



# Environmental Bulletin

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*from the Savannah River Site*

## Plug-In Proposed Plan for In Situ Stabilization

The Department of Energy (DOE) will release a Plug In Proposed Plan describing the proposed remedial approach for radioactively contaminated operable units (OUs), such as reactor seepage basins at the Savannah River Site (SRS) on June 12, 1999. The document will be available for public review and copying at the information repositories. The public comment period is scheduled for June 12, 1999, to July 26, 1999. DOE has worked with the Environmental Protection Agency- Region IV (EPA) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) to ensure the remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

This Plug-In Proposed Plan is designed to present a common remedy for a number of radioactively contaminated units due to their similarities in history of use, contaminants, risk, and their location near radioactive facilities. This approach has been successfully implemented at other Superfund locations and is referred to as the Plug-In Approach. The proposed plan specifies conditions, which a specific operable unit must meet in order for the operable unit to "plug-in" to the common remedy specified in the Plug-In Record of Decision (ROD). By using the Plug-In Approach, remediation can begin much earlier with a considerable cost savings. This plan covers the source unit (soils, pipelines, etc.) portion of these units only; the groundwater remediation will be evaluated separately.

DOE, EPA, and SCDHEC have reviewed the risks associated with these source units and are recommending the following actions:

(1) Consolidation. Contaminated soils outside the basin will be consolidated into the basin if they exceed established remedial goals.

(2) In Situ Stabilization. In situ soil stabilization is a treatment technology that is used to reduce the accessibility and mobility of contaminants. It will be applied to soils that are considered to be principle threat source material.

(3) Low-Permeability Soil Cover System. A low-permeability soil (native) cover system will be placed over all the open basins with contaminated soils. The soil cover system will be designed with a permeability low enough

to prevent migration of soil contaminants to the groundwater.

(4) Institutional controls including both near- and long-term actions. Near-term actions include use of existing SRS access controls, perimeter fences, SRS access control programs and posting signs to indicate that the area was used to manage hazardous materials. In the long-term, if the property is ever transferred to non-federal ownership, deed restrictions will preclude residential use of the property. A deed notification shall, in perpetuity, notify any potential purchaser that the property has been used for the management and disposal of radioactive materials.

The combination of proposed actions will be protective of human health and the environment. It is also intended to be the final action for the source term of each of these operable units. The initial candidates for this plug-in approach are: C-Area Reactor Seepage Basins, K-Area Reactor Seepage Basin, L-Area Seepage Basin, and P-Area Reactor Seepage Basins. All of these operable units are contaminated with low levels of radionuclides from past operations at SRS. Additional operable units may be considered for using this plug-in approach in the future.

Public Involvement/Community Relations activities are conducted throughout the various phases of the cleanup process. An administrative record which includes the unit remedial investigation results, the remedial alternatives evaluation, selection of the final remedy and the design and implementation of the final remedy or cleanup action (when finalized), is available for public review and copying at the information repositories listed on this page. Public comment periods are held to receive oral and written comments from the public on proposed remedial plans and actions. In addition, as required by Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, the opportunity for public meetings and briefings is made available during the remedial process and as requested by the public.

The Responsiveness Summary will be made available with the Record of Decision and will be sent to each person who submits comments.

### for more information

Copies of the Proposed Plan are available in the administrative record, which also contains the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) report for these units. 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-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC;
- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC;

Hard copies of the Proposed Plan are available at the following:

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

The Proposed Plan is also available on the Internet in the SRS Home Page under (<http://www.srs.gov>),

under "Happening Now," (<http://www.srs.gov/general/srs-home.htm>) and on the SRS Environmental Restoration Home Page, under "Public Involvement," (<http://www.srs.gov/general/srenviro/erd/pub/pubinv.html>).

