



# Environmental Bulletin

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*from the Savannah River Site*

## **Statement of Basis / Proposed Plan for the P-Area Operable Unit at the Savannah River Site is Available for Public Comment**

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) will release a Statement of Basis / Proposed Plan (SB/PP) for the P-Area Operable Unit (PAOU) on February 12, 2010, describing the preferred remedial approach for this operable unit at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) will also release a draft Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit modification for the proposed remedial action for this operable unit. These documents will be available for public review and copying at the locations listed below. The forty-five (45) day public comment period is scheduled from February 12, 2010, to March 29, 2010.

The SB/PP 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. The SB/PP and draft RCRA permit modification also meet the terms of RCRA.

DOE has worked with the United States Environmental Protection Agency-Region 4 (EPA) and the SCDHEC to ensure the remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements. DOE, EPA, and SCDHEC have reviewed the risks associated with the PAOU and have evaluated cleanup alternatives. The final action of Land Use Controls is recommended for the PAOU.

The PAOU is located about 4.1 km (2.5 mi) east-southeast of the geographical center of the Savannah River Site (SRS) and about 6.4 km (4 mi) west of the nearest Site boundary. P Reactor was in operation from 1954 to 1991 with a mission of producing nuclear materials for the defense program. Reactor operations resulted in the generation of chemical and radioactive wastes.

The PAOU consists of multiple subunits, some of which were previously selected for early remedial actions or non-time critical (NTC) removal actions. The SB/PP describes the preferred remedy for the entire PAOU for any residual hazardous substances that remain at the PAOU after successful completion of the early remedial actions and the NTC removal actions to meet the remedial goals. Groundwater is not considered part of the PAOU and will be addressed in the P Reactor Groundwater Operable Unit.

The proposed remedy is No Further Action for three PAOU subunits that have been determined to pose no threat to human health or the environment. For the remaining subunits in PAOU, the proposed remedy is Land Use Controls. Land use controls will be implemented in the short-term through the SRS Site Use Program, which provides access controls for on-site workers, and through site access control against trespassing (e.g., fencing and entry control systems). In the long-term, if the property is ever transferred to nonfederal ownership, the deed shall include restrictions precluding residential use of the property.

Comments on the SB/PP and the draft RCRA permit are requested by March 29, 2010. 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 Record of Decision and the final RCRA permit modification and will be sent to each person who submits comments.

Copies of the SB/PP for the PAOU 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 SB/PP for the PAOU 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.

An electronic copy of the SB/PP for the PAOU is posted at the following address: <http://www.srs.gov/general/programs/soil/pub/pubinv.html>

Copies of the draft RCRA permit modification are available for review at SCDHEC during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, at the following locations:

SCDHEC  
Bureau of Land and Waste Management  
8911 Farrow Road  
Columbia, SC 29203  
Phone: (803) 896-4000

SCDHEC-Region 5  
Aiken EQC Office  
206 Beaufort St. N.E.  
Aiken, SC 29801  
Phone: (803) 641-7670

If there is interest in discussing the recommended remedial approach, a public hearing may be requested. Comments on the SB/PP for the PAOU should be sent to Mr. Paul Sauerborn. Comments on the draft RCRA permit modification or requests for a public hearing should be sent to Mr. Richard Haynes. For additional information or to request a public meeting contact:

Paul Sauerborn  
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC  
Savannah River Site  
Building 730-1B  
Aiken, SC 29808  
(803) 952-6658  
[paul.sauerborn@srs.gov](mailto:paul.sauerborn@srs.gov)

or

SCDHEC  
Attn: Richard Haynes, P.E., Director  
Division of Waste Management  
Bureau of Land and Waste Management  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(803) 896-4000

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## **The SRS Environmental Bulletin**

**For more information on this or  
other environmental and compli-  
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