



The ENVIRONMENTAL BULLETIN

from the Savannah River Site

Draft EA for Waste Segregation Facility

The Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office is preparing an analysis of the potential environmental consequences for the construction, operation, decontamination, and decommissioning of a proposed waste segregation facility.

If the decision is to build this facility, it will sort, segregate, shred, and compact radioactive low-level waste to reduce its size. The waste to be processed consists of two waste streams: legacy waste which is currently stored in the Savannah River Site (SRS) E Area Vaults and new waste generated from continuing site operations. The waste will be treated

or repackaged to make more efficient use of disposal capacity for the vaults or to meet the waste acceptance criteria for treatment at the Consolidated Incineration Facility at SRS.

This analysis is being prepared because *Savannah River Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE/EIS-0217), October 1995, addressed only the treatment of these low-level waste streams, but not the specific construction of this facility.

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Modifications to M Area Hazardous Waste Management Facility permit

The U.S. Department of Energy-Savannah River Operations Office has requested from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) a modification to Savannah River Site's 1992 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Part B Permit Renewal Application, Volume III, which details operations at the M Area Hazardous Waste Management Facility and Post-Closure

Care.

The revision (Rev. 10) addresses the Northern Sector Phase III Corrective Action Plan. It includes a description and evaluation of the corrective action plan operations, a description of proposals to address characterization and evaluation of remedial alternatives, and the predicted distribution of trichloroethylene in the Crouch

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Removal actions at L Area rubble pile and gas cylinder disposal facility

DOE began removal actions at SRS's L-Area Rubble Pile and L-Area Gas Cylinder Disposal Facility in October 1997. Vegetation removal in and around the units is the first step of more extensive removal actions at the units.

L-Area Rubble Pile contains construction debris such as scrap metal, electrical wiring and railroad ties, and hazardous materials including asbestos.

The L-Area Gas Cylinder Disposal Facility contains empty depressurized gas cylinders; it may also contain some pressurized gas cylinders. Since site workers will be in the area to collect soil and groundwater samples, DOE decided to initiate time critical removal actions at these units to remove the potential threat the hazardous materials posed 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 completed and is available for public review beginning Oct. 30, at the information repositories listed in the box below.

Revised FONSI for the Regulatory Monitoring and Bioassay Laboratory

The proposed action is to combine some of the functions previously planned for the Environmental Monitoring Laboratory (EML) and the Health Physics Site Support Facility into one facility to be called the Regulatory Monitoring and Bioassay Laboratory (RMBL).

The RMBL is to be one of three buildings located in the Health Protection Complex in B Area. The facility would provide approximately 7,432 square meters (80,000 square feet) of laboratory space, personnel

offices, and support areas such as records storage and chemical storage.

The Department of Energy (DOE) prepared Environmental Assessments (EA) for the construction and operation of a new EML (DOE/EA-1010) and the Health Physics Site Support Facility (DOE/EA-1022). As these two facilities (1) were originally planned to be located adjacent to one another, (2) each facility received a FONSI, and (3) the combined activity will be less than the original two projects with reduced potential im-

pacts, DOE has concluded that the environmental impacts of the proposed combination facility (RMBL) is not a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of NEPA. Therefore, the preparation of an environmental impact statement was not required, and DOE therefore issued a revised FONSI.

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Copies of the draft analysis, called the *Environmental Assessment for the Construction, Operation, and Decommissioning of the Waste Segregation Facility at the Savannah River Site*, will be available after October 20, 1997. If you would like a copy of the draft analysis to review and make comments, or would like to discuss this analysis with someone, please contact Drew Grainger, (803) 725-1523, or toll free, (800) 881-7292.

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Branch Aquifer.

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 Mary Flora, (803) 725-2272, or J.T. Litton, director of Division of Hazardous and Infestious Waste Mgmt., 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, S.C. 29201-1708.

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

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

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

SRS Environmental Restoration Home Page

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

Current NEPA actions affecting SRS

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

The Notice of Availability for the final SEIS appeared in the Federal Register October 19, 1997 (62 FR 52997).

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

The Notice of Availability for the draft EIS is scheduled for November 1997. Public hearing will be scheduled for December 1997.

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

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

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

Preparation of the draft EIS continues with a proposed issue date of December 1997.

- **Tritium Extraction Facility (DOE/EIS-0271)**

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

- **DOE Waste Management (DOE/EIS-0200)**

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

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

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

- **Surplus Plutonium Disposition (DOE/EIS-0282)**

The draft EIS is scheduled for February 1998.

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

Preparation of the draft EA is progressing with a proposed issue date of December 1997.

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

Preparation of the draft EA is progressing with a proposed issue date of November 10, 1997.

- **DOE Permission for Off-loading and Transportation of Commercial Low-Level Radioactive Waste across SRS (DOE/EA-1218)**

The final EA was approved and the FONSI was signed for the proposed action on October 17, 1997.

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

Preparation of the draft EA is progressing with a proposed issue date of November 1997.

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

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.

FONSI for Off-Loading and Transportation of Commercial Low-Level Radioactive Waste

The DOE has prepared an EA (DOE/EA-1218) to analyze the potential environmental consequences associated with the commercial shipments of low-level radioactive waste (LLW) across SRS.

Chem-Nuclear Systems, L.L.C. (CNS) maintains and operates the LLW disposal facility located adjacent to SRS in Barnwell County, S.C.

The proposed federal action would be for DOE to allow CNS to use federal property for the following: (1) widening the existing SRS boat ramp for off-loading activities, (2) constructing a bridge over Lower Three Runs at SRS Road B, (3) landing its transport barge at that boat ramp, and (4) offloading the steam generators for transport to the CNS facility over SRS roads. In addition, the proposed action would encompass any similar future off-loading activities of LLW en route to the CNS facility.

DOE has determined that the proposed action is not a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of NEPA. Therefore, the preparation of an environmental impact statement was not required, and DOE therefore issued a FONSI.

For copies of NEPA documents, contact ...

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