

The Savannah River Site Environmental Bulletin

January 7, 2021

Volume 33, Number 1

Savannah River Site Seeks RCRA Hazardous Waste Permit Renewal for the F-Area and H-Area Hazardous Waste Management Facilities

The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) - Savannah River Operations Office has requested that its Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit be renewed for the F-Area and the H-Area Hazardous Waste Management Facilities (HWMFs). The current permit for these facilities expires on July 12, 2021. Per South Carolina regulations, a renewal request must be submitted 180 days prior to the expiration date of the effective permit. This request was made by the submittal of the Savannah River Site (SRS) 2013 RCRA Permit Renewal Application, Revision 0 on January 5, 2021. Both the F-Area HWMF and the H-Area HWMF basins were closed in 1991 in accordance with R.61-79.265, Subpart G, of the South Carolina Hazardous Waste Management Regulations (SCHWMR).

The F-Area HWMF consists of a series of three unlined surface impoundments (Seepage Basins F-1, F-2, and F-3) located in the General Separations Area that were originally constructed in 1955. The F-Area Seepage Basins were closed in 1991. The total capacity of these seepage basins was 20.5 million gallons. The basins were designed and operated to allow wastewater containing low-level radioactive and hazardous components to percolate from the basins into the soil where the waste contaminants would be removed from the water by soil interactions.

The H Area HWMF consists of a series of three unlined surface impoundments (Seepage Basins H 1, H 2, and H 4) in the General Separations Area that were originally constructed in 1955. Basin H-3 operated until 1962 and was replaced with Basin H-4. Since Basin H 3 was not used after 1962, it is not part of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act closure. The basins were designed and operated to allow wastewater containing low-level radioactive and hazardous components to percolate from the basins into the soil where the waste contaminants would be removed from the water by soil interactions. The H-Area Seepage Basins were closed in 1991.

The SRS is remediating the contaminated groundwater that resulted from these facilities. The primary objective of the Corrective Action Program is to reduce the flow of contaminated groundwater discharging to surface water in Fourmile Branch and associated wetlands (i.e., potential point of worker exposure) and to reduce the concentrations (and activities) of the contaminants in the groundwater beneath the F-Area and the H-Area HWMFs. The DOE is managing Fourmile Branch and its seepines adjacent to the F and H Areas under institutional controls.

The changes from the previous 2000 application includes the revision to the corrective action goals, with the addition of management strategy specific to the goals, and the creation of a new Appendix 8. Appendix 8 has been created to retain relevant, historical information for both facilities and will be maintained in all subsequent permit renewal applications

More information, including the actual volume of the permit renewal application, is available for review and copying at the DOE Public Reading Room located at the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina Aiken campus in Aiken, SC, or by contacting personnel identified in this notice. The Permittee's compliance history during the life of the permit that is expiring is available from South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Written comments may be sent to SCDHEC. All comments will be considered in the final decision.

Please send your comments to:

Stacey French, P.E., Director
Division of Waste Management
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

The SRS Environmental Bulletin

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