



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Explanation of Significant Difference for the Silverton Road Waste Unit at Savannah River Site (SRS) is Available for Review

This Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD) is being issued by the United States Department of Energy (DOE), the lead agency for the Savannah River Site, with concurrence by the United States Environmental Protection Agency – Region 4 (EPA) and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) to announce changes in the remedial decision selected for the Silverton Road Waste Unit (SRWU). The SRWU, 731-3A, is located in the northwestern part of the Savannah River Site (SRS) in Aiken County, South Carolina.

The remedy selected in the SRWU Record of Decision (ROD) (February 1997) is Institutional Controls with groundwater monitoring. Based on minimal and infrequent exceedances of maximum contaminant levels, active remediation of groundwater in the SRWU “M Area” aquifer was not required. However, a confirmatory groundwater-monitoring program was established to ensure that this was the appropriate remedial action for the “M Area” groundwater aquifer. The purpose of this ESD is to document a Post-ROD change to the remedy selected for the SRWU. The significant difference from the original remedy is to discontinue groundwater monitoring at the SRWU. Groundwater results since 1999 have demonstrated that the contaminants of concern are decreasing and are below regulatory limits; therefore, the remedial goals for groundwater have been reached. The Institutional Controls will still be required for the SRWU soils. This modification will not have an adverse impact on human health or the environment.

The SRS is required under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 117 (c) to publish an ESD whenever there is a significant change to a component of a remedy specified in a ROD.

The National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan requires the lead agency to provide an explanation of the differences and to make this information available to the public in the Administrative Record File (ARF) and information repositories. This ESD is part of the ARF and is available for public review during normal business hours at the following information repositories:

- DOE Public Reading Room at 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 ESD 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.

Any comments or questions may be directed to:

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The SRS Environmental Bulletin

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