



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Removal Site Evaluation Report/Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (RSER/EE/CA)

R-Area Reactor Area Cask Car Railroad Tracks as Abandoned

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to perform a non-time critical removal at the R-Area Reactor Area Cask Car (RRCC) Railroad Tracks as Abandoned operable unit. Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) The Removal Site Evaluation Report/Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (RSER/EE/CA) describes how the proposed removal action meets the criteria established in the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan (NCP), 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 300.415. The purpose of this RSER/EE/CA is to identify the objectives of the removal action for the RRCC Railroad Tracks as Abandoned operable unit, to develop alternatives that address the potential threats from release of contaminants to the environment. These documents will be available for public review and copying at the locations listed below. The public comment period is scheduled for April 14, 2009 to May 14, 2009.

The RSER/EE/CA 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. DOE has worked with the United States Environmental Protection Agency-Region 4 (USEPA) and the SCDHEC to ensure the remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

DOE, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and SCDHEC have reviewed the risks associated with the RRCC Railroad Tracks as Abandoned operable unit and have evaluated cleanup alternatives. The preferred action is excavation and removal which meets the effectiveness criteria.

The RRCC Railroad Tracks were used during the operation of R-Area Reactor from 1953 to 1964 for the transportation of railroad cars that contained casks of radiological materials. The limit of the RRCC Railroad Tracks as Abandoned subunit begins at the tracks at the cask car loading area outside the R-Area Reactor Disassembly Basin and extends to the R-Area perimeter fence. There is approximately 1,524 m (5,000 ft) of existing and former track lines within the R-Area perimeter fence. When the railroad cars were exposed to rain, radiological materials (Cesium-137 [Cs-137] and daughter products [+D]) washed from the outside of the casks onto the ground surface.

Upon completion of the public comment period, an Action Memorandum with a Responsiveness Summary that addresses public comments will be prepared.

Copies of the RSER/EE/CA 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 RSER/EE/CA 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.

An electronic copy of the RSER/EE/CA is posted at the following address: <http://www.srs.gov/general/programs/soil/pub/pubinv.html>

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