



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Removal Site Evaluation Report/Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (RSER/EE/CA) For the C Area Reactor Area Cask Car Railroad Tracks as Abandoned (NBN) Subunit at the Savannah River Site

The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to perform a non-time critical removal for the C Area Reactor Area Cask Car Railroad Tracks as Abandoned (NBN), subunit of the C Area Operable Unit (CAOU). Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) the Removal Site Evaluation Report/Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (RSER/EE/CA) describes how the proposed removal action meets the criteria established in the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan (NCP), 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 300.415. The purpose of this RSER/EE/CA is to identify the objectives of the removal action, and to develop alternatives that address the potential threats from release of contaminants to the environment from this subunit. This document will be available for public review and copying at the locations listed below. The public comment period is scheduled for January 14, 2011 to February 13, 2011.

The RSER/EE/CA was completed to meet the terms of CERCLA, a law governing the investigation and cleanup of waste units. The DOE has worked with the United States Environmental Protection Agency-Region 4 (EPA) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) to ensure the remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

DOE, EPA, and SCDHEC have reviewed the risks associated with this subunit and have evaluated cleanup alternatives. The preferred action is excavation and removal of the contaminated soil, which meets the effectiveness criteria.

The CAOU is one of the area OUs identified at SRS. The C Area is located in the central portion of SRS. The C Area Reactor began operating in 1955 and was shut down in 1986. During the operation of the Reactor, spent fuel from the reactor was transferred into metal casks and loaded onto railroad cars for transportation to other areas. Surface contamination from the transfer casks resulted in the spread of the radioactive contaminants onto the rail bed surface below.

The preferred action is Alternative 2, Excavation and Removal. Contaminated soil and gravel that exceed concentrations greater than 10 pCi/g of Cesium-137 will be removed to a depth of approximately 2 feet. This alternative provides overall protection to human health and the environment. Removal and disposal of the contaminated soil and gravel protects the future industrial worker and prevents the spread of contamination by rain or wind. This alternative will not preclude any additional remediation of the CAOU and is consistent with the current and future land use.

Radioactive contaminated waste will be characterized in accordance with DOE requirements for disposal and will be sent to the SRS the E-Area Low Level Waste Facility (LLWF), a CERCLA Off-Site Rule approved facility. It is anticipated that the railroad tracks will be clean or can be decontaminated, otherwise the tracks will also be disposed of at the E-Area LLWF.

Upon completion of the public comment period, an Action Memorandum with a Responsiveness Summary that addresses public comments will be prepared.

Copies of the RSER/EE/CA 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 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 RSER/EE/CA are available at the following:

- Reese Library Government Information Section at Augusta State University in Augusta, GA; and
- Asa H. Gordon Library at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA.

An electronic copy of the RSER/EE/CA is posted at the following address: <http://www.srs.gov/general/programs/soil/pub/pubinv.html>

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