

# The Savannah River Site Environmental Bulletin

March 5, 2026

Volume 38, Number 3

## **DOE Amended Record of Decision for the Spent Nuclear Fuel Management, Recovery of Uranium and Production of High Assay Low Enriched Uranium (HALEU) in the H-Canyon Facility, at the Savannah River Site**

The U.S. DOE is amending its August 7, 2000, Record of Decision (ROD) (65 FR 48224) to the Savannah River Site (SRS) Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) Management Final Environmental Impact Statement (DOE/EIS-0279, SRS SNF EIS). DOE is also rescinding its April 8, 2022, Amended ROD (AROD) (87 FR 23504) that implemented the Accelerated Basin De-inventory (ABD) program. Instead, DOE will revert H-Canyon Operations to include uranium recovery, as described in the Preferred Alternative of the SRS SNF Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and ROD selecting the Preferred Alternative, with minor changes.

DOE will process approximately 16.2 metric tons heavy metal (MTHM) aluminum-clad spent nuclear fuel (ASNF) in H-Canyon. This would be below the 29.2 MTHM SNF analyzed under the Supplement Analysis (SA) for ABD Mission for H-Canyon (DOE/EIS-0279-SA-07, ABD SA), and, when added to the 25.9 MTHM already processed in H Canyon, below the 47.7 MTHM analyzed in the SRS SNF EIS. The remaining 13 MTHM SNF would remain in wet storage pending a future processing decision.

Processing would begin around 2028 and continue for approximately 13 years with an average processing rate of 1.25 MTHM SNF per year. H-Canyon will recover highly enriched uranium from SNF stored at SRS and down blend it to high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU) to fuel advanced nuclear reactors, supporting America's energy independence.

In the AROD, DOE concluded that the changes to the proposed action are not a substantial change relevant to environmental concerns, nor are there substantial new circumstances or information about the significance of the adverse effects; as described in National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures (June 30, 2025). No further NEPA documentation is required.

- DOE/EIS-0279, Amended Record of Decision for the Spent Nuclear Fuel Management, Recovery of Uranium and Production of High Assay Low Enriched Uranium (HALEU) in the H-Canyon Facility, at the Savannah River Site, ([DOE/EIS-0279: Amended Record of Decision \(February 2026\) | Department of Energy](#))

DOE is committed to meeting its obligations under the NEPA as it explores effective measures in managing its natural resources and promoting environmental stewardship.

DOE's NEPA documents are available on the SRS website: <https://www.srs.gov/general/pubs/envbul/nepa1.htm>

For further information about this Notice, please contact **Mr. Vernard Dicker**, NEPA Compliance Officer, U.S. Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office, PO Box A, Aiken, SC 29802; email: [NEPA-SR-EM@srs.gov](mailto:NEPA-SR-EM@srs.gov).

---

**For additional information, contact: Barbara Smoak**, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, Savannah River Site, Building 703-43A, Aiken, SC 29808 / (803) 952-8060 / [barbara.smoak@srs.gov](mailto:barbara.smoak@srs.gov)

# The SRS Environmental Bulletin

For additional information, contact:

Barbara Smoak

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC

Savannah River Site

Aiken, S.C. 29808

(803) 952-8060

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

## Mailing List Information

Add to mail list    Correct my address    Remove from mail list

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: SRS Environmental Bulletin  
Savannah River Site, Building 703-43A  
Aiken, SC 29808

Save a stamp! E-mail your changes to [barbara.smoak@srs.gov](mailto:barbara.smoak@srs.gov)



130C00040



## The SRS Environmental Bulletin

Savannah River Site

Building 703-43A

Aiken, S.C. 29808