

# The Savannah River Site Environmental Bulletin

February 2, 2017

Volume 29, Number 1

## ***Notice of Public Availability*** ***Second Phase: Fifth Five-Year Remedy Review Report for Savannah River Site Operable Units with Groundwater Remedies***

The Fifth Five-Year Remedy Review Report is being conducted in five phases for operable units (OUs) with similar remedies. The OUs are grouped by the following remedy types: (1) native soil cover and/or land use controls, (2) groundwater, (3) engineered cover system, (4) geosynthetic or stabilization/solidification cover system, and (5) operating equipment. The public is notified when each phase of the remedy review is conducted and when the phase is complete. The review for the second phase for OUs with groundwater remedies is complete and is being made available to the public.

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act requires that remedial actions that result in hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants remaining at an OU at levels unsuitable for unrestricted land use be subject to a five-year remedy review. The Fifth Five-Year Remedy Review Report for Savannah River Site Operable Units with Groundwater Remedies evaluated the groundwater remedial actions selected through issued Records of Decision (RODs), Interim RODs, ROD Amendments, or Explanations of Significant Differences to determine whether the selected remedies remain protective of human health and the environment. The Fifth Five-Year Remedy Review Report for Savannah River Site Operable Units with Groundwater Remedies is complete and is being issued by the U.S. Department of Energy, the lead agency for the Savannah River Site (SRS), with concurrence by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 4, and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

The five-year remedy review addressed three major questions:

- Are the remedies functioning as intended by the decision document?
- Are the exposure assumptions, toxicity data, cleanup levels, and remedial action objectives (RAOs) used at the time of remedy selection still valid?
- Has any other information emerged that could call into question the protectiveness of the remedy?

The report reviews the remedy decisions for seven (7) SRS OUs that selected groundwater remediation as part of the final remedy. The exposure assumptions, toxicity data, cleanup levels, and RAOs used at the time of remedy selection are still valid for all of the remedial actions evaluated. All of the remedies were determined to be protective of human health and the environment. The remedy for the Chemicals, Metals, and Pesticides Pits OU was determined to be protective in the short term. In order to establish long-term protectiveness for this OU, additional remedial actions may need to be considered for this OU based on updated groundwater modeling and continued groundwater and surface water monitoring.

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The Fifth Five-Year Remedy Review Report for Savannah River Site Operable Units with Groundwater Remedies also recommended groundwater monitoring for 1,4-dioxane at the D-Area Oil Seepage Basin OU and the R-Area OU. Due to the presence of chlorinated solvents at these sites, there is a potential that 1,4-dioxane may also exist because it is often added to chlorinated solvents as a stabilizer and corrosion inhibitor. Safe Drinking Water Act maximum contaminant levels are the remedial goals for all identified contaminants of concern in all plumes in the Fifth Five-Year Remedy Review Report for Savannah River Site Operable Units with Groundwater Remedies.

To aid in the review of the report, a Savannah River Site Fact Sheet for the Fifth Five-Year Remedy Review Report for SRS Operable Units with Groundwater Remedies was also developed.

Copies of the Fifth Five-Year Remedy Review Report for Savannah River Site Operable Units with Groundwater Remedies and the Fact Sheet 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 Documents Department at USC in Columbia, SC

Hard copies of the Fifth Five-Year Remedy Review Report for Savannah River Site Operable Units with Groundwater Remedies and the Fact Sheet 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 Fifth Five-Year Remedy Review Report for Savannah River Site Operable Units with Groundwater Remedies can be found at the following website:

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

An electronic copy of the Fact Sheet can be found at the following website:

- <http://www.srs.gov/general/programs/soil/pub/pubinv.html>

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# The SRS Environmental Bulletin

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