



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Revised 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). 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.

DOE previously selected RSER/EE/CA Alternative #2, Removal of contaminated material in exceedance of the remedial goal, with off-SRS disposal, to achieve the removal action objectives. At the time the RSER/EE/CA was published, the Savannah River Site Slit Trenches located in the E-Area Low Level Waste Facility (LLWF) 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.

The removal action at the MAOU will generate concrete debris and soil that is radiologically contaminated. At some locations, contaminated concrete slab surfaces with radiological activities below principal threat source material, but above the preliminary remediation goals, will also be removed. The low level waste material will be evaluated to determine if it meets the E-Area LLWF Slit Trench waste acceptance criteria (WAC). If it meets the WAC, Savannah River Site (SRS) would dispose of the excavated non-hazardous, but radiologically contaminated material, at the Slit Trenches, instead of the off-SRS facility mentioned in the RSER/EE/CA. The change in disposal location will not affect the protectiveness of the remedy, but will provide for a more cost-effective disposal alternative.

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 change in disposal location is documented in the Revised Action Memorandum. DOE has worked with SCDHEC and EPA to ensure that the removal action is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

Copies of the Revised 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 Revised 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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