



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Remedy proposed for P-Area Burning/Rubble Pit

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) will release a Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan on February 28, 2002, describing the proposed remedial approach for the P-Area Burning/Rubble Pit, Operable 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 public comment period is scheduled for February 28, 2002, to April 13, 2002.

US DOE, US EPA, and SCDHEC have reviewed the risks associated with the P-Area Burning/Rubble Pit (PBRP) operable unit at the Savannah River Site (SRS) and are recommending the following actions:

- (1) for the PBRP source unit – An engineered soil cover system with passive soil vapor extraction devices (Baraballs™) and institutional controls including long term site maintenance.
- (2) for groundwater – Continued sampling and analysis of existing monitoring wells with institutional controls as long as the groundwater concentrations exceed regulatory standards.

The PBRP, was a shallow, unlined excavation measuring approximately 30 ft wide, 200 ft long, and the depth ranges from 8 ft in the western end to 11 ft in the eastern end. It was used from 1951 to 1973 for periodic burning of combustible wastes such as wood, cardboard, paper, plastics, rubber, rags, oils and organic liquids of unknown origins. Burning in PBRP was discontinued in 1973. After 1973, the pit continued to receive inert debris such as construction materials until it reached capacity in 1978, at which time it was covered with soil to grade. No removal actions have been performed at the unit. The primary source material still remains in place; however, no Principal Threat Source Material is present in the pit.

The water table is approximately 23 ft below land surface, and 12 ft below the base of the pit. Groundwater has been locally impacted by the pit. However, detections are low and sporadic, with no definable contaminant plume.

The PBRP is located in an area that has been recommended for industrial use by the SRS Citizens Advisory Board (CAB). The *Savannah River Site Future Use Report Stakeholder Recommendations for SRS Land and Facilities* (DOE 1996) includes the recommendation that “residential uses of SRS land

should be prohibited”, and the *Federal Facility Agreement Implementation Plan* (WSRC 1996) designated this area as an industrial zone. The planned future use of the PBRP by the US DOE is continued industrial usage.

The public comment period is scheduled for February 28, 2002 to April 13, 2002. Comments on the Proposed Plan are requested by April 13, 2002. Upon completion of the public comment period, a Responsiveness Summary will be prepared which addresses public comments. The Responsiveness Summary will be made available with the Record of Decision, and will be sent to each person who submits comments.

Copies of the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan are available in the administrative record, which also contains the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) report for this 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 Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan are available at the following:

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

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 SCDHEC, Bureau of Land and Waste Management, 8901 Farrow Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29203, Phone: (803)896-4000, or SCDHEC, Lower Savannah District, Environmental Quality Control Office, 218 Beaufort St., N.E., Aiken, SC 29802, Phone: (803) 641-7670.

If there is interest in discussing this recommended remedial approach, a public hearing may be requested. Comments on the draft RCRA Permit modification and requests for public hearings of the Draft RCRA Permit modification should be sent to SCDHEC, Attn: John Litton, P.E., Director, Division of Waste Management, Bureau of Land and Waste Management, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201, (803) 896-4000. Comments on the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan and requests for public meetings may be sent to Mr. Jim Moore, Westinghouse Savannah River Co., Savannah River Site, Building 742-A, Aiken, SC 29808, 1-800-249-8155, jim02moore@srs.gov

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

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