



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Early Action Proposed Plan for P Area Operable Unit Available for Public Comment

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) will release an Early Action Proposed Plan (EAPP) on June 16, 2008, describing the proposed early remedial approach for sub-units within the P Area Operable Unit (PAOU) at the Savannah River Site (SRS). This document will be available for public review and copying at the locations listed below. The public comment period is scheduled for June 16, 2008, to July 15, 2008.

The EAPP was completed to meet the terms of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), a law governing the investigation and cleanup of waste units. USDOE has worked with the United States Environmental Protection Agency-Region 4 (USEPA) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) to ensure this early remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

The purpose of this EAPP is three-fold:

- 1) to make a timely decision for the final end state of the P Reactor Building (105-P) including the disassembly basin, 108-1P and 108-2P Engine Houses, and 191-P Pumphouse, which will allow subsequent engineering efforts and regulatory decisions to focus only on closure alternatives that are appropriate for that end state;
- 2) to allow for the consolidation of remediation waste, primarily contaminated soils, inside the P Reactor Building (105-P) under the in situ end state; and
- 3) to propose specific remedial actions to address sources of risk at the PAOU that have been clearly identified and where early action will achieve significant risk reduction quickly, in advance of the final Record of Decision (ROD) for the PAOU.

Early remedial actions can occur in conjunction with long-term action at a site to ensure the site is cleaned up as quickly and effectively as possible. The scope of this EAPP is to describe the final end state decision for the P-Reactor Building (105-P) and the preferred early remedial alternatives for the five subunits within the PAOU, and to provide for public involvement in the decision-making process. This action, although taken early, is the final action for the following PAOU subunits:

Final End State Decision

- P-Reactor Building (105-P) including the disassembly basin, 108-1P and 108-2P Engine Houses, and 191-P Pumphouse

Early Remedial Action Decision

- Two Potential Source Areas (PSA) 3A and 3B that are contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs);
- Two wastewater outfalls (P02 and P007) that are radiologically contaminated from reactor process effluent; and
- A local high contamination area (HCA) of radioactively contaminated rail bed materials and soil along the P Reactor cask car railroad network.

This document proposes to:

- Select in situ decommissioning (ISD) as an acceptable alternative to off-site disposal for the P Reactor Building (105-P), which will allow the final PAOU ROD to focus on evaluating remedial alternatives that are consistent with ISD end state.
- Allow for consolidation within the P Reactor Building (105-P) of remedial waste generated from other subunits within the PAOU, subject to approval by the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) parties. Such consolidation would occur prior to final closure of the P Reactor Building (105-P) but would not delay implementation of any remedy for such closure.
- Perform early actions to eliminate two source zones of VOC contamination of groundwater at PSA-3A and PSA-3B.
- Perform an early action to eliminate radiologically contaminated soil at P007 and P02 Outfalls.
- Perform an early action to eliminate a localized HCA of radiologically contaminated rail bed material and soil along the P Reactor cask car railroad tracks.

P Reactor Building (105-P) was the second of the five nuclear reactors constructed at the SRS. The reactor went critical on February 20, 1954, and was operated continuously until 1988 when it was shut down for system upgrades. In 1991, the P Reactor was put into a “cold standby” status, followed by ‘cold shutdown with no capability of restart’ status in 1993. In its present state, all irradiated-fuel and target assemblies have been removed from the P Reactor Building (105-P) and all fluids have been drained from the process systems. Currently, the P-Reactor Building (105-P), together with facilities within the P Area fence, is undergoing deactivation in preparation for decommissioning. All electrical and mechanical hazards have been eliminated by severing or terminating the original lines that entered P Area. The P Reactor Building (105-P) has been declared “cold and dark” because of this action. To execute the deactivation work, a temporary power supply has been installed, and this will be removed after D&D is complete.

Public comments on the EAPP are requested by July 15, 2008. 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 Early Action Record of Decision and will be sent to each person who submits comments.

Copies of the EAPP are available in the FFA Administrative Record File, which also contains other relevant CERCLA documents for the PAOU. The EAPP 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 EAPP are available at the following locations:

- Reese Library at Augusta State University in Augusta, GA; and Asa H. Gordon Library at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA.

If there is interest in discussing the recommended remedial approaches, a public hearing may be requested. Comments on the EAPP should be sent to Mr. Paul Sauerborn for additional information or to request a public meeting contact:

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