



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Early Action Proposed Plan for C, K, L, and R Reactor Complexes Available for Public Comment

The United States Department of Energy (USDOE) will release an Early Action Proposed Plan (EAPP) on June 18, 2009, describing the proposed early remedial approach for the C, K, L, and R Reactor Complexes at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The EAPP will be available for public review and copying at the locations listed below. The public comment period is scheduled for June 18, 2009 to August 3, 2009.

The EAPP was completed to meet the terms of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, a law governing the investigation and cleanup of waste units. USDOE has worked with the United States Environmental Protection Agency-Region 4 and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control to ensure the early remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

Early remedial actions can occur in conjunction with long-term actions at a site to ensure the site is cleaned up as quickly and effectively as possible. The scope of this EAPP is to describe the final end-state decision for the C, K, L, and R Reactor Complexes. Reactor complexes include a reactor vessel subunit, a disassembly subunit, and a building and attached structures subunit which includes structural concrete, attached support structures, a Purification Area, and contaminated equipment.

There are five Reactor Complexes at SRS: C, K, L, P, and R. The P Reactor Complex was the first of the five Reactor Complexes to be evaluated. The findings of the assessment for the P Reactor Complex provide for likely conditions that may be expected at the other four Reactor Complexes and support the end-state decision for the C, K, L, and R Reactor Complexes. Following the evaluation of cleanup alternatives, *in situ* decommissioning (ISD) is proposed as the early action for the C, K, L, and R Reactor Complexes. As part of the early action, land use controls would also be implemented to prevent direct human exposure.

ISD consists of a combination of actions to remove portions of the Reactor Complexes while stabilizing others and maintaining the structural integrity of the above-ground portions of each facility for a period of at least 200 years to prevent unacceptable environmental release and eliminate human exposure routes. Specifically, ISD would achieve:

1. Stabilization/isolation of contamination remaining within the structure;
2. Prevention of radioactive or hazardous contaminants from migrating to groundwater to the extent practicable;
3. Prevention of radioactive or hazardous contaminant exposure to the industrial worker; and
4. Prevention of animal intruder exposure to radioactive and hazardous contamination.

Operations in the C, K, L, and R Reactor Complexes resulted in the generation of chemical and radioactive waste that remain primarily within the reactor vessel, disassembly basin, and building and attached structures subunits of each Reactor Complex. C Reactor began operating in 1955 and was shut down in 1986. K Reactor began operating in 1954 and was placed in standby in 1988; it was restarted in 1992 for power ascension tests before being shutdown in 1993. L Reactor operated from 1954 to 1968 and again from 1985 to 1988. R Reactor operated from 1953 to 1964. The Reactors are no longer producing nuclear material; however, some of the Reactor Complexes have continuing USDOE missions. The C Reactor Complex is used for cask car refurbishments; the K Reactor Complex is used for nuclear materials disposition activities; and the L Reactor Complex is used for nuclear materials storage. These missions will be completed prior to beginning reactor closure activities.

Public comments on the EAPP are requested by August 3, 2009. Upon completion of the public comment period, a Responsiveness Summary that addresses significant public comments will be prepared. The Responsiveness Summary will be made available with the Early Action Record of Decision and will be sent to each person who submits comments.

Copies of the EAPP are available in the administrative record, which also contains other relevant documents for P Area Operable Unit and R Area Operable 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 EAPP 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.

If there is interest in discussing this recommended remedial approach, a public hearing may be requested. Comments on the EAPP should be sent to Mr. Paul Sauerborn. For additional information or to request a public meeting contact:

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**For more information on this or
other environmental and compli-
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