

The Savannah River Site Environmental Bulletin

February 4, 2014

Volume 26, Number 1

Notice of Public Availability

Fourth Five-Year Remedy Review Report for the Savannah River Site

The Fourth Five-Year Remedy Review Report for the Savannah River Site (SRS) is being issued by the U.S. Department of Energy, the lead agency for the SRS, with concurrence by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 4, and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act requires that remedial actions that result in hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants remaining at an operable unit (OU) at levels unsuitable for unrestricted land use be subject to a five-year remedy review. The Fourth Five-Year Remedy Review Report evaluated the remedial actions that have been selected at the SRS OUs through issued Records of Decision (RODs), Interim RODs, ROD Amendments, or Explanations of Significant Differences to determine whether the selected remedies remain protective of human health and the environment.

The five-year remedy review addressed three major questions:

- Are the remedies functioning as intended by the decision document?
- Are the exposure assumptions, toxicity data, cleanup levels, and remedial action objectives (RAOs) used at the time of remedy selection still valid?
- Has any other information emerged that could call into question the protectiveness of the remedy?

The report includes fifty-two (52) OU-specific reviews of the selected remedial actions. These OUs are in varying stages of remediation (e.g., under construction, active remediation, or remediation completed). The remedies implemented at SRS are functioning as intended. The exposure assumptions, toxicity data, cleanup levels, and RAOs used at the time of remedy selection are still valid for all of the remedial actions evaluated. No new information has come to light that calls into question the protectiveness of any of the selected remedies. The fifty-two (52) remedies implemented at SRS are protective of human health and the environment. However, two (2) of the remedies were determined to only be protective in the short term and final remedial decisions, and actions if deemed necessary, will be required in the future.

Seven (7) recommendations resulted from the review as follows:

- Recommend that the cover inspection frequency for ten (10) OUs be reduced to annual inspections.
- Recommend optimization of groundwater monitoring and reporting at five (5) OUs.
- Recommend groundwater sampling for 1,4-dioxane at six (6) OUs.
- Recommend reevaluation of the installation and maintenance activities for stormwater runoff covers for the E-Area Low Level Waste Facility.
- Recommend that the L-Area Hot Shop OU is categorized as a No Action site because the remedial goals for unrestricted land use have been met and Land Use Controls are no longer necessary.

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- Recommend incorporating bioremediation (i.e., edible oil injection) into the remedy for the TNX Area OU. The Treatability Study confirmed that enhanced bioremediation technology has demonstrated reduction in the concentration and extent of volatile organic compounds in groundwater.
- Recommend that groundwater remediation activities at the A/M Area Groundwater OU be evaluated and a strategy for optimization of plume capture be developed.
- Recommend that future Five Year Remedy Review documents be developed for individual OUs (or groups of OUs) in place of combining all OU reviews in a single report.

To aid in the review of the report, a Savannah River Site Fourth Five-Year Remedy Review Report Fact Sheet was also developed.

Copies of the Fourth Five-Year Remedy Review Report and Fact Sheet 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 (USC)-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC; and
- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at USC in Columbia, SC

Hard copies of the Fourth Five-Year Remedy Review Report and the Fact Sheet are available at the following locations:

- Reese Library Government Information Section at Georgia Regents University in Augusta, GA; and
- Asa H. Gordon Library at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA

An electronic copy of the Fourth Five-Year Remedy Review Report can be found at the following website:

- <http://www.srs.gov/general/programs/soil/rod/rod.html>

An electronic copy of the Fact Sheet can be found at the following website:

- <http://www.srs.gov/general/programs/soil/pub/pubinv.html>

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