



Environmental Bulletin

Volume 15, Number 9
April 5, 2004

from the Savannah River Site

Documents available for public review

Fact Sheets Available For L Area Hot Shop and P Reactor Seepage Basin Operable Units

The United States Department of Energy (DOE), United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) announce the completion of the final design of the remedy selected for the L-Area Hot Shop (LAHS) Operable Unit (OU) and P-Reactor Seepage Basin (PRSB) OU, and the availability of the Pre-Construction Fact Sheets. These fact sheets provide a description of the remedy selected for both OUs at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

The LAHS OU is located in the south-central portion of SRS, southeast of the L-Area Reactor complex. It consists of concrete building slabs, an open slab area, a drum storage area, a sandblast area, manholes with wastewater drains, and a surface runoff and drainage ditch. The building slabs were for three interconnected buildings, which have been demolished and removed.

The remedial action selected in the Record of Decision (ROD) for the LAHS OU consists of the following:

- Decontamination of the slabs by the removal and disposal of the contaminated surface;
- Excavation and disposal of the Iron Pipe drainlines; and
- Administrative controls for the waste site.

This remedy will be the final remedy for this OU.

The PRSB OU is located in the southwestern portion of SRS in P-Reactor Area.

The Remedial Action selected in the ROD for the PRSB consists of the following components:

- Principle Threat Source Material (PTSM) soils, found in Basin 1, and in Basin 2, will be stabilized in place with a cement-based grout mixture.
- The PTSM level soils in the Underground Radioactive Management Area and a Soil Contamination Area, as well as any soils exceeding radiological screening levels during excavation of the inactive process sewer lines (IPSL), will be consolidated with soils in Basin 1 or Basin 2 and included in the stabilization treatment. A geosynthetic closure cover will be placed over all three basins. This will reduce infiltration through the stabilized soil, and prevent exposure of humans or animals to radionuclides in the stabilized soil.
- The IPSLs will be grouted in place, excavated, and placed in Basin 1 or 2 with the stabilized soils to eliminate a potential pathway into the basin.
- A low permeability geosynthetic closure cover will be placed over all three basins.

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Public Invited to Comment

Two Public Meetings Scheduled

Performance Management Plan

SRS is revising the Performance Management Plan. This document will be the site's plan for achieving accelerated environmental cleanup and risk reduction. Your comments on the plan would be greatly appreciated.

Date: April 12 Time: 5:00 PM
Location: North Augusta Community Center
101 Brookside Ave., North Augusta, SC

Risk Based End State Vision Document

The Risk Based End State Vision Document is a new document required by DOE-Headquarters. The purpose of this document is to ensure that the Department's cleanup strategy is driven by clearly defined, risk-based end states.

Date: April 13 Time: 8:30 AM
Location: North Augusta Community Center
101 Brookside Ave., North Augusta, SC

Mixed Waste Tanks Modification Requested

The DOE-Savannah River Operations Office has requested from SCDHEC modifications to the SRS 1992 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Part B Permit Renewal Application for Volume I. This volume of the application provides information common to all of the Hazardous Waste Management Units at SRS.

The revision (revision 5 of Volume I) proposed deleting the Savannah River Technology Center (SRTC) Mixed Waste Tanks from the Part A and updating the SRTC Mixed Waste Tanks information presented in Appendix 4 Solid Waste Management Units (SWMU) list. This modification request is considered to be a Class 1 modification that requires SCDHEC approval.

More information, including the actual permit applications, is available for review and copying at the DOE Public Reading Room located in the University of South Carolina-Aiken Library, or by contacting personnel identified in this notice.

For additional information, contact:

Jim Moore
Westinghouse Savannah River Company
Building 742-A
Aiken, SC 29808
telephone 1-800-249-8155 or e-mail: jim02.moore@srs.gov.

or

J. T. Litton, Director, Division of Waste Management
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201-1708

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Fact Sheets Available For L Area Hot Shop and P Reactor Seepage Basin Operable Units

This remedy will be the final remedy for this OU, since the groundwater contamination associated with this basin is being addressed as part of the PRSB OU.

The Pre-Construction Fact Sheets for the SRS LAHS and PRSB OUs are available at the following locations:

- DOE Public Reading Room at the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina (USC)-Aiken campus, Aiken, SC;

Wetland Assessment Issued for F- and H-Area Project

A wetland assessment signed on March 9, 2004, was prepared in compliance with DOE requirements (10 Code of Federal Regulations Part 1022) for the floodplain and wetland environmental review of the proposed F- and H-Area Groundwater Remediation Project at SRS. DOE is proposing to install underground barrier wall/base injection systems to replace the pump/treat/reinjection systems previously used to remediate the contaminated groundwater associated with the closed F- and H-Area Seepage Basins at SRS. The purpose of these proposed actions is to provide remediation systems that are more passive and more technically feasible than the existing systems, while still meeting RCRA permit goals (reduction in the contaminant releases to Fourmile Branch). Both the project sites and the proposed remediation technology were addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) "Waste Management Activities for Groundwater Protection", DOE/EIS-0120.

