



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

ESD for Old F-Area Seepage Basin

This Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) is being issued by the Department of Energy (DOE), the lead agency for the Savannah River Site, with concurrence by the United States Environmental Protection Agency-Region IV (US-EPA) and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) to announce changes in the remedial decision selected for the Old F-Area Seepage Basin (OFASB) waste unit. The waste unit is located northwest of the center of the Savannah River Site (SRS), in Aiken, South Carolina. The original remedy involved removal of contaminated vegetation from the basin and ditchline, chipping the vegetation, and transporting the chipped vegetation to a facility at SRS for disposal. However, after careful examination of the disposal options for the chips, the best option was determined to be disposal of the chipped vegetation at the waste unit. Placing the chipped vegetation at the waste unit would: (1) reduce the cost of additional vegetation handling and transportation to another SRS facility; (2) reduce the unnecessary exposure risk to the workers handling, transporting, and unloading the chipped vegetation for disposal at another SRS facility; and, (3) preserve all remedial action objectives and remedial actions identified in the original

selected remedy.

The SRS is required by CERCLA to publish an ESD whenever there is a significant change to a component of the remedy identified in the Record of Decision (ROD). The National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan requires the lead agency to provide an explanation of the differences and to make the information available to the public in the Administrative Record and information repository. This ESD is available for public review during normal business hours at the following information repositories:

- DOE Public Reading Room at the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC;
- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC;
- Reese Library at Augusta State University in Augusta, GA; and
- Asa H. Gordon Library at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA.

This information is also available on the Internet at the SRS Home Page (<http://www.srs.gov>), under "Happening Now" (<http://www.srs.gov/general/srs-home.htm>) and on the SRS Environmental Restoration Home Page under "Public Involvement" (<http://www.srs.gov/general/srenviro/erd/pub/pubinv.html>).

Current NEPA actions affecting SRS

• **Accelerator for Production of Tritium (DOE/EIS-0270)**, The final EIS has been delayed until after the Secretary's decision on tritium production expected December 1998.

• **Rocky Flats Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy (DOE/EIS-0277)**, The final EIS was issued on August 28, 1998 (63 FR 46006). The first ROD was issued December 1, 1998 (63 FR 66316).

• **SRS Spent Nuclear Fuel (DOE/EIS-0279)**, The draft EIS is projected to be issued in December 1998. The public meeting is scheduled for mid-January 1999.

• **DOE Waste Management (DOE/EIS-0200)**, Multiple RODs will be issued. Planned RODs are HLW storage, end 1998, LLW/LLMW, end 1998.

• **Tritium Extraction Facility (DOE/EIS-0271)**, The final EIS has been delayed until after the Secretary's decision on tritium production expected December 1998.

• **Surplus Plutonium Disposition (DOE/EIS-0282)**, Public comments are being addressed and the final EIS is being prepared. The expected issued date for the final EIS is January 1999.

• **Wetland Mitigation Bank Program (DOE/EA-1205)**, Public comment period was extended to accommodate the receipt of SC and local stakeholder comments. A decision (FONSI or EIS) is expected in early 1999.

Comments or questions?

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