



# Environmental Bulletin

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*from the Savannah River Site*

## Record of Decision for the R-Area Acid/Caustic 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) R-Area Acid/Caustic Basin (RAACB) operable unit (OU). 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 December 20, 2001 to February 2, 2002.

DOE, the EPA, and SCDHEC have determined that the preferred remedial action for this unit is no action.

The RAACB operable unit consists of the acid/caustic basin, the inactive process pipeline and the overflow drainage ditch. The acid/caustic basin is an unlined earthen basin excavated below grade. The inactive process pipeline connected the water purification facilities to the acid/caustic basin. The overflow drainage ditch conveys basin discharges to the surface drainage that feeds into Pond 4, about 0.75 miles southeast of the RAACB.

RAACB is the last of the six original acid/caustic basins operated at SRS. In 1964, R-Reactor was the first reactor to shut down giving the RAACB the shortest operating history (10 years) of the six basins. F, H, K, and P Areas acid/caustic basins operated for 28 years, and L Area acid/caustic basin (LAACB) operated for 14 years. The six basins were managed similarly and received similar waste streams, predominantly spent dilute sulfuric acid and sodium hydroxide (caustic) solutions from the regeneration of ion exchange units in the water treatment facilities that supported reactor operations. Previous characterization data indicate that the constituents found in all six basins and their concentrations were essentially the same.

RAACB is located near the center of the SRS, approximately 5 miles from the nearest site boundary. The unit is south of the R-Area Reactor and approximately 100 feet south of SRS Road G.

The remedial decision is documented in the Record of

Decision document. 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.

Copies of the Record of Decision are available in the administrative record. 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; and
- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC.

Hard copies of the Record of Decision 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.

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

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