



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Revised Action Memorandum Issued for the Disposition of Water in the 105-P Disassembly Basin at the Savannah River Site

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) previously selected the preferred alternative for the non-time critical removal action at the Disassembly Basin within the 105-P Reactor Complex located at the Savannah River Site's (SRS's) P-Area. A 30-day public comment period was held for the Removal Site Evaluation Report/Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (RSER/EE/CA) from March 13, 2008 to April 14, 2008. On June 16, 2008, the DOE submitted the Action Memorandum documenting its selection to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

P Area located in the southeast portion of the SRS is approximately 14.2 miles from A-Area, which is on the northwest edge of the SRS. P Area which includes Building 105-P is located entirely in Barnwell County. The Disassembly Basin, a concrete basin inside the 105-P Reactor building, is comprised of seven interconnected sections and currently has approximately 4.4 million gallons of water over contaminated sediments and reactor activated metal components.

DOE previously selected RSER/EE/CA Alternative #3, Forced Evaporation of the basin water, as the preferred alternative. The Disassembly Basin contains radioactively contaminated water and the selected removal action of evaporation will prepare the basin for closure during the Reactor Area Completion project. However, the RSER/EE/CA did not specifically mention that the Disassembly Basin has been used for receipt of potentially contaminated rainwater from basins and sumps within the reactor building and its ancillary facilities. Water from the 105-P building sumps is removed as a water management activity within the building. Basins which are ancillary to the facility can fill up with rainwater which can then become potentially contaminated water. These volumes of water have been sent to the disassembly basin in the past. The SRS wants to continue this practice to prevent releases to the environment and to prevent the possible spread of contamination within the 105-P building. The revision to the Action Memorandum is a clarification to address an existing function of the basin that was not specifically identified in the original documents. The contaminated water from the basins and sumps within the reactor building and its ancillary facilities will continue to be sent to the 105-P Disassembly Basin and this volume of water will not significantly impact the evaporation selected in the Action Memorandum dated June 16, 2008 (ARF # 015483; DOE Letter, ACP-08-183) or the basin.

Copies of the Revised Action Memorandum (ARF # 015673; DOE Letter, ACP-08-225) 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; and
Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at USC in Columbia, SC.

Hard copies of the Revised Action Memorandum (ARF # 015673; DOE Letter, ACP-08-225) 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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