



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis for the Removal Action at the Production Area of M Area Operable Unit

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to perform a non-time critical removal action at the Production Area of the M Area Operable Unit (MAOU). The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) requires a Removal Site Evaluation Report/Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (RSER/EE/CA) to evaluate removal alternatives.

The MAOU Production Area is located in the northwest portion of the Savannah River Site. Special nuclear materials for the Department of Defense were produced in this area between 1952 and 1988. An important step in the production cycle was the manufacture of fuel and target assemblies in M Area for nuclear reactors. M Area consisted of three major production buildings (313-M, 320-M, and 321-M) that began operation in the early 1950s and continued operation at various production levels until the early 1990s. In addition to the production facilities, two support laboratories (320-M and 322-M) and three support facilities (322-M, 324-M, and 340-M) were also located in this area. Two test reactor facilities were located to the south (305-A and 777-10A). These facilities each have a history of managing radioactive material.

The purpose of the RSER/EE/CA, as required by the National Contingency Plan, is to identify the objectives of the removal action and to develop various alternatives that might satisfy those objectives. This RSER/EE/CA evaluates three alternatives, recommends a removal action, and provides for public comment.

The preferred alternative will include the removal, transport, and disposal of concrete, soil, sludge, and other debris from the MAOU Production Area to reduce potential exposure to the contaminants. Confirmatory sampling will be conducted and appropriate backfill material will be used in the areas of excavation.

DOE plans to release this document for a 30-day public comment period beginning January 11, 2007. The preferred alternative may be modified or changed based on public comments. Following the public comment period, an Action Memorandum will be prepared and transmitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency and the South Carolina Department of Environmental Control by DOE-Savannah River.

This RSER/EE/CA, completed under CERCLA, is available for public review from January 11, 2007 to February 9, 2007, at the following locations:

- DOE Public Reading Room at the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina (USC)-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC;
- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at USC in Columbia, SC;
- 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 RSER/EE/CA is posted at the following address: <http://www.srs.gov/general/programs/soil/pub/pubinv.html>

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

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