Integrating Regulatory Drivers

Presentation for the Citizens Advisory Board
Facilities Disposition & Soil Remediation Sub Committee
April 22, 2014

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Acronyms

- **ARRA:** American Recovery & Reinvestment Act
- **CAP:** Corrective Action Plan
- **CAA:** Clean Air Act of 1963 – Regulates ambient air quality and sets emission standards for hazardous air pollutants.
- **CWA:** Clean Water Act of 1972 – Regulates water quality, wetlands, and wastewater discharges through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting program.
- **CERCLA:** Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (also known as the Superfund statute) – Provides for the cleanup of abandoned and uncontrolled waste sites and the response to releases of hazardous substances to the environment. SRS was added to the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1989.
- **D&D:** Deactivation & Decommissioning
- **DWPF:** Defense Waste Processing Facility
- **DOE & DOE-HQ:** Department of Energy – Headquarters
- **EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency
- **ETF:** Effluent Treatment Facility
- **FFA:** Federal Facility Agreement – A negotiated agreement between EPA, SCDHEC and DOE that is required by CERCLA and governs the cleanup of a federal facility. The FFA was effective in 1993.
- **FY:** Fiscal Year
- **GW:** Groundwater
- **HW/MW:** Hazardous Waste / Mixed Waste
- **HWMF:** Hazardous Waste Management Facility
- **HLW:** High Level Waste
- **MOA:** Memorandum of Agreement
Acronyms, continued

- MWMF: Mixed Waste Management Facility
- NPL: National Priorities List
- NPDES: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
- PCB: Polychlorinated Biphenyl – an organic chemical pollutant formerly used for cooling or heat transfer
- RCRA: Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 – Regulates the management of solid waste (including the treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste), and promotes the reduction of hazardous waste land disposal and cleanup of abandoned waste sites.
- ROD: Record of Decision
- S&G: Soils & Groundwater
- SWMUF: Solid Waste Management Facility
- SCDHEC: South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
- SRS: Savannah River Site
- T/S/D: Treatment, Storage, Disposal
- TSCA: Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976 – Regulates the management of asbestos and PCBs, and the manufacture, use, and disposal of chemical substances and mixtures manufactured, processed, and distributed in commerce.
- USACE: US Army Corps of Engineers
Groups involved in SRS Cleanup

- Environmental Protection Agency
- Academia
- SRS Citizens Advisory Board
- Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources
- Natural Resource Trustees
- South Carolina DHEC
- DOE: HQ
- Public
1984
SRS begins M-Area RCRA groundwater corrective action

1987
SCDHEC issues SRS RCRA Permit

1989
SRS added to the CERCLA NPL as a Superfund Site

1993
FFA established between EPA-4, SCDHEC & DOE

1998
MOU for using innovative technology between EPA, SCDHEC & DOE; Implement Project Management principles.

2003
Area Completion Strategy MOA for Achieving an Accelerated Vision for SRS signed by EPA-4, DOE & SCDHEC

2005
Implementation of Area Completion for P Reactor facilities & waste units

2006
Completed T Area (first SRS Area); Initiated R Area Completion for R Reactor facilities & waste units; Regulatory Process for D&D activities formally established in the FFA

2009
ARRA Implemented

2009
Area Completion for P Reactor facilities & waste units

2010
Completed T Area, M Area Completed; 75% Footprint Reduction Goal Established

2011
Achieve P and R Areas Completion; Complete HWCTR D&D; Achieve 69% Footprint Reduction

2012
Complete C Area waste unit cleanup and Disassembly Basin grouting to achieve 85% Footprint Reduction

2014
**CERCLA (1980)**

- Federal Facility Agreement
  - FFA contains process for addressing 515 inactive waste sites through the SRS Environmental Restoration Program
  - FFA Appendix H.1 lists those facilities that remain regulated under RCRA and will undergo RCRA corrective actions that will be evaluated for adequacy under CERCLA
  - FFA contains requirements for preventing environmental releases by removing HLW from old style tanks per schedule and closure of the tanks by 2022

**RCRA (1976)**

- Permits
  - SCDHEC uses RCRA Part B permit to regulate hazardous waste T/S/D facilities:
    - Storage: Permitted HW/MW storage facilities located in E-Area
    - Disposal: Contaminated soil and GW units (e.g., RH, A/M, MIMF, Met Lab, SLF)
  - Integrated cleanup from CERCLA program
  - SCDHEC also uses permits to regulate:
    - Solid wastes landfills
    - Underground storage tanks
  - DWPF/Tank Farms are permitted using option of RCRA deferral to CWA

