

The Savannah River Site Environmental Bulletin

December 19, 2013

Volume 25, Number 9

AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan for the Wetland Area at Dunbarton Bay in Support of Steel Creek Integrator Operable Unit

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) will release a Statement of Basis / Proposed Plan (SB/PP) for the Wetland Area at Dunbarton Bay (WADB) Subunit on December 19, 2013 describing the preferred remedial approach for this unit at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) will also release a draft Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit modification for the proposed remedial action for this unit. These documents will be available for public review and copying at the locations listed below. The forty-five (45) day public comment period is scheduled for December 19, 2013 to February 01, 2014.

The SB/PP was completed to meet the terms of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), a law governing the investigation and cleanup of waste units. DOE has worked with the United States Environmental Protection Agency-Region 4 (EPA) and the SCDHEC to ensure the remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

The WADB is located at the SRS in Barnwell County, South Carolina. At the SRS, P-Reactor operated between 1954 and 1991 and utilized a coal-fired powerhouse to generate steam and electricity, with coal ash produced as a waste of boiler operations. The ash was disposed into the P-Area Ash Basin. In the summer of 2010, a down gradient area of ash overflow was discovered during the removal activities at the P-Area Ash Basin. The source of the ash is believed to have resulted from storm water overflows from the basin. A remedial action is needed at the WADB due to the arsenic, cesium-137, potassium-40, and radium-22 that is present in surface ash/soil media that may pose a threat to human health and the environment.

DOE, EPA, and SCDHEC have reviewed the risks associated with the WADB and have evaluated cleanup alternatives. The preferred remedial alternative for the WADB is for the excavation of approximately 16,820 cubic meters (22,000 cubic yards) of ash and ash-contaminated soil media extending from the P-Area Ash Basin to the edge of a 30-meter (100-foot) buffer around the Dunbarton Bay (wetland area) and disposal of the excavated ash at an approved off-SRS permitted disposal facility. Land Use Controls (LUCs) to prevent unrestricted use or exposure were also selected as part of the remedial action since some materials would be left in place within the environmentally sensitive areas of Dunbarton Bay.

Comments on the SB/PP and the draft RCRA permit are requested by February 01, 2014. Upon completion of the public comment period, a Responsiveness Summary that addresses public comments will be prepared. The Responsiveness Summary will be made available with the Record of Decision and the final RCRA permit modification and will be sent to each person who submits comments.

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Copies of the SB/PP 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 SB/PP are available at the following locations:

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

An electronic copy of the SB/PP is posted at the following address:

<http://www.srs.gov/general/programs/soil/pub/pubinv.html>

Copies of the draft RCRA permit modification are available for review at SCDHEC during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, at the following locations:

SCDHEC	or	SCDHEC-Region 5
Bureau of Land and Waste Management		Midlands EQC Region - Aiken
2600 Bull Street		206 Beaufort St., N.E.
Columbia, SC 29203		Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (803) 898-2000		Phone: (803) 642-1637

If there is interest in discussing the recommended remedial approach, a public hearing may be requested. Comments on the SB/PP should be sent to Ms. Janet Griffin. Comments on the draft RCRA permit modification or requests for a public hearing should be sent to Mr. Rodney Wingard. For additional information or to request a public meeting contact:

Janet Griffin	or	SCDHEC
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC		Attn: Rodney Wingard
Savannah River Site		Division of Waste Management
Building 730-1B		Bureau of Land and Waste Management
Aiken, SC 29808		2600 Bull Street
(803) 952-8467		Columbia, SC 29201
janet.griffin@srs.gov		(803) 898-2000

The SRS Environmental Bulletin

For more information on this or other environmental and compliance activities at SRS, please contact:

Janet Griffin
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions
Aiken, S.C. 29808
(803) 952-6658
email: janet.griffin@srs.gov

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