



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Revision 3 Action Memorandum Issued for the Removal Action at the Production Area of M Area Operable Unit

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) previously selected the preferred alternative for the Non-Time Critical Removal Action at the Production Area of the M Area Operable Unit (MAOU). The preferred alternative was Alternative #2, "Removal of contaminated material in exceedance of the remedial goal, with off-SRS disposal", to achieve the removal action objectives. A 30-day public comment period was held for the Removal Site Evaluation Report/Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (RSER/EE/CA) from January 11, 2007 to February 9, 2007. On February 16, 2007, the DOE submitted the Action Memorandum documenting its selection to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). The Action Memorandum was made available for public review on February 27, 2007. On February 28, 2008, a Revised Action Memorandum that changed the disposal location for the low level radioactive waste from off-site to the E-Area Low Level Waste Facility Slit Trenches was made available for public review. On December 2, 2008, the Revision 2 Action Memorandum which allowed SRS more time to evaluate more cost-effective on-unit treatment technologies for soils with volatile organic constituent (VOC) contamination greater than 50 mg/kg was made available for public review.

The Revision 3 Action Memorandum was submitted to EPA and SCDHEC to establish the path forward for final disposition of the 3,250 cubic yards of soils and concrete rubble with VOC contamination greater than 50 mg/kg. Analytical results show the VOC concentration of these materials is below the 50 mg/kg threshold. Therefore, SRS will treat the 3,250 cubic yards of VOC contaminated materials with passive soil vapor extraction.

The MAOU Production Area is located in the northwest portion of the SRS. Special nuclear materials for the Department of Defense were produced in this area between 1952 and 1988. An important step in the production cycle was the manufacture of fuel and target assemblies in M Area for nuclear reactors. M Area consisted of three major production buildings (313-M, 320-M, and 321-M) that began operation in the early 1950s and continued operation at various production levels until the early 1990s. In addition to the production facilities, three support facilities (322-M, 324-M, and 340-M) were also located in this area. Two test reactor facilities were located to the south (305-A and 777-10A).

Copies of the Revision 3 Action Memorandum 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 Revision 3 Action Memorandum 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

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