

The Savannah River Site Environmental Bulletin

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DOE, SCDHEC and EPA have agreed to Preliminary Cease Waste Removal in H Area Tank Farm, Waste Tank 16H at the Savannah River Site

The Department of Energy (DOE), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) signed a Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) in support of environmental remediation activities at the Savannah River Site (SRS). One of the conditions in the FFA is that all three agencies must agree waste removal activities may cease and tank stabilization can commence.

This decision process occurs in two phases. The first phase is the preliminary cease waste removal phase, where DOE, SCDHEC and EPA mutually agree that waste removal activities can cease in order to enter into the sampling and analysis phase to completely analyze and characterize the residual material remaining in the tank. This preliminary decision to move on to the sampling and analysis phase is non-binding and does not completely satisfy the FFA agreement.

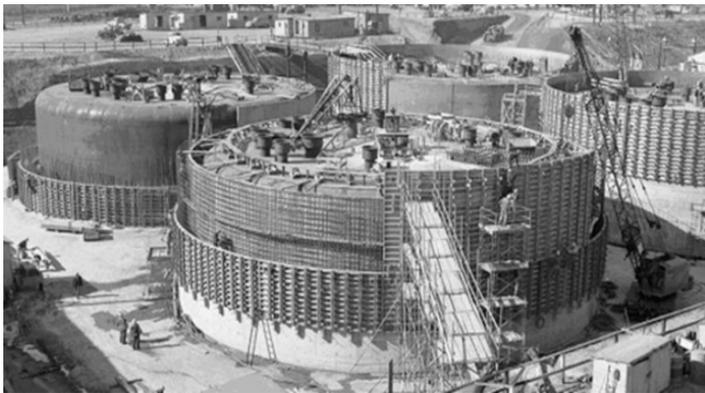
DOE met with SCDHEC and EPA on Monday, January 28, 2013 and Tuesday, March 12, 2013 to discuss details of waste removal efforts and preliminary data concerning residual material in Waste Tank 16H. The three agencies, upon review of the information, agreed that further waste removal efforts is not technically practicable. The preliminary agreement to cease waste removal activities will allow DOE to perform sampling and analysis activities in Tank 16H in order to determine through modeling if there is reasonable assurance that the closure performance objectives will be met throughout the evaluation period.

Following complete characterization of the residual material in the tank, a tank-specific closure module, under the Industrial Wastewater Construction Permit will be developed for Tank 16H and will be submitted to SCDHEC and EPA and provided for public comment to inform the final decision to cease waste removal. Once the closure module is approved and the final decision to cease waste removal is agreed to by the three agencies, the second phase of the decision is satisfied. The Tank 16H Closure Module in the H-Area Tank Farm is not expected to be completed until early 2015.

If the closure module is approved, the ultimate outcome from the Tank 16H Closure Module is a mutual agreement between DOE, SCDHEC and EPA that it is not technically practicable, from an engineering perspective, to continue waste removal activities and that DOE may proceed with activities which support operational closure of Tank 16H. This is one of four tanks anticipated to be closed by September 2015, in accordance with the FFA. Tank 16H is one of 29 tanks in H-Area Tank Farm planned for closure.

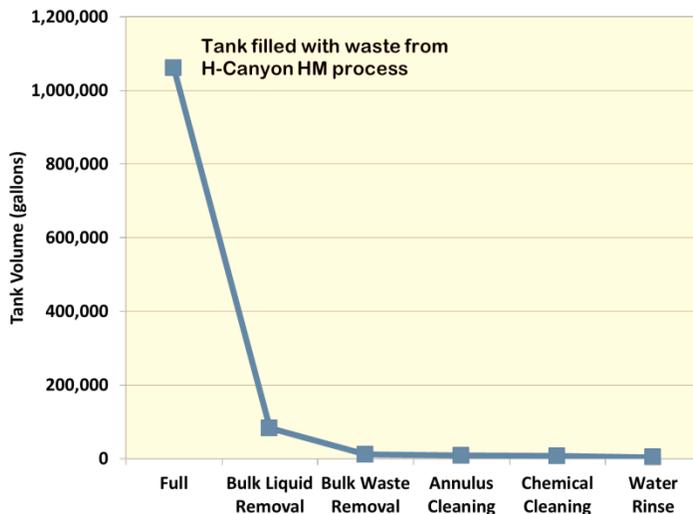
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Type II Tank Primary and Secondary Liner Construction

Tank 16H, constructed in 1956, began receiving waste from the H Canyon in May 1959. At its highest level, Tank 16H contained 1,060,000 gallons of waste. Operational use of Tank 16H for waste storage ceased by March 1972.



Waste Removal and Tank Cleaning

Multiple waste removal and cleaning campaigns were performed from 1972 to 1980 reducing the total residual inventory remaining in the primary and annular regions to approximately 3,600 gallons. A detailed volume determination is in progress.



Panoramic View of Primary Liner



Tank 16H Annulus Region

More detailed information on the remaining residual material in the primary liner and annulus will be provided in the Tank 16H Closure Module. The Tank 16H Closure Module is expected to be available in early 2015.

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