



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY



Screening and Evaluating Land Use and Resource Requests at Savannah River Site

DOE-SR Presentation for CAB

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Purpose

To Educate the CAB on the SRS Land Use Planning and Evaluation Process



What is the SRS Land Use Plan?

The Savannah River Site (SRS) Land Use Plan is a strategic level document that identifies the key elements of land use planning and management.

- DOE Order 430.1C (*Real Property Asset Management*) requires integrated land use planning at all of its sites to ensure support of DOE missions, and to ensure appropriate reuse of land no longer needed.
- SRS is required to establish and maintain a land use management process and plan.
- All SRS land is owned and controlled by the US Department of Energy.
- Specific uses of SRS land are determined by missions established for DOE, other Federal agencies and Congress.

Site Land Use Planning Assumptions

- SRS will maintain its current physical boundary under the ownership of the federal government in perpetuity, except where lease or transfer to private or public sector entities aligns with DOE objectives. Land use will be **non-residential**.
- Upon completion of environmental cleanup and nuclear materials disposition missions, long-term environmental monitoring responsibilities will be released to another DOE Program Secretarial Office.
- Canisters of vitrified high level nuclear waste will be shipped
- National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Defense Programs will continue as an enduring mission.
- Natural resources (forests, watersheds, endangered species) are valued site assets and will continue to be actively managed. Unique ecological habitats and archaeological sites will be protected & enhanced.
- SRS will continue to set aside specific research sites for the purpose of preserving non-industrial areas for environmental and ecological baseline data.
- Site infrastructure will be right-sized to support site missions.

Primary SRS Missions

The primary SRS missions are:

- ✓ EM Legacy Cleanup
- ✓ NNSA Tritium Enterprise
- ✓ NNSA Proposed Plutonium Pit Production Project
- ✓ NNSA Surplus Plutonium Disposition
- ✓ NNSA Nonproliferation Program

- Existing SRS missions and mission support activities occupy about 7% of site land area.

- The facility layout of SRS locates major radioactive operations away from the Site boundaries, creating a substantial buffer zone to reduce the risk of accidental exposure to the general public.
- The regulatory authorization for operation of SRS nuclear facilities requires maintaining the Site boundary as it currently exists.

Federal Land Use	Approximate Area	
	Acres	Percent
Primary SRS Missions/Mission Support (Industrial Areas)	14,076	7%
Research Set-Aside Areas	14,005	7%
Land Buffer for Nuclear Activities/ Natural Resource Management	169,965	86%
Site Total	198,046	100%

Other Key Site Activities

- **SREL:** The University of Georgia operates the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL) for DOE-SR. The SREL provides DOE, stakeholders and the public an independent assessment of the impacts of SRS operations on the environment, delivered through research, education and public outreach programs.
 - Designated as the first of seven National Environmental Research Parks (NERP) by the Atomic Energy Commission (DOE), SRS is an important ecological component of the Southeastern Mixed Forest Ecoregion. Integral to the SRS NERP are the DOE Research Set-Aside Areas.
 - Scattered across the SRS, these 30 tracts of land have been reserved for ecological research and are protected from public access and most routine site maintenance and forest management activities. Ranging in size from 8.5 acres to 7,364 acres, the 30 DOE Set-Aside Areas total 14,005 acres and comprise approximately 7% of the Site's total area.
 - Long-term ecological studies are conducted in these Set-Aside Areas, which also serve as control areas for evaluation of the potential impacts of SRS operations on other regions of the Site. The SREL is custodian of the Set-Aside Areas.

