



Environmental Bulletin

Volume 10, Number 16
October 28, 1999

from the Savannah River Site

Public meeting announced

*U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY, REGION 4 ANNOUNCEMENT
OF PUBLIC MEETING ON INTENT TO
APPROVE A REQUEST FOR A
DETERMINATION THAT CERTAIN
DEBRIS AT THE SAVANNAH RIVER SITE
IS NO LONGER CONTAMINATED WITH
HAZARDOUS WASTE*

In response to requests by the public, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 4, announces a public meeting on the notice of intent to approve a request to determine that certain debris at the Savannah River Site (SRS) in Aiken, South Carolina, is no longer contaminated with hazardous waste.

The public meeting will be held on November 10, 1999, from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m., in the Richland County Public Library, 1431 Assembly Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201-3101, (803) 799-9084.

EPA will take into account all comments by the public, before making a final decision on this request by the Savannah River Site, and will notify the public of the final decision.

If you have questions for EPA, you may call 1-800-241-1754, and leave a message for Dr. Judy Sophianopoulos, or call her directly at (404) 562-8604. Questions for the SRS may be directed to Mr. Jim Moore, Public Involvement, at (803) 725-5663.

EA being prepared on alternate DWPF canister storage

DOE has determined that an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared to evaluate the potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed alternate Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) glass waste canister storage facility at the Savannah River Site (SRS), located near Aiken, South Carolina. At the current rate of production of about 250 canisters per year, the existing glass waste storage building would be filled by 2005. Based on this production rate, there is a projected need for additional glass waste storage capacity for the DWPF canisters. A second facility, similar to the existing glass waste storage building, would be very expensive to construct and operate. In addition, the site currently has approximately 50 million pounds of uranium trioxide powder in storage. This is a low-hazard material that nonetheless presents some risk of release and safety hazard if kept in storage for a prolonged period of time. DOE has considered two viable options.

One option is to continue storage in SRS in new facilities with a very high cost associated with the retrieval of the uranium trioxide powder and the construction of such facilities. The other option would be to ship the material outside SRS for disposal, also a very expensive task.

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide the additional DWPF canister storage

capacity while arranging for the final disposition of the SRS uranium trioxide powder inventory in a more cost-effective manner than is currently planned for each of these site issues. The proposed action consists of building and operating an above ground concrete storage pad for casks containing the DWPF canisters. The storage casks would be fabricated by a commercial vendor using the SRS's inventory of uranium trioxide powder. The vendor would take possession of the uranium trioxide powder at SRS and transport it to their offsite facility to be made into the storage casks. These fabricated casks would be the property of the vendor, and they would be removed from SRS by the vendor when storage is no longer required.

A notification of DOE's intent to prepare this EA will be sent to South Carolina and Georgia. If you wish to request a copy of the draft EA when it becomes available, please contact:

Andrew R. Grainger
NEPA Compliance Officer
U. S. Department of Energy
Savannah River Operations Office
Building 742-A, Room 185
Aiken, SC 29808
e-mail: nepa@srs.gov
Fax/telephone (800) 881-7292

Hazardous Waste Permit Application Modification

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)-Savannah River Operations Office has requested from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) modifications to Savannah River Site's (SRS) 1992 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Part B Permit Renewal Application for Volume I, which details general site information, and Volume II, which details operations at the Hazardous Waste Storage Facility (HWSF).

The revision to Volume I (Rev. 8) updates Appendix 6, Solid Waste Management Units at SRS. The revision to Volume 2 (Rev. 8) includes several Class 1 and Class 2 modifications.

This notice begins a 60-day comment period. More information, including the actual permit applications, is available for review and copying at the DOE Public Reading Room located in the University of South Carolina-Aiken library, or by contacting personnel listed below. The permittees compliance history during the life of the permits being modified is available from the Agency contact person.

A public meeting will be held November 30 at 3 p.m. at the Aiken County Public Library. Representatives from SRS will be available to answer questions. Written comments may be sent to SCDHEC. All comments will be considered in the final decision.

For more information contact:

Jim Moore
Westinghouse Savannah River Company
Savannah River Site
742-A, Aiken, SC 29808
(803) 725-5663

e-mail: jim02.moore@srs.gov

Send your comments to:

J.T. Litton, Director
Division of Hazardous and Infectious
Waste
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
SCDHEC
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201-1708

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The SRS

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

Jim Moore

Muriel Carter Cooney

WSRC

WSRC

Aiken, S.C. 29808

Public Relations

(800) 249-8155

(803) 725-0268

e-mail: jjm02.moore@srs.gov

Access the Environmental Notice web site:

<http://www.SRS.GOV/general/srenviro/envbul/ebinex.htm>