Based on the analyses in the wetland assessment, DOE has determined that the proposed project could impact the slope wetlands located along Fourmile Branch. Because of this potential, DOE will monitor these wetlands to evaluate changes in size and/or location due to the implementation of proposed remediation. Pursuant to DOE's no-net-loss policy for wetlands, any decrease in wetland acreage will be compensated through either the SRS Wetland Mitigation Bank or other wetland mitigation processes.

If you would like a copy of the wetland assessment, or any other National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document please contact:

Andrew R. Grainger, NEPA Compliance Officer
U. S. Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office
Building 742-A, Room 185, Aiken, SC 29808
e-mail: nepa@srs.gov
Fax/telephone: 1-800-881-7292

- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at USC, Columbia, SC;
- Reese Library at Augusta State University, Augusta, GA; and
- Asa H. Gordon Library at Savannah State University, Savannah, GA.

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

Current NEPA Actions Affecting SRS

- ***Disposition of Scrap Metals Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) (DOE/EIS-0327)***

This PEIS will evaluate alternatives for disposition of DOE scrap metals that may have been in radiological areas. The disposition options to be analyzed include continuation of the suspension on unrestricted release of metals for recycling, unrestricted release of scrap metals for recycling, and disposal. The notice of intent (NOI) for this PEIS was issued on July 12, 2001. A public scoping meeting was held on July 31, 2001, in North Augusta, SC. The draft PEIS is scheduled to be issued in May 2004, the final PEIS is scheduled for August 2004, and the ROD scheduled for October 2004.

- ***Supplemental PEIS on Stockpile Stewardship and Management for a Modern Pit Facility (DOE/EIS-0236-S2)***

This PEIS will evaluate alternative sites (Los Alamos National Laboratory, Nevada Test Site, Pantex Plant, Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, and SRS) for a Modern Pit Facility, to provide the capability to manufacture plutonium pits for the United States nuclear weapons stockpile. This PEIS will be followed by a site-specific EIS to address the impacts of construction and operation of the Modern Pit Facility at the selected site. The NOI for this PEIS was issued on September 23, 2002. A local public scoping meeting was held on October 29, 2002, in North Augusta, SC. Information regarding the draft PEIS can be found at 68 FR 33487, June 4, 2003. The draft PEIS may be viewed electronically at www.mpfeis.com. According to a news release by the National Nuclear Security Administration, publication of the final EIS will be delayed.

- ***West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) Waste Management EIS (DOE/EIS-0337)***

DOE's proposed action (and preferred alternative) is to ship radioactive wastes that are either currently in storage on the WVDP site, or that will be generated from WVDP operations over the next ten years, to offsite disposal locations, and to continue managing its onsite waste storage tanks. The potential environmental consequences of the proposed action are evaluated in the final EIS, including impacts to workers and the public from waste transportation and waste management. The final EIS also analyzes an alternative under which certain wastes would be shipped to interim offsite storage locations including SRS prior to disposal. The preferred alternative does not involve SRS. The final PEIS was issued in January 2004 and may be viewed electronically at <http://tis.eh.doe.gov/nepa/eis/eis0337/index.html>. The ROD is scheduled to be issued in April 2004.

- ***Construction and Operation of a Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility at SRS (NUREG-1767)***

DOE has contracted with Duke Cogema Stone & Webster to

design, construct, and operate a proposed Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility that would convert depleted uranium and weapons-grade plutonium into MOX fuel. The proposed MOX facility would be located on the DOE's SRS in South Carolina. Use of the proposed facility to produce MOX fuel would be part of the DOE's surplus plutonium disposition program. The purpose of the DOE program is to ensure the plutonium produced for nuclear weapons and declared excess to national security is converted to proliferation-resistant forms. The draft EIS can be viewed electronically at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1767>. The comment period for the draft EIS is closed. Due to project scope changes, the final EIS, the final Safety Evaluation Report and the ROD schedules are now uncertain.

- ***Natural Resources Management Activities at SRS (DOE/EA-0826)***

DOE prepared an environmental assessment (EA) in 1993 to analyze the potential environmental impacts of continued management of SRS natural resources. Based on the analyses in the EA, DOE determined the proposed action was not a major Federal action significantly affecting the human environment within the meaning of NEPA, and issued a finding of no significant impact (FONSI). In 2000, DOE issued a revised FONSI that determined implementation of a revised *Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Management Plan* would have impacts no greater than those described in the 1993 EA. DOE now proposes a second revised FONSI which will address minor differences between the 1991 *Natural Resources Management Plan* (NRMP) and the next issue of this plan. The NEPA review is on hold until the next version of the NRMP is finalized.

- ***Wetland Assessment for the F- and H-Area Groundwater Remediation Project***

DOE has prepared a wetland assessment in compliance with DOE requirements (10 CFR Part 1022) for the floodplain and wetland environmental review of the proposed F- and H-Area Groundwater Remediation Project at SRS. Based on the analyses in the wetland assessment, DOE has determined that the proposed project could impact the slope wetlands located along Fourmile Branch. Because of this potential, DOE will monitor these wetlands to evaluate changes in size and/or location due to the implementation of proposed remediation. Pursuant to DOE's no-net-loss policy for wetlands, any decrease in wetland acreage will be compensated through either the SRS Wetland Mitigation Bank or other wetland mitigation processes.

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Savannah River Site
Building 742-A
Aiken, S.C. 29808



The SRS Environmental Bulletin

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

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Public Involvement

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