



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

ROD Issued for D-Area Oil Seepage Basin Operable Unit

The United States Department of Energy (DOE), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) have selected remedial approaches for Savannah River Site's (SRS) D-Area Oil Seepage Basins (DAOSB) operable unit. A 45-day public comment period for the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan and the associated draft Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit modification was held from May 1, 1998, to June 14, 1998. The remedial decision is documented in the ROD. This document includes a responsiveness summary that addresses public comments. DOE has worked with SCDHEC and EPA to ensure the remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

DOE, the EPA, and SCDHEC have determined that remedial action is necessary for this unit. The preferred remedial action is:

(1) No further action is required at the DAOSB subsurface soils due to an interim action (April 1996) and bio-vent testing being performed at this unit that eliminated the source of groundwater contamination. Remedial alternatives were not developed for surface soils, surface water, or sediments at the unit since no contaminants were found in these media. Remediation of these media is not warranted based on the evaluation of Federal and State standards and the risk assessment.

(2) The DAOSB proposed groundwater alternative is Natural Attenuation/Groundwater Mixing Zone with institutional controls. Under this alternative, natural attenuation mechanisms such as biodegradation, flushing, volatilization,

absorption, and hydrolysis would continue to reduce contaminant concentrations in the groundwater to acceptable primary drinking water standards. The alternatives considered for the groundwater include: No Action, Natural Attenuation/Groundwater Mixing Zone, Air Sparging and Extraction/Stripping/Discharge.

The remedial action is intended to be permanent and effective in both the long and near terms.

Copies of the ROD and Interim Record of Decision are available in the administrative record.

The ROD is also available on the Internet in the SRS Home Page (<http://www.srs.gov>), under "Happening Now," (<http://www.srs.gov/general/srs-home.htm>) and on the SRS Environmental Restoration Home Page, under "Public Involvement," (<http://www.srs.gov/general/srenviro/erd/pub/pubinv.html>).

For additional information, contact Jim Moore at the address listed below.

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Savannah River Site
Building 742-A
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1-800-249-8155
jim02.moore@srs.gov

The administrative record for both the D-Area Oil Seepage Basin Operable Unit ROD and the CBRP operable unit ROD is available in the information repositories listed on **page 3**.

Interim ROD Issued

The United States Department of Energy (DOE), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) have selected an interim remedial action for Savannah River Site's (SRS) C-Area Burning/Rubble Pit (CBRP) operable unit. A 30-day public comment period for the Interim Action/Proposed Plan was held from April 17 to May 16, 1998. The interim remedial decision is documented in the Interim Record of Decision document. This document includes a responsiveness summary, that addresses any public comments submitted to SRS on the action. The DOE has worked with SCDHEC and EPA to ensure the interim remedial action is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

DOE, EPA, and SCDHEC determined that an interim remedial action is necessary for this unit. The interim remedial action selected is:

(1) source unit and its soils - placement of a native soil cover in conjunction with institutional controls. The soil cover will act as a barrier to prevent soil exposure to future human and ecological receptors and will also reduce the infiltration of rainwater and thereby limit the potential migration of contaminants from the CBRP soils to the groundwater;

(2) groundwater - In-situ air sparging combined with soil vapor extraction in the upper water table. This part of the interim action is intended to remove the high concentrations of solvents (primarily trichloroethylene, TCE) and also provide limited control over the migration of the plume.

The groundwater treatment system will operate for approximately 5 years. In the meantime, SRS will complete the groundwater characterization and evaluate the effectiveness of the groundwater treatment system.

EPA and the SCDHEC will evaluate a final remedial action for the operable unit.

Public comment period on SRS debris NOI extended

In response to citizen requests, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 is extending the time for public comment upon a notice of intent (NOI) to approve a request to determine that certain debris at the Savannah River Site (SRS) is no longer contaminated with hazardous waste. The public review and comment period will be extended by 45 days, from April 22, 1999, to June 7, 1999.

Westinghouse Savannah River Co. requested that EPA determine that debris from closing two wastewater treatment facilities and a research melter at SRS is no longer contaminated with hazardous waste. The debris will consist of tanks from the M-Area Liquid Effluent Treatment Facility (LETf); the vitrification unit and storage tanks from the Vendor Treatment Facility (VTF); and the research melter from the Savannah River Technology Center (SRTC). The vitrification unit is a type of furnace that makes waste less hazardous by turning it into glass. The SRTC research melter is also a glass-making unit and is used for studying highly radioactive hazardous waste.

The Regional Administrator of EPA, Region 4, intends to approve the request and determine that the LEFT, VTF, and SRTC debris described above is no longer contaminated with hazardous waste, for the following reasons:

(1) The Regional Administrator believes that WSRC has demonstrated that the debris can be cleaned so that only small amounts of hazardous chemicals will remain on the debris, and they will not be dangerous to human health and the environment.

(2) WSRC will dispose of the debris in accordance with the Atomic Energy Act, which will protect human health and the environment from radioactivity and the small amounts of hazardous chemicals that remain on the debris.

