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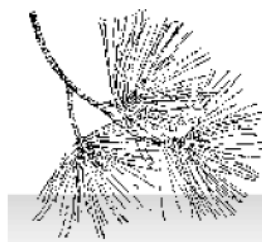


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For more information on this or other
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Environmental
Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Public may review documents

Central Shops Burning/Rubble Pits Operable Unit

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) will release a Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan on February 7, 2002, describing the proposed remedial approach for the Central Shops Burning/Rubble Pits (CSBRP) Operable Unit (OU) at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) will also release a draft Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit modification for the proposed remedial action for this unit. These documents will be available for public review and copying at the locations listed below. The public comment period is scheduled for February 7, 2002, to March 23, 2002.

DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and SCDHEC have reviewed the risks associated with this unit and have evaluated cleanup alternatives.

The proposed remedial action consists of institutional controls (in conjunction with improved stormwater management).

The proposed action is designed to maintain industrial land use through institutional controls. There is no additional proposed alternative (other than No Action alternative) for this OU so a comparison was only made between Institutional Controls alternative and No Action alternative. The proposed action was selected because it offers the most cost-effective method of managing the low risks associated with the CSBRP OU.

This alternative will be protective of human health and the environment. It is also intended to be the final action for the Central Shops Burning/Rubble Pits Operable Unit.

The CSBRP OU is located in the central part of the SRS, approximately 6.5 miles from the nearest site boundary. It is in the northern part of N Area (also known as Central Shops), approximately .6 miles south of the intersection of SRS Road 5 and SRS Road C. Prior to 1951, the CSBRP OU area was

farmland, an area of moderate relief. The pits are located in cleared areas adjacent to wooded lands. Drainage ditches and the flow paths of stormwater runoff have changed over time. During the disposal activities, each pit had at least one drainage ditch to receive water directly from that pit.

Pit 631-1G and Pits 631-3G/3GA received hazardous materials (e.g., asbestos and paint cans) along with nonhazardous materials (e.g., ash, paper, and glass) at various times from the 1950s to the mid-1980s.

Comments on the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan and the draft RCRA permit modification are requested by March 23, 2002. Upon completion of the public comment period, a Responsiveness Summary that addresses public comments will be prepared. The Responsiveness Summary will be made available with the Record of Decision and the final RCRA permit decision and will be sent to each person who submits comments.

Copies of the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan are available in the administrative record, which also contains the RCRA Facility Investigation/Remedial Investigation with Risk Assessment Report for this unit. The administrative record is available in the information repositories listed below:

- DOE Public Reading Room at the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC;
- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC;

Hard copies of the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan are available at the following:

- Reese Library at Augusta State University in Augusta, GA; and
- Asa H. Gordon Library at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA. *continued on page 3*

—Public may view *SRS NEPA Planning Summary* —

The Department of Energy-Savannah River Site (DOE-SRS) has prepared the 2002 version of the annual SRS National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Planning Summary in accordance with DOE Order 451.1B. This document, which is available to the public, describes the status of ongoing NEPA compliance activities, status of environmental assessments (EAs), NEPA values impact assessments (VIAs), Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analyses (EE/CAs) and environmental impact statements (EISs) and the planned cost and schedule of each NEPA review.

DOE-SRS is currently preparing no EAs but anticipates preparation of one or more new EAs over the next 12 months. DOE-SRS is currently supporting the preparation of two programmatic environmental assessments (PEAs)

by other DOE offices and does not anticipate any additional PEAs in the next 12 months. DOE-SRS intends to incorporate NEPA values in the CERCLA reviews of SRS closure actions and at this time has two actions in process, a NEPA VIA and an EE/CA. DOE-SRS anticipates starting one VIA and one EE/CA in the next 12 months. DOE-SRS is in the process of preparing one EIS and does not anticipate initiating any additional EISs in the next 24 months.

The cost information included in the report is current through December 2001. An electronic version of the document is available at the SRS NEPA Home Page Address, <http://www.srs.gov/general/enviro/nepa/NEPA.HTML>. To request a hard copy, call 1-800-881-7292 or email nepa@srs.gov.

Current NEPA actions affecting SRS

• *Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain (DOE/EIS-0250)*

This environmental impact statement (EIS) assesses the potential environmental impacts from construction, operation, and closure of a Nuclear Regulatory Commission-licensed geologic repository for disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste. The draft EIS was released August 1999. A Supplemental EIS was distributed in May 2001 to address a new engineering design. DOE expects to issue the final EIS in 2002.

• *SRS High Level Waste Tank (HLW) Closure (DOE/EIS-0303)*

The proposed action is to close the SRS HLW Tanks in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, DOE Orders and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control permit requirements. The draft EIS was released in November 2000. Public meetings were held in January 2001. The final EIS is expected in early 2002.

