



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Statement of Basis / Proposed Plan for the R Area Operable Unit Available for Public Comment

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) will release a Statement of Basis / Proposed Plan (SB/PP) for the R Area Operable Unit (RAOU) on July 14, 2010 describing the preferred remedial approach for this operable unit at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) will also release a draft Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit modification for the proposed remedial action for this operable unit. These documents will be available for public review and copying at the locations listed below. The forty-five (45) day public comment period is scheduled for July 14, 2010 to August 28, 2010.

The SB/PP was completed to meet the terms of the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) for SRS governing the investigation and cleanup of waste units. The FFA integrates the requirements of RCRA and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

DOE has worked with the United States Environmental Protection Agency-Region 4 (EPA) and the SCDHEC to ensure the remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements. DOE, EPA, and SCDHEC have reviewed the risks associated with the RAOU and have evaluated cleanup alternatives. Monitored Natural Attenuation for groundwater and Land Use Controls (LUCs) is the preferred alternative for the RAOU.

The R-Reactor operated from 1953 to 1964 with a mission of producing nuclear materials for the defense program. The primary sources of radioactive contamination in R-Area are activation products, fission products, and tritium. Groundwater is contaminated with volatile organics and tritium. The RAOU consists of several subunits, some of which were previously selected for non-time critical (NTC) removal actions that have been described to the public. It is assumed the NTC removal actions will be successfully completed prior to implementation of the final action proposed in this SB/PP. Some of the subunits were determined to pose no risk to human health or the environment. The remaining subunits require LUCs as part of the selected remedy to prevent unrestricted land use within RAOU. In addition, groundwater will be monitored until contaminants are below safe drinking water levels. This remedy meets the Remedial Action Objectives and threshold criteria, provides overall protection of human health and the environment, and complies with the Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements.

Comments on the SB/PP and the draft RCRA permit are requested by August 27, 2010. Upon completion of the public comment period, a Responsiveness Summary that addresses public comments will be prepared. The Responsiveness Summary will be made available with the Record of Decision and the final RCRA permit modification and will be sent to each person who submits comments.

Copies of the RAOU SB/PP 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 RAOU SB/PP 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.

An electronic copy of the RAOU SB/PP is posted at the following address:

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

Copies of the draft RCRA permit modification are available for review at SCDHEC during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, at the following locations:

SCDHEC
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
8911 Farrow Road
Columbia, SC 29203
Phone: (803) 896-4000

or

SCDHEC-Region 5
Aiken EQC Office
206 Beaufort St., N.E.
Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (803) 641-7670

If there is interest in discussing the recommended remedial approach, a public hearing may be requested. Comments on the RAOU SB/PP should be sent to Mr. Paul Sauerborn. Comments on the draft RCRA permit modification or requests for a public hearing should be sent to Mr. Richard Haynes. For additional information or to request a public meeting contact:

Paul Sauerborn
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC
Savannah River Site
Building 730-1B
Aiken, SC 29808
(803) 952-6658
paul.sauerborn@srs.gov

or

SCDHEC
Attn: Richard Haynes, P.E., Director
Division of Waste Management
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 896-4000

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**For more information on this or
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