

# The Savannah River Site Environmental Bulletin

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## **Notice of Public Availability Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD) for Incorporating F-Area Diversion Boxes 5 and 6 into the Revision 1 Interim Record of Decision Remedial Alternative Selection for the F-Area Tank Farm, Waste Tanks 17 and 20**

*The Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD) for Incorporating F-Area Diversion Boxes 5 and 6 into the Revision 1 Interim Record of Decision Remedial Alternative Selection for the F-Area Tank Farm, Waste Tanks 17 and 20 is being issued by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the lead agency for the Savannah River Site (SRS), with concurrence by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 4 (EPA), and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). The F-Area Diversion Boxes (FDBs) 5 and 6 ESD modifies the Interim Record of Decision to include FDBs 5 and 6 and was completed to comply with terms in the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) for SRS that govern the investigation and cleanup of releases and potential releases of hazardous substances. The FFA integrates the requirements of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.*

DOE has worked with the EPA and SCDHEC to ensure the interim remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements. The objective of the interim remedial action is to prevent premature degradation of the engineered barriers associated with those liquid waste tanks and ancillary structures that have been stabilized and removed from service. DOE, EPA, and SCDHEC have reviewed the risks associated with the stabilized ancillary structures and have evaluated remedial alternatives. Annual Visible Engineered Barriers Inspections and Maintenance is the selected alternative for the stabilized F-Area Tank Farm (FTF) waste tanks and ancillary structures.

The FTF is a 22-acre site within the General Separations Area consisting of 22 liquid waste storage tanks. There are three major waste tank design types in FTF ranging in size from 750,000 gallons (Type I tanks) to 1.3 million gallons (Type III/IIIA and Type IV tanks) and having different degrees of secondary containment and internal structures such as cooling coils and roof support columns. In addition, there are various ancillary structures such as evaporators, diversion boxes, pump tanks, and transfer lines that support tank farm operations. FDB-5 was constructed in the mid-to-late 1970s and was used between March 1980 and September 1985. FDB-6 was constructed in the late 1970s and usage stopped in 1988. FDB-5 and FDB-6 were declared operationally closed and removed from service in November 2022 in accordance with an approved Consolidated General Closure Plan and ancillary structure-specific Closure Module. The diversion boxes were isolated from the remaining operating facility and filled with grout.

Copies of the FDB-5 and FDB-6 ESD are available in the Administrative Record. The Administrative Record is available at 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 Information and Maps Department at USC in Columbia, SC.

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Hard copies of the FDB-5 and FDB-6 ESD are available at the following locations:

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

An electronic copy of the FDB-5 and FDB-6 ESD can be found at the following website:

<https://www.srs.gov/general/programs/soil/rod/rod.html>.

For additional information, contact Dean Campbell at the address listed below:

Dean Campbell

Communications Director

Savannah River Mission Completion, LLC

Savannah River Site

Building 766-H

Aiken, SC 29808

dean.campbell@srs.gov

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

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For additional information, contact:

Barbara Smoak

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

Aiken, S.C. 29808

(803) 952-8060

email: [barbara.smoak@srs.gov](mailto:barbara.smoak@srs.gov)

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