



# **The ENVIRONMENTAL BULLETIN**

*from the Savannah River Site*

## **No cleanup needed, Fire Department Hose Training Facility Operable Unit**

The Department of Energy (DOE) released a Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan proposing no action for the Fire Department Hose Training Facility (FDHTF) Operable Unit (OU) at the Savannah River Site (SRS) on December 10, 1997. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) also released a draft Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit modification for this unit. The plan and draft permit modification are available for public review and copying at the locations listed in the box located on page 2 of this bulletin. The public comment period is scheduled for December 10, 1997, to January 23, 1998.

The FDHTF is located near the center of SRS and was used between 1979 and 1982 by the SRS Fire Department to train personnel in fighting waste oil fires. The FDHTF consists of a 800 square foot shallow, unlined pit surrounded by an 1.5 foot high asphalt dike. Generally only waste fuels and oils were burned in the training facility and no known hazardous wastes were placed in the unit.

DOE, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and SCDHEC have reviewed the risks associated with the unit in the Baseline Risk Assessment (BRA) report. The BRA report concluded that the risks to human health and the environment posed by the FDHTF are minimal and remediation would not be required. Therefore DOE, EPA, and SCDHEC agreed that an evaluation of remedial alternatives would not be needed for the unit and that there was sufficient information to proceed with a "no action" Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan. This approach is in accordance with current EPA guidance.

Comments on the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan and the draft RCRA permit modification are requested by January 23, 1998. All comments received will be considered and addressed in a responsiveness summary that will be made available with the Record of Decision and the final RCRA permit decision, and will be sent to each person who submits comments.

Copies of the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan are available in the administrative record from the Information Repositories and

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Internet access listed in the box on page 2 of this bulletin.

Copies of the draft RCRA permit modification/s are available for review at SCDHEC during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays at the following locations:

(see "No cleanup," page 2)

# Removal action under way on Ford Building seepage basin

The Department of Energy (DOE) began removal actions at Savannah River Site's (SRS) Ford Building Seepage Basin Operable Unit in November, 1997.

The Ford Building was used from 1964 to 1984 to repair and reconfigure reactor heat exchangers and other process equipment. Process sewer water generated during the repairs was sent to a retention tank and sampled. If the sample results were below established limits the process sewer water was sent to the seepage basin. In addition to the basin, the unit contains the underground retention tank and its associated process sewer line. The tank contains approximately 4,000 gallons of contaminated process water and sludge. Since

the tank could possibly leak, DOE decided to initiate a time critical removal action at this unit to remove the potential threat the hazardous materials posed to site workers and the environment.

This removal action involves removing the tank contents, the retention tank and the process sewer line. Disposition of the waste will be in accordance with low-level radioactive and hazardous waste disposal requirements and the Toxic Substances Control Act. Completion of these actions will remove the potential threat to site workers and the environment.

A Removal Site Evaluation Report, completed under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, details how these removal actions are being com-

pleted and is available for public review from Dec. 19 to Jan. 17, at the information repositories and Internet access listed in the box below.

Any comments or questions may be directed to:

Mary A. Flora  
Westinghouse Savannah River Company  
Building 703-A  
Aiken, S.C. 29808  
1-800-249-8155  
mary.flora@srs.gov

(continued from page 1, "No cleanup")

SCDHEC  
Bureau of Land and  
Waste Management  
8901 Farrow Road  
Columbia, S.C. 29203  
Phone: (803)896-4000  
or

SCDHEC  
Lower Savannah District  
Environmental Quality  
Control Office  
218 Beaufort St., N.E.  
Aiken, S.C. 29802  
Phone: (803) 641-7670

Comments on the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan may be sent to Mary Flora and comments on

the draft RCRA permit modification may be sent to John Litton. For additional information or to request a public meeting contact:

Mary A. Flora  
WSRC  
Building 703-A  
Aiken, S.C. 29808  
1-800-249-8155  
mary.flora@srs.gov

SCDHEC  
Attn: John P. Litton, P.E., Director  
Division of Hazardous  
and Infectious Waste Mgt. Bureau  
of Land and Waste Management  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, S.C. 29201  
(803) 896-4000

## INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

\* DOE Public Reading Room, Gregg-Graniteville Library, USC-Aiken, Aiken, S.C.

\* Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department, USC-Columbia, Columbia, S.C.

\* Reese Library, Augusta State University, Augusta, Ga.

\* Asa H. Gordon Library, Savannah State University, Savannah, Ga.

## INTERNET ACCESS

SRS Home Page, "What's New" (<http://www.srs.gov>)

SRS Environmental Restoration Home Page

(<http://www.srs.gov/general/sci-tech/enviro-rest/extpage/pub/pubinv.html>)

## Current NEPA actions affecting SRS

### • Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (DOE/EIS-0026-52)

• Rocky Flats Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy (DOE/EIS-0277)

• Shutdown of River Water System at SRS (DOE/EIS-0268)

• Accelerator for Production of Tritium (DOE/EIS-0270)

• Tritium Extraction Facility (DOE/EIS-0271)

• DOE Waste Management (DOE/EIS-0200)

• SRS Spent Nuclear Fuel (DOE/EIS-0279)

• Surplus Plutonium Disposition (DOE/EIS-0282)

• Wetland Mitigation Bank Program (DOE/EA-1205)

• Tritium Facility Modernization/Consolidation Project (DOE/EA-1222)

• Privatization of the Multi-Purpose Pilot Plant Project Campus (formerly TNX) (DOE/EA-1232)

• Waste Segregation Facility (WSF) (DOE/EA-1229)

The Notice of Availability for the final SEIS appeared in the Federal Register October 19, 1997 (52 FR 52997).

The Notice of Availability for the draft EIS was issued in November 1997. The public hearing for the CSRA is scheduled for December 16, 1997, at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, Augusta, Ga. The public comment period will end January 5, 1998.

The final EIS was issued May 1997, and the ROD is expected fourth quarter 1997.

The draft EIS was issued December 12, 1997.

Publication of the draft EIS is projected for February 1998 and final EIS and ROD for August 1998.

Multiple RODs will be issued: TRU/HLW in December 1997, HLW storage in March 1998, LLW/LLMW in June 1998.

Preparation of the draft EIS has been completed but approval by DOE-HQ is on hold.

The draft EIS is scheduled for February 1998.

Preparation of the draft EA is progressing with a proposed issue date of January 1998.

The predecisional draft EA was issued to South Carolina and Georgia on November 19, 1997, for review and comment.

The predecisional draft EA is scheduled to be issued to South Carolina and Georgia in December.

States were notified on October 9, 1997, and the predecisional draft EA was issued to South Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee for review and comment on October 20, 1997.

## Draft EA for public review

A draft Environmental Assessment (EA) (DOE/EA-1222) has been prepared by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with modernization and consolidation of the Tritium facilities at the SRS.

The proposed action includes the modernization and consolidation of the tritium processing activities by relocating existing process systems, equipment, and functions from the present building and other existing buildings within the tritium facility complex.

The goal of the proposed action is to improve safety and productivity, reduce future operating costs, and reduce the impact on the environment. Based on the potential for impacts described in the final EA, DOE will decide to either publish a Finding of No Significant Impact or prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

DOE has provided the predecisional draft EA to South Carolina and Georgia and requested any comments be submitted within a standard 30-day review period.

If you wish to receive a copy of the draft EA, please contact: A. R. Grainger, Savannah River Site NEPA Compliance Officer, U.S. Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office, Building 773-42A, Room 212, Aiken, S.C. 29802; e-mail: nepa@srs.gov; Fax/telephone 1-800-881-7292. Written comments postmarked prior to December 31, 1997, will be accepted and after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

### Need NEPA documents?

Andrew R. Grainger  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Savannah River Operations Office  
Building 773-42A, Rm. 212  
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E-mail: nepa@srs.gov  
Fax/Phone: 1 (800) 881-7292

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Savannah River Site  
Building 705-A  
Aiken, S.C. 29808



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## The SRS Environmental Bulletin

For more information on this or other  
cleanup and compliance activities at  
SRS, please contact:

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