disposal activities at the unit occurred or what type and volume of waste were disposed. A removal action in 1997 removed and disposed of approximately 250 cubic yards of non-hazardous and hazardous waste from the site. However, confirmatory sampling of the area showed that although the action had removed the principal threat waste, contaminants still remained above remedial goals.

The LBRP, GCDF and LRP are located in an area that has been recommended for industrial use by the SRS Citizens Advisory Board (CAB). The Savannah River Site Future Use Report Stakeholder Recommendations for SRS Land and Facilities (DOE 1996) includes the recommendation that "residential uses of SRS land should be prohibited", and the Federal Facility Agreement Implementation Plan (WSRC 1996) designated this area as an industrial zone. The planned future use of the LBRP, GCDF and LRP by DOE is continued industrial usage.

The remedial decision is documented in the Record of Decision document. This document includes a responsiveness summary that addresses public comments. DOE has worked with SCDHEC and EPA to ensure the remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

(See ROD Issued for Operable Unit on page 2)

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ROD Issued For Operable Unit

Copies of the Record of Decision are available in the administrative record. The administrative record is available in the information repositories listed below:

- DOE Public Reading Room at the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina Aiken campus in Aiken, SC; and
- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC.

Hard copies of the Record of Decision are available at the following:

- Reese Library at Augusta State University in Augusta, GA; and
- Asa H. Gordon Library at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA.

For additional information, contact Jim Moore at the address listed below.

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Temporary Authorization For Hazardous Waste Storage Facility Requested

SRS has submitted to SCDHEC a Temporary Authorization request to treat reactive waste currently in permitted storage in building 645-N at SRS. Under the RCRA, reactive wastes are those wastes that are considered unstable and may react violently if not properly treated.

If approved, the Temporary Authorization will enable SRS to treat chemicals in order to eliminate the characteristic of reactivity. The treatment will make the chemicals safer for storage and subsequent shipment for final treatment and disposal. The proposed treatment involves isolating the containers of chemicals, analyzing the chemicals, and adding deactivation agents as appropriate. A specially trained high hazard team will perform the work using equipment designed for this activity.

The treatment is proposed to last less than six months. For additional information contact Jim Moore at 1-800-249-8155 or e-mail: jim02.moore@srs.gov.

Fact Sheet Available for the Ford Building Seepage Basin Operable Unit

DOE, EPA, and SCDHEC announce the availability of a Pre-construction Fact Sheet for the Ford Building Seepage Basin Operable Unit (FBSB OU). This fact sheet provides a description of the remedial actions selected for the FBSB OU at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

The seepage basin, which is defined by orange balls, is 120 by 78 ft at ground level, approximately 60 by 25 ft at the floor level, and approximately 10 ft deep. The basin is fenced and marked with signs identifying it as a Resource Conservation Recovery Act/ Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (RCRA/CERCLA) unit. Waste disposal records indicate that the basin received approximately 380,400 gal of wastewater from 1964 to 1984. During this period, the dominant radionuclide released was tritium with lesser amounts of cobalt-60, strontium-90, cesium-137, and unidentified alpha emitters. In addition to radionuclides, trace amounts of non radioactive surfactants, and organic and inorganic constituents may have been released into the basin. There is no record that the basin ever overflowed.

The remedial actions selected in the Record of Decision will be applied to the FBSB OU. The remedial actions consist of: The contaminated soil at the Tank/Process Sewer Line Area will be excavated and the soil will be dispositioned into the seepage basin; backfilling the remaining volume of the seepage basin and excavated area of the Tank/Process Sewer Line Area with clean soil from an SRS borrow pit; covering the backfilled areas with vegetative covers; and institutional controls.

There will be no health hazards posed to off-site communities as a result of this remedial action.

The Pre-construction Fact Sheet for the SRS FBSB 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.

For additional information contact Jim Moore at 1-800-249-8155 or e-mail: jim02.moore@srs.gov.

New CAB Members Elected

On January 13 and 14, the SRS Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) met in Hilton Head, SC for the first bi-monthly CAB meeting of 2003. One of the most important items on the agenda was the election of new CAB members from the wide selection of qualified applicants. Elections are held to ensure the Board membership reflects the demographic composition of the communities surrounding and impacted by SRS.

