

The Savannah River Site Environmental Bulletin

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Notice Of Availability - Explanation Of Significant Difference For The Revision 1 Record Of Decision Remedial Alternative Selection For The Wetland Area At Dunbarton Bay In Support Of Steel Creek Integrator Operable Unit

The Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD) for the Revision 1 Record of Decision Remedial Alternative Selection for the Wetland Area at Dunbarton Bay (WADB) in Support of Steel Creek Integrator Operable Unit 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 South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). The purpose of this ESD is to expand the current Land Use Control (LUC) remedy in lieu of additional excavation, due to saturated conditions encountered during excavation and the discovery of additional coal ash located just outside the original remedial boundary. The saturated conditions and additional ash volume make continued excavation impracticable. The inclusion of the additional ash area and the saturated area into the adjusted LUC boundary continues to be protective of human health and the environment. The original Record of Decision Remedial Alternative Selection for the Wetland Area at Dunbarton Bay in Support of the Steel Creek Integrator Operable Unit (U) was issued in 2018.

The ESD was completed to meet the terms of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, a law governing the investigation and cleanup of waste units. The DOE has worked with the EPA and the SCDHEC to ensure the remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

The WADB is located at the SRS in Barnwell County, South Carolina. At the SRS, P-Reactor operated between 1954 and 1988 and utilized a coal-fired powerhouse to generate steam and electricity, with coal ash produced as a waste of boiler operations. The ash was disposed of in the P-Area Ash Basin. During removal activities at the P-Area Ash Basin in 2010, an area of ash overflow was discovered south of the P-Area Ash Basin extending into the Dunbarton Bay (wetland area). The presence of the ash is believed to have resulted from storm water overflows from the P-Area Ash Basin.

Copies of the ESD 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 Information and Maps Department at USC in Columbia, SC.

Hard copies of the ESD are available at the following locations for 30 days:

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

The ESD is available electronically at the following address: <http://www.srs.gov/general/programs/soil/pub/pubinv.html>.

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