



Environmental Bulletin

Volume 22 Number 3
January 22, 2010

from the Savannah River Site

Interim Record of Decision Available for the E-Area Low-Level Waste Facility, 643-26E (Slit Trench Disposal Units 1 and 2)

The Interim Record of Decision (IROD) for the E-Area Low-Level Waste Facility (LLWF) (Slit Trench Disposal Units 1 and 2) is being issued by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the lead agency for the Savannah River Site, with concurrence by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 4 (EPA), and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). The IROD selected the Installation of Stormwater Runoff Covers as the interim remedy for E-Area LLWF (Slit Trench Disposal Units 1 and 2). In the future, an Explanation of Significant Differences for the IROD will be issued to select this same interim remedial action for other Slit Trench Disposal Units as they become filled.

The IROD was completed as part of the regulatory agreement for the receipt of Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act-regulated low-level radioactive waste at the E-Area LLWF Slit Trench Disposal Units. The DOE has worked with EPA and SCDHEC to ensure that the interim remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

The IROD selected the following interim remedial action for the E-Area LLWF (Slit Trench Disposal Units 1 and 2):

Install Operational Stormwater Runoff Covers: Construction of the operational stormwater runoff covers will involve the placement of grading fill and structural fill over the operational soil cover. The operational stormwater runoff cover will be graded to promote even greater drainage off the trenches. The runoff cover barrier will consist of a low-permeability, geosynthetic material. Sloping under and around the cover material will be adequate to ensure cover stability and promote positive drainage. A soil layer will not be installed over the barrier cover material to allow for visual inspection during both the construction and operational period. The exposed geosynthetic layer will allow for easier and faster detection of damage to the cover system and allow for immediate visual detection of inefficient drainage (e.g., standing water). The stormwater runoff cover will be protected from equipment and vehicle traffic as waste disposal operations continue in the E-Area LLWF. Warning barricades, including sign postings and chains, will be installed around the covered areas.

This interim remedial action is applied as an enhancement to the current protective measures required by DOE Order 435.1, “Radioactive Waste Management.” This interim action enhances protection of human health and the environment, complies with Federal and State requirements that are legally applicable or relevant and appropriate to the limited-scope interim remedial action (unless justified by a waiver) and is cost-effective. A final remedial action will be evaluated and conducted in the future for the entire E-Area LLWF.

Copies of the IROD 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 (USC) Aiken campus in Aiken, SC; and
- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at USC in Columbia, SC

Hard copies of the IROD 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

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