- Site Treatment Plan
  - Federal Facility Compliance Act of 1992 amended RCRA to govern MW at DOE facilities
  - STP contains list of MW streams, SRS treatment plans, and requires:
    - Removal and treatment (vitrification) of HLW inventory by 2028
    - Treatment of the other MW streams
Major Environmental Laws (continued)

**CAA (1963)**
- DHEC regulates emissions, and the construction and operation of pollution control devices.
- Permits

**CWA (1972)**
- DHEC regulates effluents/sludge, and the operations of treatment and conveyance facilities via NPDES permits.
- Discharge (33 outfalls)
- General Utility
- Land Application
- Stormwater
- USACE regulates work in wetlands and navigable waters
- Permits

**SDWA (1974)**
- DHEC regulates water quality, and the construction and operation of SRS drinking water systems.
- SCDHEC regulates underground injection wells
- Permits

**TSCA (1976)**
- EPA
- PCB Regulations
- PCB waste storage building reporting and storage requirements
- Federal Facility Compliance Agreement
- National DOE agreement with EPA governing the storage and disposal of radioactively-contaminated PCBs
- Permits

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Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)

- Regulates the management of both hazardous and non-hazardous waste
  - Provides corrective actions for releases of hazardous waste or hazardous constituents (chemicals, not radionuclides)

- Authority to administer RCRA delegated to SCDHEC by EPA

- SCDHEC issued SRS RCRA Permit and addresses:
  - Post closure care and maintenance of closed RCRA hazardous waste management facilities (e.g. A/M/Metallurgical Laboratory, F-Area Seepage Basin, H-Area Seepage Basin, Mixed Waste Management Facility and Sanitary Landfill HWMFs)
  - RCRA Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) (e.g. waste units)
    - Addressed through FFA Process
    - RCRA permit inclusive of all remedial decisions reached for SWMUs
RCRA Permit Renewal Process

• Permit Renewal Application/Major Modification to Existing Permit
  – Corrective Action Plan (CAP)

• Reviewed by SCDHEC
  – No set time tables for review

• SCDHEC determines it is complete or issues NOD
• SCDHEC issues draft permit after application is complete
• 45 day public comment period
  – www.scdhec.gov/environment/admin/htm/eqpubnot.htm

• Final permit issued
• Protects human health and the environment from releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances (radionuclides and chemicals)

• Requires a Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) for federal facilities listed on NPL

• Cleanup actions contained within CERCLA Records of Decision (RODs)
  – Document signed by EPA, DOE and SCDHEC documenting cleanup decisions
  – Legally-binding documents
A tri-party agreement was executed in 1993 between EPA, SCDHEC, and DOE

- Directs the characterization and remediation of 515 units (e.g., basins, pits, piles where waste has been placed) and any new releases
- Integrates RCRA and CERCLA cleanup requirements
- Includes cleanup milestone schedules for waste units through Fiscal Year 2042 (FY42) (formerly FY31)
- Includes waste removal and closure milestones for 23 old style high level waste tanks (4 already closed)
• RCRA / CERCLA integration
• High Level Radioactive Waste (HLW) Tank Systems
• Administrative Record
• Decommissioning Facilities
• Area Operable Units
• Public Participation
• Funding
• Dispute Resolution
* SCDHEC has the right to invoke its authority to require corrective action in accordance with the South Carolina Hazardous Waste Management Act if the FFA dispute process has been exhausted. (FFA Section XLIV.D)
SRS is held up as the model in the DOE Complex for implementing a cleanup program with decisions that are technically risk-driven, cost effective and achieve incremental progress.

After decisions are made, these decisions are documented and parties work diligently to uphold.
Area Completion Approach

- In 2005, began implementing Area Completion Approach
- A systematic approach to completing cleanup work integrating Deactivation & Decommissioning (D&D) and Soils and Groundwater (S&G) scope

Historical process:
- Did not focus on any single area
- Evaluated individual waste units (some located in remote areas) with much paperwork and higher costs
- Did not address D&D facilities

Today’s process:
- Addresses groupings of waste units and facilities in 15 geographic areas
- Integrates facilities / waste unit cleanup
- Area End States determined up front with the regulators
- Economies of scale in sampling, remediation and documentation (one set of documents for each of the 15 areas)
Summary

- EPA, SCDHEC and DOE work collaboratively to develop and implement sound remediation approaches
- FFA allows for effective integration of complex regulatory laws without duplicative effort and paperwork
- SRS cleanup program ensures protectiveness of off-site communities
  - Groundwater
  - Operating facilities

QUESTIONS??