



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Revision 2 Action Memorandum Issued for the Removal Action at the Production Area of M Area Operable Unit

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) previously selected the preferred alternative for the Non-Time Critical Removal Action at the Production Area of the M Area Operable Unit (MAOU). The preferred alternative was Alternative #2, "Removal of contaminated material in exceedance of the remedial goal, with off-SRS disposal", to achieve the removal action objectives. A 30-day public comment period was held for the Removal Site Evaluation Report/Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (RSER/EE/CA) from January 11, 2007 to February 9, 2007. On February 16, 2007, the DOE submitted the Action Memorandum documenting its selection to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). The Action Memorandum was made available for public review on February 27, 2007.

At the time that the RSER/EE/CA was published, the Savannah River Site (SRS) Slit Trenches located in the E-Area Low Level Waste Facility were not acceptable under the CERCLA Off-Site Rule for disposal of CERCLA waste. On January 17, 2008, EPA made an affirmative determination under the CERCLA Off-Site Rule for the Slit Trenches. On February 21, 2008, a Revised Action Memorandum that changed the disposal location for the low level waste generated by the removal action was submitted to the EPA and SCDHEC. The Revised Action Memorandum was made available for public review on February 28, 2008.

The Revision 2 Action Memorandum was submitted to the EPA and SCDHEC to allow SRS more time to evaluate more cost-effective on-unit alternate treatment technologies for soils with volatile organic constituent (VOC) contamination greater than 50 mg/kg. The excavated VOC soil is bagged in lift liners and stored within the area of contamination (AOC). The lift liners are inspected on a monthly basis to ensure package integrity is maintained. The bagged soil will remain on the AOC during the evaluation.

The MAOU Production Area is located in the northwest portion of the SRS. 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).

Copies of the Revision 2 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; and Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at USC in Columbia, SC

Hard copies of the Revision 2 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

For additional information, contact Paul Sauerborn at the address listed below:

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