

The Department of Energy - Savannah River (DOE-SR) and its contractors are committed to protecting the public and the environment from excessive radiation exposure. Deer and hog hunting have been allowed at the Savannah River Site (SRS) since 1965. SRS plans to implement a 30 mrem per year administrative dose limit to release game animals (deer, hogs, etc.). The changes will begin with the start of the 2006 hunts. SRS will also update the hunter survey card by asking for the amount of meat consumed by the hunter from the SRS animals and if the hunter would like to be notified of his/her dose. The Savannah River Site (SRS) will continue to monitor wildlife and calculate the doses to each hunter before releasing the animals. There is a slight chance a hunter(s) who kills more than one animal or a larger animal may go above this limit. If this happens, the Site can not release the animal(s). The hunter may choose to keep the head and rack of a trophy animal.

This notice is part of the Savannah River Site's continuing efforts to inform you of changes that may impact you, as well as the Site. If you have questions, please contact Don Padgett, SRS, Environmental Services Section at (803) 952-7497.

CESIUM-137 STATEMENT

All plants and animals, including humans, have small amounts of radioactive material in their bodies. Since 1945, nuclear weapons have been tested above ground across the world, with most of this testing conducted in the 1950's and 1960's. These tests left small amounts of the radioactive material Cesium-137 in the earth's air, water, plants and soil. While most of the Cesium-137 at the Savannah River Site is a result of the nuclear weapons testing in the 1950's and 60's, the work at the Site also added small amounts of Cesium-137 to the air, water, soil, and plants around the site.

All deer and hogs, including those found at the Savannah River Site, have small amounts of Cesium-137 because it is found in the air, water, soil and on the plants those animals breathe, drink, and eat. Cesium-137 enters the human body when deer or hog meat is eaten. The Department of Energy has set limits for the total amount of radioactive material to which people can be exposed. The Department of Energy's limits are based on national and international standards established to protect human health. Every deer and hog killed during the hunt is checked for Cesium-137 to ensure a hunter's exposure is below that limit. Under no circumstances will a deer or hog be released if the radioactive material will cause the hunter's limit to be above the Department of Energy limit.