The new members will begin their orientation later this month and are expected to attend their first CAB meeting March 24 and 25 at the Sheraton Augusta Hotel, Augusta, GA.

Eight new members have been elected to serve a two-year term on the SRS CAB. Members may serve up to three consecutive terms of office. The following new members were elected earlier this year:

Ms. Donna Antonucci is a Biology Instructor at a private school in Savannah, Ga. She is known for her passionate interest in the environment and her determination to give a voice to those who are disadvantaged. She is a member of the American Society for Microbiologists, the Georgia Science Teachers Association, the Mercy Secondary Education Association and the National Catholic Education Society. Ms. Antonucci also coaches track.

Ms. Jennifer Barrington is a Special Project Manager for the Beaufort Jasper Water Authority responsible for a new water plant being constructed in South Carolina. She holds a Civil Engineering degree from Clemson University and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of South Carolina. She has regulatory experience in stormwater, solid waste, wastewater and drinking water. She is a member of the Water Environment Federation and American Water Works Association. She resides in Beaufort, S.C.

Mr. Leon Chavous performed thirty years of professional service at South Carolina State University in the Schools of Agriculture and Science. He was Director of the Extension & Research Program and has dedicated two-thirds of his career to improving the quality of life for disadvantaged people. He is the Vice Chairman of the Deacon Board at Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church where he also initiated a SHARE food program. He resides in Orangeburg, S.C.

Ms. Mary Drye is a registered nurse working in a local high school in Augusta, Ga. She is also an assessor for long term care insurance, a volunteer for the Red Cross with disaster training and a member of the Center for Disease Control Health Effects Subcommittee. She has also worked as a chemical dependency nurse and is a former Chair/President of the Georgia Nurses Association in Augusta, Ga. Ms. Drye volunteers for the Shelter & Advocacy Center for Abused Children as well. She resides in Augusta, Ga.

Mr. Bill Lawless is a former DOE employee who now is employed as an associate professor of mathematics and social psychology at an historically black college in Augusta, Ga. Featured in the video documentary "Building Bombs," he holds a M.S. in mechanical engineering and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in social psychology. He served on the citizens working group which drafted the charter and developed the selection process for the SRS Citizens Advisory Board and served as Environmental Restoration & Waste Management Committee Chair during a six-year term with the Board that ended in 1999. He resides in Augusta, Ga.

Mr. Wendell Lyon is a retired medical services army officer and is a veteran with tour of duty in Vietnam. He holds a Bachelor of Science in medical technology from the University of Hawaii and a Masters of Science in microbiology from the University of Arizona. He has over 15 years experience as an owner of a small trucking firm and currently owns farming and timberland in Burke County. He is a member of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists and the American Society of Microbiologists. He resides in Waynesboro, Ga.

Mr. Darryl Nettles is a chemist at the Savannah River Site and an adjunct instructor at Aiken Technical College. He holds a Bachelor of Science in chemistry. Darryl was a board member for the Pre-Alumni Council UNCF. He was president of the Christian Student Association at Stillman College where he was also a member of the Student Government Association. He serves as the Public Relations Chair for the Ministerial Alliance Fellowship at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church. Mr. Nettles recently moved from Jackson, S.C. to Augusta, Ga.

Mr. Harold Rahn is the Vice Chairman of the Planning/Zoning Board in Springfield, Ga. He served two terms as a councilman and served as Chairman of the Fire Department Committee and as a member of the Police Committee and Water and Sewage Committees. His business experience includes truck and trailer leasing. He was a member of the Springfield Volunteer Fire Department for 27 years.

Interested In Joining the CAB?

Although the 2003 elections are completed, interested candidates should apply now. We keep applications on file for several years to fill vacancies as they become available. The primary criterion for Board members is the desire and ability to work towards better and informed recommendations.

To apply for membership to the SRS Citizens Advisory Board, please call 1-800-249-8155.

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The SRS Environmental Bulletin

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