



# Environmental Bulletin

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*from the Savannah River Site*

## **L-Area Southern Groundwater Operable Unit**

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) will release a Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan on August 16, 2006, describing the proposed remedial approach for the L-Area Southern Groundwater (LASG) 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 August 16, 2006, to September 29, 2006.

DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and SCDHEC have reviewed the risks associated with this unit and have evaluated cleanup alternatives.

The preferred alternative for the LASG OU is Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA) with long-term monitoring of the groundwater conditions in the plumes and surface water and Institutional Controls to prevent human contact with the contaminated media. This remedial alternative is considered protective of human health and the environment.

The LASG OU encompasses all of the groundwater from the L-Area groundwater divide south to L Lake. The LASG OU covers about 1250 acres and includes several historical source units. The remediated/depleted source units supported past production activities at L Reactor and other production areas, which produced nuclear materials for national defense. Past activities at the historical source units have resulted in groundwater contamination beneath LASG OU. This groundwater unit has been administratively separated from the historical source units to provide a comprehensive evaluation of groundwater beneath LASG OU.

The constituents of concern for groundwater at LASG OU are tritium, tetrachloroethylene (PCE), and trichloroethylene (TCE). Tritium, a radioactive isotope of hydrogen, was produced in the reactor and the volatile organic compounds (VOCs) PCE and TCE were used as solvents and degreasers. There is no remedial technology for treatment of tritium. Therefore, tritium will be remediated by allowing it to decay naturally (decay half life for tritium is 12.3 years) and through natural dilution in the groundwater. These natural processes along with natural biodegradation will also remediate the VOC's found in the groundwater.

Comments on the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan and the draft RCRA permit modification are requested by September 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 decision 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 with Risk Assessment Report 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 (*continued on page 2.*)

*continued from page 1.....*

- 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:

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

Copies of the draft RCRA permit modifications 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	or
Bureau of Land and Waste Management	SCDHEC-Region 5
8911 Farrow Road	EQC Office
Columbia, South Carolina 29203	206 Beaufort St., N.E.
Phone: (803)896-4000	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 and Mr. Richard Haynes. 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	or
Washington Savannah River Company	SCDHEC
Savannah River Site	Attn: Richard Haynes, P.E., Director
Building 730-1B, 3142	Division of Waste Management
Aiken, SC 29808	Bureau of Land and Waste Management
1-800-249-8155	2600 Bull Street
jim02.moore@srs.gov	Columbia, SC 29201
	(803) 896-4000

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## SRS Citizens Advisory Board Remaining 2006 Meeting Schedule

September 25-26  
 DoubleTree Hotel  
 181 Church Street  
 Charleston, S.C. 29401  
 (843) 577-2644  
[www.doubletree.com](http://www.doubletree.com)

November 13-14  
 Augusta Towers Hotel  
 2651 Perimeter Parkway  
 Augusta, Ga. 30909  
 (706) 855-8100  
[www.gfhotels.com](http://www.gfhotels.com)

## Current NEPA Actions Affecting SRS

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

DOE will evaluate alternatives for disposition of 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, South Carolina. The draft PEIS has not been issued, and the schedule is uncertain.

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

DOE will evaluate alternative sites (Los Alamos National Laboratory, Nevada Test Site, Pantex Plant, Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, and Savannah River Site) for a Modern Pit Facility, to create the capability to manufacture plutonium pits for the stockpile of United States nuclear weapons. 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](http://www.mpfeis.com). The final supplemental PEIS has been delayed due to Congressional concerns about timing and scope of project.

- *EIS for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership Technology Demonstration Program (DOE/EIS-0396)*

DOE will evaluate technologies that would change the way spent nuclear fuel from commercial light-water power reactors is managed. The proposed action is to demonstrate U.S. capability to safely recycle spent nuclear fuel using proliferation-resistant separation processes and the conversion of transuranics into shorter-lived radioisotopes. The proposed action includes three key elements that would comprise a proliferation-resistant closed fuel cycle: (1) the demonstration of separation processes in which usable and waste materials that are found in spent nuclear fuel are separated; (2) the demonstration of the conversion of transuranics; and (3) the demonstration of an advanced fuel fabrication process.

- *National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Compliance Alternatives (DOE/EA-1563)*

DOE will analyze potential environmental consequences of the proposed NPDES Stormwater Compliance Alternatives at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) has renewed the NPDES general industrial stormwater permit that regulates certain SRS stormwater discharges. This permit authorizes the continued discharge of stormwater effluents from SRS operations through 39 industrial outfalls into State surface waters for the next four years. In order to meet the more restrictive conditions of the reissued permit, compliance schedules will be negotiated, as needed, for certain outfalls as designated by SCDHEC. The draft EA is scheduled to be available in August 2006.

- *Replacement Source of Steam for A Area at SRS (DOE/EA-1568)*

DOE will analyze potential environmental consequences of the proposed replacement source of steam alternatives at SRS. The purpose of the proposed action is to replace the existing coal-fired A-Area steam boiler plant (Building 784-A), which was constructed in 1951 at SRS. The preferred alternative to be evaluated in the EA would be a steam boiler plant consisting of two 30,000 pounds per hour boilers. The primary boiler would be wood-fired and would provide the majority of steam required for A Area. The standby boiler would be fuel oil-fired and would operate when the primary boiler is taken offline for maintenance and also during the winter season to meet peak steam demand. The balance of the plant, which would include all associated fuel handling and storage equipment, would be contained to the maximum extent possible inside of a protective structure. The replacement boiler plant would be located near the current site of the existing A-Area boiler plant to allow for easy fuel and ash transportation access as well as connections to the existing A-Area infrastructure. Extensive automation and control systems for boiler operation would be used to support operation of the replacement boilers. The primary end-user of steam from the replacement plant would be the Savannah River National Laboratory. The draft EA is scheduled to be available in August 2006.

### *Want more Information on any SRS NEPA Issues?*

For more information on any SRS NEPA issue  
call the SRS NEPA Hotline at 1-800-881-7292  
or E-mail at [nepa@srs.gov](mailto:nepa@srs.gov)

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Savannah River Site  
Building 730-1B  
Aiken, S.C. 29808



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## The SRS Environmental Bulletin

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

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