

The Savannah River Site Environmental Bulletin

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DOE Requests Temporary Authorization to Place Two Recovery Wells Off-Line to Comply with National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants in A/M Area at the Savannah River Site

The U. S. Department of Energy at the Savannah River Site (SRS) has requested from the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services a temporary authorization to place two recovery wells, RWM-018 and RWM-019, off-line until a control device can be installed on the M-1 Air Stripper. The M-1 Air Stripper and its associated recovery wells is a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) corrective action system used to remove volatile organic compound (VOC) mass from the groundwater in the A/M-Area of SRS.

On December 22, 2022, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency amended 40 Code of Federal Regulations 63 Subpart GGGGG, National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP): Site Remediation to remove RCRA and Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, commonly known as CERCLA, exemptions from the regulation. SRS operates different remediation systems that are subject to the new rule (e.g., active SVEUs, MicroBlowers™, and BaroBalls™, and the M-1 Air Stripper and associated recovery wells). The regulation requires these corrective action and remediation systems to reduce emissions to less than 2.8 megagrams per year (Mg/yr). SRS has until June 22, 2025, to comply with the regulation. The M-1 Air Stripper is the largest emission source that causes SRS to exceed 2.8 Mg/yr.

To comply with the NESHAP Subpart GGGGG regulation, SRS is required to install a control device on the M-1 Air Stripper. The schedule to install a control device on the M-1 Air Stripper is primarily dependent on the federal funding cycle, design, procurement, and operation of the control device. Until the control device is installed on the M-1 Air Stripper and operational, SRS has requested that recovery wells RWM-018 and RWM-019 be taken off-line to enable adequate time for the system to adjust to meet the 2.8 Mg/yr limit. Recovery wells, RWM-001-R through RWM-008 and RWM-010, will continue operation during this time to provide hydraulic capture of the VOC groundwater plume in the Lost Lake Aquifer Zone and reduce migration of VOC contaminated groundwater. SRS currently estimates RWM-018 and RWM-019 will be off-line for 12 to 24 months.

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The SRS Environmental Bulletin

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