



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Environmental Assessment being prepared for NPDES Stormwater Compliance Alternatives at SRS

DOE has determined that an environmental assessment (EA) will be prepared to analyze potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (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 Activity Stormwater Permit that regulates certain SRS stormwater discharges. This permit authorizes the continued discharge of stormwater effluents from SRS operations through 39 outfalls associated with industrial activity 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.

There are currently 39 SRS stormwater discharges permitted by the NPDES industrial stormwater permit. Since best management practices could not be implemented within the 120-day compliance period to bring into compliance a number of these outfalls that do not presently meet the new more restrictive requirements of the reissued permit, SRS obtained SCDHEC approval for an extension. The agreement with SCDHEC requires SRS to apply for an individual permit by June 30, 2006, for outfalls SCDHEC considers to have serious water quality issues. Currently SCDHEC is reviewing water quality data from the 39 stormwater discharges and are scheduled to render their decision regarding which outfall, if any, would require an individual permit. The individual permit(s) will include compliance schedules to facilitate SRS meeting permit limitations. A range of outfall-related alternative actions will be evaluated in the proposed EA. A floodplain/wetland assessment will also be included in this NEPA review.

Notifications of DOE's intent to prepare this EA were sent to the States of Georgia and South Carolina on March 1, 2006.

If you would like a copy of the predecisional EA when it becomes available, please contact:

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The SRS Environmental Bulletin

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