Copies of the request, the notice of intent to approve, and all relevant documents are available for review by the public at the EPA Library located at:

U.S. EPA, Region 4
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 562-8190

Copies of these documents are also available for review by the public at:

DOE Public Reading Room
Gregg-Graniteville Library
University of South Carolina at Aiken
171 University Parkway
Aiken, SC 29801
(803) 641-3465

SC Department of Health and Environmental Control
Lower Savannah District Environmental Quality Control
218 Beaufort Street, N.E.
Aiken, SC 29801
Myra Reece, Director
Phone: (803) 641-7670
FAX: (803) 641-7675

Copies of the documents may be obtained from Dr. Judy Sophianopoulos at the above EPA address, or by calling 1-800-241-1745 and leaving a message for Dr. Sophianopoulos, with your name, address and phone number. She will return your phone call and respond to questions. Technical questions can be directed to Mr. Jim Moore, WSRC Public Involvement, at (803) 725-5663.

Please submit comments in writing to Mr. John H. Hankinson, Jr., Regional Administrator, at the above EPA address. A public meeting will be held if significant interest is expressed. A request for a public meeting should be made in writing to Mr. Hankinson.

Before reaching a final decision, the Regional Administrator will take into account all public comments on this request for a determination that the debris above is no longer contaminated with hazardous waste.

for more information

For additional information or to request a public meeting contact:

Jim Moore

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Building 742-A
Aiken, SC 29808
1-800-249-8155
jim02.moore@srs.gov

or

SCDHEC

**Attn: John Litton, P.E., Director
Division of Hazardous and Infectious Waste Mgt.
Bureau of Land and Waste Management**
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: (803) 896-4000

Need NEPA documents?

The Annual NEPA Planning Summary, required by DOE Order 451.1A, is available by writing, calling, or emailing the following addresses

Andrew R. Grainger

U.S. Department of Energy
Savannah River Operations Office

Building 742-A, Rm. 185
Aiken, S.C. 29802
E-mail: nepa@srs.gov
1-800-881-7292

Current NEPA actions affecting SRS

• **Accelerator for Production of Tritium (APT) (DOE/EIS-0270)**, The Secretary has selected the Commercial Light Water Reactor (CLWR) as the primary tritium production technology with APT as backup. Publication of the final EIS was March 12, 1999, and ROD is expected in May.

• **Tritium Extraction Facility (TEF) (DOE/EIS-0271)**, The Secretary has selected the CLWR as the primary tritium production technology with APT as backup. Publication of the final EIS was March 12, 1999, and the ROD is expected in May.

• **Rocky Flats Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy (DOE/EIS-0277)**, The final EIS was issued on August 28, 1998 (63 FR 46006). The first ROD was issued December 1, 1998 (63 FR 66316). The second ROD was issued February 18, 1999 (64 FR 8068).

• **SRS Spent Nuclear Fuel (DOE/EIS-0279)**, The draft EIS was issued December 17, 1998. Public meetings were held January 28, 1999, in Columbia, SC and February 4, 1999, in North Augusta, SC. Publication of the final EIS is projected for May, 1999.

• **DOE Programmatic Waste Management (DOE/EIS-0200)**, Multiple RODs will be issued. Planned RODs are HLW storage and Low Level Waste (LLW)/Low Level Mixed Waste (LLMW), early 1999. A supplemental analysis for new waste amounts is being developed by DOE.

• **Closure of High Level Waste Tanks at SRS (DOE/EIS-0303)**, The NOI was issued December 29, 1998 (63FR71628). The public scoping meetings were held January 14, 1999, in North Augusta, SC, and January 19, 1999 in Columbia, SC. Publication of the draft EIS is projected for August 1999.

• **Surplus Plutonium Disposition (DOE/EIS-0282)**, Public comments are being addressed and the final EIS is being prepared. The expected issue date for the final EIS is July 1999 and the ROD, August 1999.

• **Wetland Mitigation Bank Program (DOE/EA-1205)**, Based on the EA, a FONSI was signed and issued April 28, 1999.

• **Par Pond Dam Repair Project (DOE/EA-1285)**, The draft EA is currently being prepared. A decision (FONSI or EIS) is expected mid1999.

• **Salt Disposition Alternatives SEIS (DOE/EIS-0082-52)**, The NOI was issued February 22, 1999. The public scoping meetings were held in Columbia, SC on March 11, 1999, and in North Augusta, SC, on March 18, 1999. The public scoping period ended April 8, 1999.

EA -- Environmental Assessment

EIS -- Environmental Impact Statement

FONSI -- Finding of No Significant Impact

NOI -- Notice of Intent

ROD -- Record of Decision

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

- DOE Public Reading Room
Gregg-Graniteville Library,
USC-Aiken, Aiken, SC
- Thomas Cooper Library,
Government Documents
Department, USC
Columbia, SC
- Reese Library, Augusta
State University
Augusta, GA
- Asa H. Gordon Library
Savannah State University,
Savannah, GA

INTERNET ACCESS

SRS Home Page,
<http://www.srs.gov>

PWMS accelerates technology deployment



Above, water samples are routinely taken for testing purposes from PWMS like the one located in front of the Burial Ground on Road E.

Environmental Restoration's Purge Water Management System (PWMS) has received the boost needed to move forward with deployment faster. Earlier this year, the DOE EM-50 Accelerated Site Technology Deployment Program approved funding for an accelerated deployment of the system.

A team of SRS engineers and scientists developed, patented and successfully demonstrated PWMS, a monitoring well purging mechanism. The system returns cleansed water to the originating aquifer after a sampling event, which minimizes wastewater and reduces costs. A cost saving of \$400,000 is realized in waste minimization and pollution prevention when using the PWMS.

Because of regulations, the site has experienced substantial increase in waste management costs for purge water containment, treatment and disposal.

PWMS is another example of the site's commitment to introducing new and innovative technologies to complete our work safer, faster and cost-effectively.

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

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