



# Environmental Bulletin

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*from the Savannah River Site*

## Statement of Basis / Proposed Plan for the L-Area Northern Groundwater 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 L-Area Northern Groundwater Operable Unit (LANG OU) on December 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 December 14, 2010 to January 27, 2011.

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 LANG OU and have evaluated cleanup alternatives. No Action is the preferred alternative for the LANG OU.

The L-Reactor operated from 1954 to 1968 and 1984 to 1998. Between 1968 and 1984, the L-Reactor was kept in warm standby due to decreased demand for plutonium and tritium. Although the L-Reactor Complex is no longer producing nuclear material, the L-Reactor Complex is used for nuclear materials storage. The LANG OU encompasses groundwater located north of the L-Area groundwater divide, which is north of the L-Area Reactor Area. The geographic extent of the LANG OU is bordered on the south by the L-Area Southern Groundwater OU, on the east by the L-Area proper, on the west by Pen Branch, and to the north by a groundwater flow boundary located below the Chemicals, Metals, and Pesticides Pits OU. The aerial extent of the LANG OU is about 840 acres. Groundwater flow within the LANG OU is towards the west to southwest.

Based on a review of all available groundwater data obtained from the unit, DOE, EPA, and SCDHEC have concluded that no constituent concentrations pose an unacceptable threat to human health or the environment. Since the LANG OU does not pose an unacceptable threat to human health and the environment, the preferred alternative is No Action. This alternative does not require land use controls, land restrictions, or ongoing monitoring.

Comments on the SB/PP and the draft RCRA permit are requested by January 27, 2011. 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 LANG OU 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 LANG OU SB/PP are available at the following locations:

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

An electronic copy of the LANG OU 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 LANG OU 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  
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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## The SRS

## Environmental Bulletin

**For more information on this or  
other environmental and compli-  
ance activities at SRS, contact:**

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