

The Savannah River Site Environmental Bulletin

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NOTICE OF TRANSURANIC (TRU) WASTE PADS XIII TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATION REQUEST

The Savannah River Site (SRS) is requesting a 180-day Temporary Authorization (TA) to allow loaded and closed transuranic (TRU) waste shipments to be staged outside of the permitted TRU Pads Facility for greater than seven days to prepare for shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

SRS has been notified by the National TRU Program that shipments of waste to WIPP are planned to resume in mid-October 2022. SRS does not have an exact number of shipments that will leave the State of South Carolina but anticipates two to three shipments per week for several weeks. Each shipment may contain multiple containers shipped concurrently on a single trailer. To clarify, one shipment is equivalent to one trailer. Multiple shipments (up to three) may be scheduled to depart on the same day. Typically, once TRU shipments have been packaged and loaded on the transport trailer, SRS stages the shipment outside of TRU Pad 3, outside of TRU Pad 4, in the Shipment Inspection Tent, or within the vicinity of these structures. The Shipment Inspection Tent is a fully enclosed canopy carport on an asphalt flooring and is northeast of TRU Pad 3. Two shipments can be staged inside of Shipment Inspection Tent. SRS anticipates that no more than three shipments will be staged outside of the permitted TRU Pads facility. Cask shipments to WIPP are required to be opened within 60 days of closure at the generator facility. If the TA is granted SRS does not expect for shipments to be staged longer than 60 days. If waste is expected to be staged longer than this period, the containers will be placed in storage on the TRU Pads. The pending upcoming campaign has prompted this request.

All of the shipping containers used for the transport of TRU waste to WIPP are Department of Transportation Type B transportation containers, which are extremely robust in construction and virtually indestructible. The containers must meet Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) design, fabrication, and operations and maintenance requirements. NRC requires all Type B containers to withstand testing to include a free drop from 30 feet, puncture testing onto a 6-inch steel bar, burn testing, and immersion testing. When all testing and other requirements are met, the NRC issues a certificate of compliance that is valid for five years and may be renewed. All containers being used for shipments to WIPP are within their certification period or have had their certification renewed. By maintaining compliance with the NRC requirements, the shipping containers provide protection of the health and safety of personnel and the environment during the brief period of time while the waste is not stored in a permitted facility. As required by its RCRA permit, SRS will continue to perform weekly inspections of the shipping containers in accordance with the approved Inspection Schedule.

Written comments may be sent to SCDHEC. Please send your comments to Ms. Stacey L. French at the address below:

Stacey L. French, P.E., Director
Division of Waste Management,
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
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Columbia, SC 29201-1708

For additional information, contact: Barbara Smoak, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, Savannah River Site, 730-1B, Aiken, SC 29808

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