



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Pre-Construction Fact Sheet Available for the M-Area Inactive Process Sewer Lines Operable Unit

The United States Department of Energy (DOE), the United States Environmental Protection Agency – Region 4, and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control announce the availability of a Pre-Construction Fact Sheet, which provides background information and describes the remedial action selected for the M-Area Inactive Process Sewer Lines (MIPSL) Operable Unit (OU) at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The MIPSL OU is located in the northwest portion of SRS, in M-Area.

The remedial action selected in the Record of Decision is:

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

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 (NBN) 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). 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 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (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 M Area 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. In November 1982, process waters from 313-MIPS were redirected back to Tims Branch through the A-014 Outfall.

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.

The Pre-Construction Fact Sheet for the MIPSL OU is available at the following locations:

- DOE Public Reading Room at the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC;
- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC;
- Reese Library at Augusta State University in Augusta, GA; and
- Asa H. Gordon Library at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA.

For additional information, contact Paul Sauerborn at (803) 952-6658 or e-mail at paul.sauerborn@srs.gov

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