



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Statement of Basis / Proposed Plan for the M-Area Inactive Process Sewer Lines (081-M) Operable Unit

The United States Department of Energy (USDOE) will release a Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan on June 15, 2006 describing the proposed remedial actions for the M-Area Inactive Process Sewer Lines (MIPSL) Operable Unit (OU) at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) will also release a draft Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit modification for the proposed remedial action for this unit. These documents will be available for public review and copying at the locations listed below. The public comment period is scheduled for June 15, 2006 to July 29, 2006.

The Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan was completed to meet the terms of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), a law governing the investigation and cleanup of waste units. USDOE has worked with the United States Environmental Protection Agency- Region 4 (USEPA) and the SCDHEC to ensure the remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

The USDOE, USEPA and SCDHEC have reviewed the risks associated with the operable unit and have evaluated cleanup alternatives. The following final action is recommended for the MIPSL OU:

Phased Soil Vapor Extraction Enhanced with Soil Fracturing and Institutional Controls: Phased Soil Vapor Extraction Enhanced with Soil Fracturing will be implemented in areas where volatile organic compounds [e.g., trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachloroethylene (PCE)] are present in the vadose zone. Institutional Controls, including grouting of the MIPSL manholes to prevent access, will be implemented at the MIPSL OU.

This alternative will be protective of human health and the environment. It is also intended to be the final action for the MIPSL OU.

The MIPSL OU is located in the northwest portion of SRS, in M-Area. The MIPSL OU is comprised of the southern portions of the M-Area Settling Basin Inactive Process Sewer to Manhole 1 (MIPS; Building Number 081-M) including the Southern Portions of the 313-M Inactive Clay Process Sewer Lines to Tims Branch, no building number and the Southern Portions of the 320-M Inactive Clay Process Sewer Lines from the Building Slab to the Former Security Fence, NBN (313-MIPS; no building number). The scope of the MIPSL OU remedial action is limited to the vadose zone. Groundwater is not considered part of the scope for the MIPSL OU. Any groundwater contamination resulting from the MIPSL OU is regulated by the SRS RCRA Part B Permit.

From 1958 until 1985, several M-Area facilities (313-M, 320-M, and 321-M) manufactured reactor fuel and target assemblies. Associated operations included support buildings, maintenance operations, laboratories, and infrastructure for managing waste. Effluents from MArea were transported through two separate networks of vitrified clay pipes. The MIPS

network discharged waste to the M-Area Settling Basin, and the 313-MIPS network released waste to the A-014 Outfall, which flowed to a tributary of Tims Branch. In May 1982, the 313-MIPS process waters were diverted from Tims Branch and added to the MIPS process waters already flowing to the M-Area Settling Basin, increasing the flow from an average of 430,000 to 800,000 gallons per day. In November 1982, process waters from 313-MIPS were redirected back to Tims Branch. This change in process water flow from 313-MIPS resulted in a reduction of the flow to the M-Area Settling Basin to 250,000 gallons per day by the end of 1982.

Pre-cast concrete or brick manholes along the MIPS and 313-MIPS provided access to the pipelines for inspection, maintenance, effluent sampling, etc. The manholes are spaced approximately 350 to 400 feet apart along the MIPS and 313-MIPS sewer lines.

M-Area effluent wastes included chlorinated solvents (used for degreasing fuel and target assemblies), acids, caustics, heavy metals, and minor amounts of radioactive constituents. Specific constituents of interest include TCE, PCE, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, aluminum, copper, iron, lead, magnesium, manganese, mercury, nickel, zinc, and uranium.

Comments on the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan and the draft RCRA permit are requested by July 29, 2006. Upon completion of the public comment period, a Responsiveness Summary that addresses public comments will be prepared. The Responsiveness Summary will be made available with the Record of Decision and the final RCRA permit modification and will be sent to each person who submits comments.

Copies of the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan are available in the administrative record, which also contains the RCRA Facility Investigation/Remedial Investigation (RFI/RI) Report with Baseline Risk Assessment for this unit. 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 Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan are available at the following locations:

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

An electronic copy of the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan is posted at the following address: <http://www.srs.gov/general/programs/soil/pub/pubinv.html>

Copies of the draft RCRA permit modification are available for review at SCDHEC during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, at the following locations:

SCDHEC
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
8911 Farrow Road
Columbia, SC 29203
Phone: (803) 896-4000

or

SCDHEC – Region 5
Aiken Environmental Quality Control Office
206 Beaufort Street, NE
Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (803) 641-7670

If there is interest in discussing this recommended remedial approach, a public hearing may be requested. Comments on the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan should be sent to Mr. Jim Moore. Comments on the draft RCRA permit modification or requests for a public hearing should be sent to Mr. Richard Haynes. For additional information or to request a public meeting, contact:

Jim Moore
Washington Savannah River Company
Building 730-1B
Aiken, SC 29808
1-800-249-8155
jim02.moore@srs.gov

or

SCDHEC
Attn: Richard Haynes, P.E., Director
Division of Waste Management
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 896-4000

SRS Citizens Advisory Board Remaining 2006 Meeting Schedule

July 24-25

North Augusta Community Center
101 Brookside Avenue
North Augusta, S.C. 29841
(803) 441-4290

November 13-14

Augusta Towers Hotel
2651 Perimeter Parkway
Augusta, Ga. 30909
(706) 855-8100
www.gfhotels.com

September 25-26

DoubleTree Hotel
181 Church Street
Charleston, S.C. 29401
(843) 577-2644
www.doubletree.com

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

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