



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Removal Site Evaluation Report/Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (rser/ee/ca) for the R Reactor Building (105 R) Complex at the Savannah River Site

The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to perform a non-time critical removal for the R Reactor Building (105-R) Complex, a subunit of the R Area Operable Unit (RAOU). Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) the Removal Site Evaluation Report/Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (RSER/EE/CA) describes how the proposed removal action meets the criteria established in the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan (NCP), 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 300.415. The purpose of this RSER/EE/CA is to identify the objectives of the removal action, and to develop alternatives that address the potential threats from release of contaminants to the environment from this subunit. This document will be available for public review and copying at the locations listed below. The public comment period is scheduled for December 17, 2009, to January 16, 2010.

The RSER/EE/CA was completed to meet the terms of CERCLA, a law governing the investigation and cleanup of waste units. The DOE has worked with the United States Environmental Protection Agency-Region 4 (USEPA) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) to ensure the remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

The RAOU is located about 2.5 miles northeast of the geographical center of the Savannah River Site and about 4.5 miles northwest of the nearest site boundary. This RSER/EE/CA addresses the removal actions associated with the R Reactor Building (105-R) Complex, which includes the following:

- R-Reactor Building (105-R)
- Engine Houses (108-1R and 108-2R)
- R-Reactor Vessel
- R-Reactor Disassembly Basin
- R-Reactor Emergency Basin
- Area on north side of Building 105-R Combined (NBN) subunit

The purpose of the removal action is to prevent possible exposure for the industrial worker to the radioactive or hazardous contamination present within the subunits. In addition, the removal actions prevent migration of the contaminants from the subunits to the groundwater at concentrations exceeding regulatory standards to the extent practicable and prevent animal intruder exposure to the contaminants.

Based on comparative analysis of the alternatives considering effectiveness, implementability, and cost, Alternative R-2A (In-Situ Decommissioning (ISD) 2A – Grout R Reactor Vessel; Remove the Disassembly Basin Above Grade; Grout all Below-Grade Structures/Sections; Cover Contaminated Soils) has been identified as the preferred action. This alternative meets the Removal Action Objectives and will be consistent with the final remedial action proposed for the RAOU in the C, K, L and R Area Operable Unit Record of Decision.

Upon completion of the public comment period, an Action Memorandum with a Responsiveness Summary that addresses public comments will be prepared.

Copies of the RSER/EE/CA 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-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC; and
- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC.

Hard copies of the RSER/EE/CA 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.

An electronic copy of the RSER/EE/CA is posted at the following address: <http://www.srs.gov/general/programs/soil/pub/pubinv.html>

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