



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan for the M Area Operable Unit Available for Public Comment

The United States Department of Energy (USDOE) will release a Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan on May 13, 2008, describing the proposed remedial actions for the M Area Operable Unit (MAOU) 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 May 13, 2008 to June 26, 2008.

The Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan was completed to meet the terms of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), a law governing the investigation and cleanup of waste units. USDOE has worked with the United States Environmental Protection Agency- Region 4 (USEPA) and the SCDHEC to ensure the remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

The USDOE, USEPA and SCDHEC have reviewed the risks associated with the operable unit and have evaluated cleanup alternatives. The final actions proposed are thought to be necessary after the completion of removal actions for radiological, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and metals contamination in the soils and concrete at the MAOU. Public comment periods were previously provided for the removal actions via the *Removal Site Evaluation Report/Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis at the Production Area of M Area Operable Unit* (WSRC-RP-2006-4059, Revision 1, December 2006) and the *Removal Site Evaluation Report/Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis for the Contaminated Surficial Soil in the 741-A Salvage Yard at the M Area Operable Unit* (WSRC-RP-2006-4053, Revision 1, February 2007). The following final actions are recommended for the MAOU:

Building Slab 313-M: Passive soil vapor extraction (SVE) will be implemented in areas where VOCs [e.g., trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachloroethylene (PCE)] are present in the vadose zone at concentrations that may impact groundwater above maximum contaminant levels (MCLs). Institutional Controls, including grouting of the MIPSLS manholes to prevent access, will also be implemented.

Building Slabs 320-M and 321-M: Passive SVE will be implemented in areas where VOCs [e.g., TCE and PCE] are present

in the vadose zone at concentrations that may impact groundwater above MCLs and with the stockpiled soils (< 50 mg/kg) from the early action. The stockpiled soils will be consolidated and placed so that no further handling of the materials is needed after treatment. The SVE system at the early action location may include an infiltration/vapor barrier to enhance barometric pumping and to impede groundwater migration. Institutional Controls, including grouting of the MIPSLS manholes to prevent access, will also be implemented.

Building Slabs 322-M, 324-M, 340-M, 341-M, 341-1M and 341-8M, Salvage Yard Area (741-A, 740-A, 743-A), Test Reactor Facilities (305-A and 777-10A), Warehouses (330-M and 331-M), Miscellaneous Buildings, and Electrical Transformers: Institutional Controls will be implemented.

These alternatives will be protective of human health and the environment. They are also intended to be the final actions for the MAOU.

The MAOU 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).

The MAOU is divided into several areas based on physical location and common problems warranting action:

- Production Area: 313-M, 320-M, 321-M (including Underground Sumps #001 and #002), 322-M, 324-M (including the northern portions of the MIPSLS and associated feeder lines), and 340-M
- Salvage Area: 740-A, 741-A, and 743-A
- Liquid Effluent Treatment Facilities: 341-M, 341-1M, and 341-8M
- Test Reactor Facilities: 305-A and 777-10A
- Warehouses: 330-M and 331-M
- Miscellaneous Buildings
- Electrical Transformers

Comments on the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan and the draft RCRA permit are requested by June 26, 2008. 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 modification 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 (RFI/RI) Report with Baseline Risk Assessment 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
- 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 locations:

- 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 Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan is posted at the following address: <http://www.srs.gov/general/programs/soil/pub/pubinv.html>

Copies of the draft RCRA permit modification 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 one of the following locations:

SCDHEC
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
8911 Farrow Road
Columbia, SC 29203
Phone: (803) 896-4000

SCDHEC – Region 5
Aiken Environmental Quality Control Office
206 Beaufort Street, NE
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. Paul Sauerborn. 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 one of the following:

SCDHEC
Attn: Richard Haynes, P.E., Director
Division of Waste Management
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
2600 Bull Street
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