



# Environmental Bulletin

Volume 18, Number 18  
August 2, 2007

*from the Savannah River Site*

## **Record of Decision Issued for the A Area Burning/Rubble Pits (731-A, -1A) and Rubble Pit (731-2A) and the Miscellaneous Chemical Basin/Metals Burning Pit (731-4A, -5A) Operable Unit**

The United States Department of Energy (DOE), the United States Environmental Protection Agency – Region 4 (EPA), and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) have selected the remedial approaches for the A Area Burning/Rubble Pits (731-A, -1A) and Rubble Pit (731-2A) (ABRP) and the Miscellaneous Chemical Basin/Metals Burning Pit (731-4A, -5A) (MCB/MBP) Operable Unit (OU) at the Savannah River Site (SRS). A 45-day public comment period for the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan and the associated draft Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit modification was held from June 15, 2006 to July 29, 2006.

The DOE, EPA and SCDHEC have determined that the preferred remedial actions consist of the following:

1. Burning/Rubble Pits (731-A, -1A), Potential Pit, Depressional Area, Ash Scatter Area/Ditch – No Action: No constituents of concern (COCs) were identified for these areas; therefore, the preferred remedial alternative is No Action.
2. Rubble Pit (731-2A) and A-Area Ash Pile (788-2A) – Soil Cover and Institutional Controls: A soil cover to address benzo(a)pyrene surface contamination was placed over Rubble Pit 731-2A under an interim action. This action was sufficient as the final remedy for Rubble Pit 731-2A; therefore, no additional actions are required. A soil cover is recommended for the A-Area Ash Pile due to human health and ecological Constituents of Concern (COC). The A-Area Ash Pile COC's include arsenic, coal-related radionuclides, and selenium. Institutional controls (i.e., warning signs, land-use restrictions, etc.) help prevent exposure to contaminated soil in both subunits.
3. ABRP Trench and MCB Vadose Zone – Soil Vapor Extraction and Institutional Controls: Soil vapor extraction is recommended for these areas to remediate the volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the subunits. Trichloroethane (TCE) is present in the ABRP Trench Vadose Zone; and, TCE and tetrachloroethylene (PCE) are present in the MCB Vadose Zone. Institutional controls (i.e., warning signs, land-use restrictions, etc.) help prevent exposure to contaminated soil in both subunits.
4. MCB Surface Soil and MBP Surface Soil – Excavation, Offsite Disposal, and Backfill: The MCB surface soil contained polychlorinated biphenyls that exceeded human health and ecological remedial goals. The MBP surface soil contained aluminum in concentrations that exceeded the ecological remedial goal. The contaminated soils in both subunits were excavated, sent offsite for disposal, and the areas were backfilled under an interim action. The remedial actions in these areas were sufficient as the final remedial action; therefore, no additional actions are required.

These alternatives will be protective of human health and the environment. They are also intended to be the final actions for the ABRP/MCB/MBP OU.

The ABRP/MCB/MBP Operable Unit is located approximately 1.5 miles south of M-Area, west of Road D and northeast of Road C, and 3 miles east of the SRS boundary. Between 1951 and 1973, Pits 731-A and 731-1A were used to burn paper, plastics, wood, rubber, rags, cardboard, oil, degreasers, and solvents. Combustible materials were burned monthly. Pit 731-2A

was only used as a rubble pit. After burning was discontinued in 1973, Pits 731-A and 731-1A were also converted to rubble pits and used to dispose of concrete rubble, bricks, tile, asphalt, plastic, metal, wood products, and rubber. When the pits were filled to capacity, they were covered with compacted clay-rich native soil and vegetation was established. The actual closing date is not recorded; however, the estimated time is 1978. Other potential sources of contamination identified as part of the ABRP area include a Potential Pit, Depressional Area, Trench, Ash Scatter Area/Ditch. Specific disposal records are not known to exist for these subunits.

The A Area Ash Pile (788-2A), used for the disposal of dry ash from the A Area powerhouse prior to 1994, covers approximately 2 acres and is about 20 feet thick. The A Area Ash Pile is located between the Pits Area and the Ash Scatter Area/Ditch subunits. The Trench subunit extends beneath the Ash Pile.

The MCB received liquid chemical wastes and is located in an old borrow pit. No construction records exist for the borrow pit. No records of specific materials disposed were kept, although its presumed use was for the disposal of solvent and used oil.

The MBP was a cleared area that was used for burning lithium-aluminum alloys, scrap, and cuttings from A & M Area operations. Unit photographs show what is thought to be typical disposal of metal shavings, pieces of aluminum, plastic pipe, metal drums, and other miscellaneous scrap. The site was reportedly placed into service in 1960 and taken out of service in 1974. At that time, the waste piles were regraded and the area was allowed to revegetate with natural flora.

Groundwater is not considered part of the scope for the ABRP/MCB/MBP OU. Any groundwater contamination resulting from the ABRP/MCB/MBP OU is regulated by the SRS Resource Conservation & Recovery Act (RCRA) Part B Permit.

The remedial decisions are documented in the Record of Decision. This document includes a Responsiveness Summary that addresses public comments. DOE has worked with SCDHEC and EPA to ensure that the remedial approaches are consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

Copies of the Record of Decision 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 Record of Decision are available at the following locations:

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

For additional information, contact Paul Sauerborn at the address listed below:

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## **FONSI Available for NPDES Stormwater Compliance Alternatives at SRS**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has issued a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for the final environmental assessment (EA) entitled National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Compliance Alternatives at the Savannah River Site (DOE/EA-1563). The new stormwater permit for SRS requires minimizing selected pollutants (e.g., metals) in stormwater discharges from industrialized areas in order to meet applicable water quality criteria. Sampling of existing stormwater outfalls indicates that certain of these discharges present potential water quality problems. Various preferred and alternative actions are being considered by DOE in this EA regarding how to best protect State waters.

An electronic copy of the final EA and FONSI may be viewed by directing your browser to <http://www.srs.gov/general/srs-home.html>. Requests for copies of the final EA and FONSI should be sent to:

Andrew R. Grainger, NEPA Compliance Officer  
U. S. Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office  
Building 730-1B, Room 3150, Aiken, SC 29808  
e-mail: [nepa@srs.gov](mailto:nepa@srs.gov)  
Fax/telephone 1-800-881-7292

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### **SRS Citizens Advisory Board Remaining 2007 Meeting Schedule**

September 24-25

Sheraton North Charleston Hotel  
4770 Goer Drive  
North Charleston, S.C. 29406  
(843) 747-1900  
[www.sheraton.com/northcharleston](http://www.sheraton.com/northcharleston)

November 26-27

Augusta Marriott Hotel  
Two Tenth Street  
Augusta, Ga. 30901  
(706) 722-8900  
[www.marriott.com/agsmc](http://www.marriott.com/agsmc)

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

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call the SRS NEPA Hotline at 1-800-881-7292  
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## **The SRS Environmental Bulletin**

For more information on this or other  
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