If there is interest in discussing this recommended remedial approach, a public hearing may be requested. Comments on the Proposed Plan may be sent to Mr. Jim Moore. For additional information or to request a public meeting, contact:

Jim Moore  
WSRC  
Savannah River Site  
Building 742-A  
Aiken, SC 29808  
1-800-249-8155  
[jim02.moore@srs.gov](mailto:jim02.moore@srs.gov)

## CAB recommendations from Savannah meeting

The SRS Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) met on May 24-25 at the DeSoto Hilton in Savannah, Ga. The following recommendations were adopted:

84 The Board provided comments on a Risk Summary draft prepared for the Savannah River Site by the Center for Risk Excellence of DOE. The summaries describe seven major risk-related challenges at SRS. The CAB asked for many clarifications and corrections to the document.

85 The SRS CAB recommends that DOE hold a public hearing on the Yucca Mountain Environmental Impact Statement in the Aiken, SC - Augusta, GA area in addition to the one scheduled for Atlanta, Ga.

86 The Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground Focus Group reviewed the Corrective Measures Study/Feasibility Study for this unit and found it to be a good basis for decisionmaking. The SRS CAB adopted their motion and provided recommendations to improve the study.

87 The Board provided comments on the Proposed Permit Modification on the Mixed Waste Management Facility at SRS under the South Carolina Hazardous Waste Management Regulations and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

88 The Board recommended that DOE interact with Nuclear Regulatory Commissioners and encourage them to complete their decision regarding whether residual wastes remaining in High Level Waste tanks following tank closure can be categorized as "incidental wastes" so that DOE may proceed with closing the remaining tanks.

89 The Board applauded the Environmental Monitoring Technology Integration initiative and provided comments to improve the Technology Plan.

90 The CAB strongly supports an integrated effort by DOE to consolidate nuclear materials at four DOE facilities, thus optimizing national stabilization and disposition activities in times of limited funding. They also strongly support the pre-decisional recommended action of shipping vitrified americium/curium to Oak Ridge for storage.

91 The Board endorses the activities for nuclear materials stabilization and storage currently planned for FY2001 that are included within the target budget; however, the CAB is concerned whether the FY2001 target budget will be adequate to allow SRS to meet all of the activities planned for the site. Specifically, the Board strongly recommends that FY2001 budget include funding for all activities with priorities currently falling below the target line but within the planning case. The Board also asked DOE to work aggressively with the State of South Carolina, regulators and elected officials to ensure nuclear material stabilization goals are in accordance with their expectations.

## Technology conference held

The Environmental Resotration Technology End User Conference hosted by the Department of Energy (DOE), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Defense was held in Charleston, S.C., June 8-9 with great success. Nearly 200 experts from 26 states, including representatives from universities and industries were present. Gerald Bowd, featured speaker, demonstrated how DOE has increased the use of innovative technologies at several DOE sites and detailed the progress made over the past three years. The keynote speaker, Dr. Walt Kovalick, Director of the EPA-HQ Technology Innovation Office, shared cleanup success stories and an overview of environmental technologies in use across the nation.

### for more information

For additional information or to request a public meeting contact:

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Savannah River Site**

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Aiken, SC 29808

1-800-249-8155

jim02.moore@srs.gov

or

**SCDHEC**

**Attn: John Litton, P.E., Director**

**Division of Hazardous and Infectious Waste Mgt.**

**Bureau of Land and Waste Management**

2600 Bull Street

Columbia, SC 29201

Phone: (803) 896-4000

### Need NEPA documents?

The Annual National Environmental Policy Act Planning Summary, required by DOE Order 451.1A, is available by writing, calling, or emailing:

### Andrew R. Grainger

U.S. Department of Energy  
Savannah River Operations Office  
Building 742-A, Rm. 185  
Aiken, S.C. 29802

E-mail: nepa@srs.gov  
1-800-881-7292

# Current NEPA actions affecting SRS

• **Accelerator for Production of Tritium (APT) (DOE/EIS-0270)**, The Secretary has selected the Commercial Light Water Reactor (CLWR) as the primary tritium production technology with APT as backup. Publication of the final EIS was March 12, 1999. A consolidated ROD for Tritium Supply and Recycling was issued May 6, 1999.