• *Disposition of Metals That May Contain Residual Radioactivity (DOE/EIS-0327)*

This programmatic EIS will evaluate alternatives for disposition of scrap metals from DOE sites that may have been in radiological areas. The disposition options to be analyzed include continuation of the suspension on unrestricted release of metals for recycling, unrestricted release of scrap metals for recycling, and disposal. The Notice of Intent for this programmatic EIS was issued on July 12. Public meetings were held on July 31, 2001, in North Augusta, SC. The schedule is uncertain.

• *Removal, Transportation and Storage of Strontium-90 Radioisotopic Thermoelectric Generators (RTG) (DOE/EA-1351)*

This programmatic environmental assessment (PEA) is being developed jointly by DOE and the U.S. Air Force. It addresses: (1) the removal and transportation of 10 Strontium-90 RTGs from Burnt Mountain Seismic Array Laboratory in Alaska to a DOE site or an Air Force facility; and (2) long-term storage of the 10 identified plus about 50 other RTGs. The draft PEA is expected to be available in February 2002. The DOE decision to either issue a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) or notice of intent to prepare an EIS is projected for April 2002.

• *Storage, Transportation, and Disposition of Potentially Reusable Uranium Materials (DOE/EA-1393)*

DOE-OR is preparing a PEA to implement a comprehensive management program to safely, efficiently, and effectively store its potentially reusable low enriched uranium, normal uranium, and depleted uranium. The comprehensive management program addressed in this PEA looks at transportation, including preparation of uranium materials for safe shipment, long-term storage, and maintenance. Distribution of the draft PEA is expected in April 2002. The DOE decision to either issue a FONSI or notice of intent to prepare an EIS is projected for July 2002. (See related article on page 3)

• *Closure of R-Reactor Disassembly Basin at the SRS (DOE/EE/CA-0001)*

An Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EECA) proposes a non-time critical removal action to address the interim threats

continued on page 3

Current NEPA actions affecting SRS *continued from Page 2*

(DOE/EE/CA-0001 *continued from Page 2*)

of release and the potential threats to worker safety and health. Closure of the R-Reactor disassembly basin will be evaluated through the EE/CA process. DOE-SR plans to release the draft EE/CA for a 30-day public comment period. Following that, a memorandum documenting the decision on the selection of the closure alternative would be prepared and transmitted to the public by DOE-SR. The draft EE/CA is currently being prepared.

• *Remediation of the TNX-Area Operable Unit at SRS (DOE/VIA-0002)*

The NEPA Values Impact Assessment (VIA) accompanies the CERCLA review of alternatives for remediation of the TNX Operable Unit (OU) at SRS. The proposed CERCLA action is to identify preferred remedial alternatives for addressing the TNX-Area OU and to provide an opportunity for public input into the remedy selection process. A draft VIA is currently being prepared. DOE-SR plans to issue the final TNX VIA in March 2002.

Central Shops Burning/Rubble Pits Operable Unit *continued from Page 1*

The Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan is also available on the Internet in the SRS Home Page under (<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>).

Copies of the draft RCRA permit modification/s are available for review at SCDHEC during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, at the following locations:

SCDHEC
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
8901 Farrow Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29203
Phone: (803)896-4000

or

SCDHEC
Lower Savannah District
Environmental Quality Control Office
218 Beaufort St., N.E.
Aiken, SC 29802
Phone: (803) 641-7670

If there is interest in discussing this recommended remedial approach, a public hearing may be requested. Comments on the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan should be sent to Mr. Jim Moore and Mr. John Litton. Comments on the draft RCRA permit modification or requests for a public hearing should be sent to Mr. John Litton. For additional information or to request a public meeting contact:

Jim Moore
Westinghouse Savannah River Company
Savannah River Site
Building 742-A
Aiken, SC 29808
1-800-249-8155
jim02.moore@srs.gov

or

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

Programmatic EA being prepared on Reusable Uranium Storage

The U.S. Department of Energy, Oak Ridge Operations Office (DOE-OR) is preparing a programmatic environmental assessment (PEA) to implement a comprehensive management program to safely, efficiently, and effectively store its potentially reusable low enriched uranium, normal uranium, and depleted uranium. DOE currently has about 14,300 metric tons of potentially reusable uranium materials in 133 locations in the United States. This PEA would evaluate the storage of these materials in either one centralized site or several consolidated sites based on the proximity of the present storage locations and uranium product forms. Storage of these materials would occur until future sale or reuse alternatives are ready for decision making. SRS is being evaluated as one of several alternative storage sites under consideration. SRS currently has an inventory of approximately 2800 metric tons of

potentially reusable uranium materials onsite. The proposed action addressed in this PEA encompasses both transportation and long-term storage issues. DOE-OR expects to distribute the draft PEA in April of 2002.

If you would like a copy of the draft PEA (DOE/EA-1393) when it becomes available, please contact:

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