



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Draft EA available for Storage of Tritium-Producing Burnable Absorber Rods (TPBARs) in K-Area Transfer Bay at the Savannah River Site (SRS)

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) to analyze potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed temporary storage of TPBARs at SRS (DOE/EA-1528). The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Watts Bar Nuclear Generating Station (Watts Bar) is providing TPBARs to the DOE facilities at SRS. The Tritium Extraction Facility (TEF) at SRS will process the TPBARs to recover tritium. Due to the TEF construction and startup schedule, TEF will not be ready to receive the TPBARs at the time of the first shipment from Watts Bar. Watts Bar will ship the TPBARs approximately one year before TEF is ready to receive the material. The proposed action is to store irradiated TPBARs, shipped from Watts Bar in a cask to SRS, in the K-Area Transfer Bay until the TEF is ready to receive and process the material. The TPBARs will be transported to SRS and stored in a shipping cask in accordance with an U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Certificate of Compliance. DOE did not anticipate the need for this temporary storage in the original NEPA review for TEF (Final *Environmental Impact Statement for the Construction and Operation of a Tritium Extraction Facility at the Savannah River Site*, DOE/EIS-0271). Transportation of the TPBARs to SRS was evaluated in the Final *Environmental Impact Statement for the Production of Tritium in a Commercial Light Water Reactor*, DOE/EIS-0288.

The public comment period for this draft EA will be open until May 20, 2005. Any comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable. An electronic copy of the draft EA may be viewed by directing your browser to <http://www.srs.gov/general/pubs/pubs.htm>. Comments regarding and requests for hard copies of the draft EA should be sent to:

Andrew R. Grainger, NEPA Compliance Officer
U.S. Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office
Building 742-A, Room 179, Aiken, SC 29808
e-mail: nepa@srs.gov
Fax/telephone 1-800-881-7292

Revised FONSI available for the SRS Natural Resources Management Plan

DOE has prepared a revised finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for the 2005 Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP) for SRS. The original SRS NRMP, issued in 1991, was developed to provide direction for management of the site's natural resources. Since issuance of the 1991 NRMP, the roles of the site organizations that manage SRS natural resources have both changed and expanded. The 2005 SRS NRMP encompasses new responsibilities, clarifies existing ones, guides the selection and implementation of site-specific actions, and ties the various SRS organization natural resource issues to the DOE-SR environmental stewardship missions and budget processes.

The revised FONSI determines the proposed implementation of the revised NRMP at SRS and is bounded by analysis in the *Environmental Assessment for Natural Resource Management Activities at the Savannah River Site* (DOE/EA-0826).

Requests for copies of the 1993 EA, the 1993 and 2000 FONSI, the 2005 NRMP and 2005 revised FONSI, or further information on the DOE-SR NEPA process should be sent to name and address at the bottom of this page.

FONSI available for NPDES Wastewater Permit Compliance Alternatives at SRS

DOE has prepared an EA to analyze potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Wastewater Permit Compliance Alternatives at SRS (DOE/EA-1513). The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control has recently renewed SRS's NPDES Permit. This permit authorizes the continued discharge of wastewater effluents from SRS operations through 25 outfalls into State surface waters for the next five years. Compliance schedules have been negotiated with the State for certain outfalls to assist in meeting the new more restrictive permit limitations.

Via letters dated February 18, 2005, the draft EA was made available for comment to the States of Georgia and South Carolina. DOE notified the general public of the availability of the draft EA in the February 18, 2005, SRS *Environmental Bulletin*. The comment period closed on March 18, 2005. By letter dated March 14, 2005, the State of South Carolina indicated they have no comments, and no other public comments were received. Based on the analysis in the EA, DOE has determined that the actions required to come into compliance with the NPDES permit will not have significant impacts on the environment. Therefore, on April 12, 2005, the DOE-SR Manager approved the Final EA and signed a FONSI. The FONSI states DOE's decision to implement the preferred alternatives described in the EA for those outfalls that do not meet the standards in the revised NPDES permit. The EA and FONSI are available electronically on our web page at <http://www.srs.gov/general/pubs/pubs.htm>.

Requests for copies of the EA and FONSI should be sent to:

Andrew R. Grainger, NEPA Compliance Officer
U.S. Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office
Building 742-A, Room 179, Aiken, SC 29808
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Upcoming 2005 SRS Citizens Advisory Board Meetings

May 23 - 24
Hyatt Regency Hotel
#2 West Bay Street
Savannah, Ga. 31401

July 25 - 26
Newberry Hall
117 Newberry Street
Aiken, S.C. 29803

September 26 - 27
Holiday Inn - Coliseum at USC
630 Assembly Street
Columbia, S.C. 29201

November 14 - 15
Embassy Suites
5055 International Blvd.
North Charleston, S.C. 29418

***Want more Information
on any SRS NEPA Issues?***

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The SRS Environmental Bulletin

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