



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

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

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has selected the preferred alternative for the non-time critical removal action at the Production Area of the M Area Operable Unit (MAOU). A 30-day public comment period for the Removal Site Evaluation Report/Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (RSER/EE/CA) was held from January 11, 2007 to February 9, 2007.

DOE has determined that the preferred removal action consists of the following: excavation, 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 will be defined for each area of removal based on the constituents found to be in exceedance of the remedial goal prior to excavation. Appropriate backfill material will be determined based on the method of excavation.

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, 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).

The selection of the preferred alternative is documented in the Action Memorandum. This document includes responses to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) as well as a Responsiveness Summary that addresses public comments that were received during the public comment period. DOE has worked with SCDHEC and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that the removal action is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

Copies of the Action Memorandum are available in the Administrative Record. 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 (USC)-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC;
- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at USC in Columbia, SC.

Hard copies of the Action Memorandum 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.

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