• **Tritium Extraction Facility (TEF) (DOE/EIS-0271)**, The Secretary has selected the CLWR as the primary tritium production technology with APT as backup. Publication of the final EIS was March 12, 1999. A consolidated ROD for Tritium Supply and Recycling was issued May 6, 1999.

• **Offsite Shipments of SRS Waste**, The draft EA is currently being prepared. A decision (FONSI or EIS) is expected third quarter, 1999.

• **SRS Spent Nuclear Fuel (DOE/EIS-0279)**, The draft EIS was issued December 17, 1998. Public meetings were held January 28, 1999, in Columbia, SC and February 4, 1999, in North Augusta, SC. Publication of the final EIS is projected for July, 1999.

• **DOE Waste Management (DOE/EIS-0200)**, Multiple RODs will be issued. Planned RODs are High Level Waste storage, July, 1999 and Low Level Waste (LLW)/Low Level Mixed Waste (LLMW), September 1999. A supplemental analysis for new waste amounts is being developed by DOE.

• **Interim Remediation Measures for the Mixed Waste Management Facility (MWMF)**, The draft EA is currently being prepared. A decision (FONSI or EIS) is expected third quarter, 1999.

• **Closure of High Level Waste Tanks at SRS (DOE/EIS-0303)**, The NOI was issued December 29, 1998 (63FR71628). The public scoping meetings were held January 14, 1999, in North Augusta, SC, and January 19, 1999 in Columbia, SC. Publication of the draft EIS is projected for August 1999.

• **Surplus Plutonium Disposition (DOE/EIS-0282)**, Public comments are being addressed and the final EIS is being prepared. The expected issue date for the final EIS and ROD, third quarter 1999. A draft Supplemental EIS for impacts on reactor sites was released in May, 1999.

• **Wetland Mitigation Bank Program (DOE/EA-1205)**, The public comment period was extended to accommodate the receipt of SC and local stakeholder comments. A decision FONSI was signed and issued April 28, 1999.

• **Par Pond Dam Repair Project (DOE/EA-1285)**, The draft EA is currently being prepared. A decision (FONSI or EIS) is expected third quarter, 1999.

• **Salt Disposition Alternatives SEIS (DOE/EIS-0082-52)**, The NOI was issued February 22, 1999. The public scoping meetings were held in Columbia, SC on March 11, 1999, and in North Augusta, SC, on March 18, 1999. The public scoping period ended April 8, 1999. Publication of the draft EIS is projected for October, 1999.

EA -- Environmental Assessment

EIS -- Environmental Impact Statement

FONSI -- Finding of No Significant Impact

NOI -- Notice of Intent

ROD -- Record of Decision

## INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

- DOE Public Reading Room  
Gregg-Graniteville Library,  
USC-Aiken, Aiken, SC
- Thomas Cooper Library,  
Government Documents  
Department, USC  
Columbia, SC
- Reese Library, Augusta  
State University  
Augusta, GA
- Asa H. Gordon Library  
Savannah State University,  
Savannah, GA

## INTERNET ACCESS

**SRS Home Page,**  
<http://www.srs.gov>

# RCRA modifications

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)-Savannah River Operations Office (SR) has requested from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) modifications to Savannah River Site's (SRS) 1992 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Part B Permit Renewal Application for Volume VI, Defense Waste Processing Facility Organic Waste Storage Tank.

The revision (Rev. 8) makes administrative and informational changes to the application. It

includes updating names and phone numbers of primary and alternate emergency contacts as listed in the contingency plan.

More information, including the actual permit application, is available for review and copying at the DOE Public Reading Room located in the University of South Carolina-Aiken library, or by contacting personnel listed below. The permittees compliance history during the life of the permit being modified is available from the Agency contact person.

# MAILING LIST

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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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Access the Environmental Notice web site:

[http://www.SRS.GOV/general/srenviro/envbul/  
ebinex.htm](http://www.SRS.GOV/general/srenviro/envbul/ebinex.htm)