



# Environmental Bulletin

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*from the Savannah River Site*

## **Draft Environmental Assessment Prepared for a Replacement A-Area Steam Boiler Plant**

DOE has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) to analyze the potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed replacement source of steam at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The purpose of the proposed action is to replace the existing coal-fired A-Area steam boiler plant (Building 784-A), which was constructed in 1951 at SRS. The preferred alternative evaluated in the draft EA is a steam boiler plant consisting of two 30,000 pounds per hour boilers. The primary boiler would be wood-fired and would provide most of the steam required for AArea. The standby boiler would be fuel oil-fired and would operate when the primary boiler is taken offline for maintenance and also during the winter season to meet peak steam demand. The balance of the plant, which would include all associated fuel handling and storage equipment, would be contained inside of a protective structure housing an approximate three- to five-day biomass supply. The replacement boiler plant would be located near the current site of the existing A-Area boiler plant to allow for easy fuel and ash transportation access as well as connections to the existing A-Area infrastructure. An alternative location for the proposed facility is an existing asphalt parking lot located between Road 1-A and the Building 713-A pad near the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL). Extensive automation and control systems for boiler operation would be used to support operation of the replacement boilers. The primary end-user of steam from the replacement plant would be Savannah River Ecology Laboratory and SRNL.

The public comment period for this draft EA will be open until September 27, 2006. Any comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable. An electronic copy of the draft EA may be viewed by directing your browser to <http://www.srs.gov/general/pubs/envbul/nepa1.htm>.

Comments regarding and requests for hard copies of the draft EA should be sent to:

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