

To Our Readers

Highlights

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Order 231.1B (Environment, Safety, and Health Reporting) requires Annual Site Environmental Reports (ASERs) assess both environmental program performance and sitewide environmental monitoring and surveillance effectiveness. ASERs also confirm that sites are complying with environmental standards and requirements.

ASERs are prepared in a manner that addresses likely public concerns and to solicit feedback from the public and other stakeholders. The Savannah River Site (SRS) began publishing ASERs in 1959.

Readers can find the *SRS Environmental Report* at the following address:

srs.gov/general/pubs/ERsum/index.html

The *SRS Environmental Report 2024* is an overview of environmental management activities conducted on and in the vicinity of the Savannah River Site (SRS) from January 1 through December 31, 2024. This report includes the following:

- A summary of environmental management systems that facilitate sound stewardship practices and demonstrate compliance with applicable environmental regulations and laws intended to protect air, water, land, and other natural and cultural resources that SRS operations have impacted.
- A summary of the results of nonradiological parameters. These results are compared to permit limits and applicable standards.
- A summary of the results of radiological effluent monitoring and environmental surveillance of air, water, soil, vegetation, biota, and agricultural products to determine radioactivity in these media. SRS compares the results with historical data and background measurements, and to applicable standards and requirements to verify that SRS does not adversely impact the environment or the health of humans or biota.
- A discussion of the potential dose to members of the public from radioactive releases from SRS operations compared to applicable standards and regulations, and from special-case exposure scenarios.
- An explanation of the quality assurance and quality control program, which ensures that samples and data SRS collects and analyzes are reported with utmost confidence.
- A discussion of per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances. Chapter 9 was created for the 2022 *SRS Environmental Report* in response to the challenges these emerging contaminants of concern present to SRS and the environment. This year's chapter discussion updates the Site's efforts to assess PFAS presence at the Site and to determine appropriate action.

The report addresses three general levels of reader interest:

- 1) **Level 1**—The first level is a brief summary with a “take-home” conclusion. This is presented in the “Highlights” text box at the beginning of each chapter. There are no technical tables, figures, or graphs in the “Highlights.”
- 2) **Level 2**—The second level consists of the chapters presented in the annual report content. The chapters offer a more in-depth discussion with figures, summary tables, and summary graphs accompanying the text, which requires some familiarity with scientific data and graphs.
- 3) **Level 3**—The third level is supplemental and technical reports and websites that support the annual report. The Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) that lead to this information on the internet may be found in the “In-text Reference Links” section that precedes Chapter 1 of this report or on the [SRS Environmental Report 2024 webpage](#). Blue text in the report indicates that there is an associated URL that when copied into your browser will take you to additional information. Many of the reports mentioned in Chapter 3, *Compliance Summary*, are submitted to meet compliance requirements and are not available on the *SRS Environmental Report 2024* webpage or through an “In-text Reference Links” section listing. These reports may be obtained through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. Similarly, the raw data used to prepare Appendices C and D, which support findings presented in Chapter 4, *Nonradiological Environmental Monitoring Program*, and Chapter 5, *Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program*, are available to the public through a FOIA request. The raw data are also submitted to the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services.

When a regulation or U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Order requires reporting on a fiscal year (FY) basis, the information in this report is reported by FY. This allows for consistency with existing documentation. FY reporting is typically found in Chapter 2, *Environmental Management System*, and Chapter 3, *Compliance Summary*. The government FY is from October 1 to September 30. Information not designated as applicable to the FY is reported for the calendar year (January 1 to December 31).

The [SRS Environmental Report webpage](#) contains reports from multiple years with the 2024 report being the latest. The report’s webpage is broken down into the following:

- The full report with website addresses to supplemental information or reports
- Maps with environmental sampling locations for the various media samples. These figures are identified as “Maps Figure” within the text of the report
- Annual reports from SRS organizations

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC (SRNS) develops this report as the management and operations contractor to the DOE at SRS. In addition to SRNS, the contributors to the annual report include the National Nuclear Security Administration-Savannah River Field Office (NNSA-SRFO); U.S. Department of Energy, the Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR); Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC); Batelle Savannah River Alliance (BSRA); Centerra-SRS; Ameresco Federal Solutions; the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL); and the United States Forest Service-Savannah River (USFS-SR).

Note:

The ASER is a backwards-facing document, focusing this year on actions taken in 2024. Since that time, the Administration has canceled a number of Executive Orders and established different policies regarding certain topics that have previously been discussed in prior year reports. ASER reporting is used to help supplement the requirements of DOE Orders (DOE O) which were contractually applicable to DOE sites in part or all of 2024, including DOE O 231.1B, Admin Chg 1, Environment, Safety and Health Reporting (November 2012), and DOE O 458.1, Chg 4, Radiation Protection of the Public and the Environment (September 2020).

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