

The Savannah River Site Environmental Bulletin

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Second Early Action Record of Decision Available for the D-Area Operable Unit at the Savannah River Site

The Second Early Action Record of Decision (EAROD) Remedial Alternative Selection for the D-Area Operable Unit (DAOU), 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 Second EAROD was completed to meet the terms of the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) for the SRS, which governs the investigation and cleanup of operable units. The FFA integrates the requirements of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

D-Area is located within the southwest quadrant of the SRS. The DAOU was built on approximately 210 acres, with the purpose to supply heavy water for the defense program. To support the operations, the 484-D Powerhouse was constructed to provide power to SRS. The 484-D Powerhouse was shut down in 2012. This Second EAROD addresses four subunits that were associated with the operation of the 484-D Powerhouse: 488-1D Ash Basin, 488-2D Ash Basin, 488-4D Ash Landfill, and the 489-D Coal Pile Runoff Basin (Southern 75%). Removal actions for each of these subunits have been completed, closing them in accordance with state regulations and reducing the risk from coal-related contaminants. A final remedial action is needed at these subunits to manage risk from the coal-related contaminants that remain following the removal actions that may pose a threat to human health and the environment. Groundwater is not part of the DAOU and will be addressed in the D-Area Groundwater Operable Unit.

For the 488-1D Ash Basin, 488-2D Ash Basin and the 488-4D Ash Landfill subunits, the selected remedy is Land Use Controls. Land Use Controls will be implemented in the short-term through the SRS Site Use Program, which includes access controls for on-site workers, and site access controls (e.g., fencing and entry control systems) to prevent trespassing from the public. In the long-term, if the property is ever transferred to nonfederal ownership, the deed shall include restrictions precluding residential use of the property. For the 489-D Coal Pile Runoff Basin (Southern 75%) and the Inlet Basins portion of the 488-1D Ash Basin subunit, the selected remedy is No Action with unrestricted land use, since they pose no threat to human health or the environment.

Copies of the Second EAROD 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 Second EAROD 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 Second EAROD is posted at the following address: <http://www.srs.gov/general/programs/soil/rod/rod.html>

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The SRS Environmental Bulletin

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