Other Key Site Activities (continued)

- **USFS-SR:** The United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service - Savannah River (USFS-SR) conducts a comprehensive natural resource management program for the SRS under an interagency agreement with DOE-SR. This includes wildland fire suppression, threatened and endangered species restoration, invasive species control, habitat management, watershed management, boundary maintenance, management of secondary roads, timber management program and related research.
- **Military Training:** DOE-SR has an interagency agreement with the U.S. Army for the use of specific areas on approximately 88,000 acres of the Site to conduct low intensity, non-live-fire tactical maneuver training activities in support of National Defense mission requirements. Military training at SRS by all components of the U.S. Armed Forces is coordinated by the South Carolina Army National Guard (SCARNG).
- **Three Rivers Landfill:** DOE-SR permits the use of 1,380 acres of land to the Three Rivers Solid Waste Authority, a nine county partnership, for operation of a regional landfill. In addition to providing waste disposal services to local governments within the partner counties, SRS uses the landfill for some of its own solid waste disposal needs.

Expressed Interest in SRS Land By Other Than DOE

- Except for the possibility of some limited areas around the site perimeter, unrestricted use of major portions of SRS land is not now envisioned. However, some SRS land may be suitable for non-DOE uses. For example,
 - DOE approved operation of a Regional Landfill at SRS.
 - Commercial Cell Towers on leased DOE property.
- SRS currently supports military training exercises in non-restricted areas of the site.
 - In 2018, DOE-SR signed a Permit providing 750 acres of SRS land to the Department of the Army for the construction of training support facilities by the South Carolina Military Department (SCMD).
 - These facilities will serve the SCMD, other military organizations, other federal agencies and SRNL by enhancing our nation's ability to respond to natural, man-made or criminal events involving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNE) materials.
- The Site anticipates future interest by both public and private entities in new uses of its land. The Site is evaluating which, if any, tracts of land may be excess to our DOE missions to eliminate under-utilized federal property.

Land Use Control Process

- Use of all land and water on the SRS are coordinated via the Site Use Program.
- To assure proper configuration control, all land use requires an approved Site Use Permit.
 - A Site Use (SU) evaluation may also include use of the Site Selection Process to determine the most appropriate locations for an activity.
 - Evaluations also include use of a Computer Aided Design System of site wide coverage depicting all approved SU permit boundaries.
 - Each SU boundary is also linked to a Site Use System Administration database.
- Prior to the start of any new work on SRS land, a Site Clearance Permit is required.

Types of SRS Real Property Agreements

- **Lease** - Any agreement which gives rise to relationship of landlord and tenant (Real Property) or lessor and lessee (Real or Personal Property).
- **Permit** - In general any document which grants a person or entity the right to do something. A Permit is the equivalent of a Lease between two Federal Agencies.
- **Cooperative Agreement** - An agreement between the United States and a State, a local government, or other recipient when the principal purpose of the relationship is to transfer something of value to the State, local government, etc. to carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by federal law instead of acquiring (by purchase, lease or barter) property or services for the direct benefit or use of the U.S. Government.
- **Transfer** - An act of the parties or of the law by which the title to property is conveyed from one person or entity to another.

Existing Land Use Agreements

310 sq. mi. / 198,046 acres controlled by DOE

DOE

- EM and NNSA Missions
- Post Mission Activities
- Natural Resource Management
- Research Set-Aside Areas

Non-DOE

- Economic Development
- Military Training
- Cell Towers
- Other Uses



SRS Land Assigned for Non-DOE Use

Land Use	Party	Area	Type
SREL Lab Facilities and Offices	University of Georgia	65 Acres	Cooperative Agreement
Conference Center	University of Georgia	68 Acres	Permit
Three Rivers Landfill	Three Rivers Solid Waste Authority	1,380 Acres	Permit
Crackerneck Wildlife Management Area	South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources	10,460 Acres	Cooperative Agreement
Cell Phone Towers	SBA Towers and VB-S1 Assets	8 Acres	Lease
Laboratory Space	Dept. of Justice FBI	6,700 Sq. Ft.	Permit
Industrial Park	South Carolina Advanced Tech Park (Barnwell County)	2,487 Acres	Transfer (1970)
Local Training Area	Dept. of Army and SCMD	750 Acres	Permit
Total		15,218 Acres	

SRS Land Use Request Process

