



# Environmental Bulletin

Volume 13, Number 19  
December 5, 2002

*from the Savannah River Site*

## Public Invited to Comment

### **Amended ROD Released for Reactor Seepage Basin Units**

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) will release an Amended Record of Decision (ROD) on December 5, 2002, describing the amended remedial approach for the Unit-Specific Amended Plug-In Proposed Plan for the C-Area Reactor Seepage Basin (C-RSB) and L-Area Reactor Seepage Basin (L-RSB) Units at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The ROD will be available for public review and copying at the locations listed below. The public review period is scheduled for December 5, 2002 to January 3, 2003.

Public information and public involvement activities are conducted throughout the various phases of the cleanup process. Public comment periods are held to receive oral and written comments from the public on proposed remedial plans and actions. In addition, as required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), the opportunity for public meetings, hearings, and briefings is made available during the remedial process and as requested by the public. A Plug-in (a standard cleanup approach applied to similar cleanup sites) ROD was previously approved that identified in situ stabilization with a low-permeability soil cover as the preferred alternative for the C-RSB and L-RSB.

The three parties reassessed the preferred alternative in terms of the DOE's ability to control access to Principal Threat Source Material (PTSM) and determined the following:

- The current PTSM will radioactively decay to levels that no longer pose a 1 in 10,000 risk to future industrial workers within a relatively short time.
- DOE, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) agree that it is reasonable to assume that DOE will continue to own and operate the SRS for this time period and access controls will be provided to prevent exposure to the current PTSM.

As a result, in situ stabilization is eliminated as a component of the Plug-in remedy at the L-RSB and basin #2 at the C-RSB. The three parties have agreed that the following actions are the best way to protect human health and the environment:

- Place a low permeability soil cover over the L-RSB and

basin #2 at the C-RSB

- Place warning signs and a fence around these basins while they contain PTSM.
- Provide institutional controls that will restrict future activities that might result in exposure to contamination.

This change represents an appreciable change to the scope of the Plug-in remedy and is considered a fundamental change. An amended ROD is required to document these changes. Due to the similarities between both units, one amended ROD is being issued.

Copies of the Amended ROD are available in the administrative record, which also contains the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) report for these units. The administrative record is available in the following information repositories:

- 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 ROD are available at the following:

- 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:

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Public Invited to Comment**Remedial Action Proposed for L-Area Hot Shop**

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) will release a Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan on December 5, 2002, describing the proposed remedial approach for the L-Area Hot Shop (LAHS) (Including CML-003 Sandblast Area) Operable Unit (OU) 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 unit. These documents will be available for public review and copying at the locations listed below. The public comment period is scheduled for December 5, 2002, to January 18, 2003.

DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and SCDHEC have reviewed the risks associated with this unit and have evaluated cleanup alternatives. The three agencies are recommending the following action for the L-Area Hot Shop (Including CML-003 Sandblast Area) Operable Unit:

- Remove all of the contaminated drainlines and the contaminated surface of the LAHS slab and transporting the contaminated waste to an offsite disposal site.

The LAHS OU is located in the south-central portion of SRS, north of L Lake situated within the Steel Creek watershed. It includes five subunits: (1) Soils; (2) Inactive Drainlines; (3) Manholes and Associated Drainlines, (4) Surface Drainage Ditch; and (5) Concrete Slabs. Based upon the characterization data and risk assessment, only the inactive drainlines and the concrete slab require remedial action. Groundwater associated with this unit is not part of this OU, but it has been included in the L-Area Southern Groundwater OU.

The preferred alternative will be the final action for the LAHS OU. The Land Use Control Implementation Plan (LUCIP) will detail how SRS will implement, maintain, and monitor the land use control elements of the LAHS OU preferred alternative to ensure that the remedy remains protective of human health and the environment.

Comments on the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan and the draft RCRA permit modification are requested by January 18, 2003. 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 decision and will be sent to each person who submits comments.

Copies of the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan are available in the administrative record, which also contains the RCRA Facility Investigation/Remedial Investigation with

Risk Assessment Report for this unit. The administrative record is available in the following information repositories:

- DOE Public Reading Room at the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC;
- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC;

Hard copies of the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan are available at the following:

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

Copies of the draft RCRA permit modification/s 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  
8901 Farrow Road  
Columbia, South Carolina 29203  
Phone: (803)896-4000

or

SCDHEC  
Lower Savannah District  
Environmental Quality Control Office  
218 Beaufort St., N.E.  
Aiken, SC 29802  
Phone: (803) 641-7670

**Need More Information?**

If there is interest in discussing this recommended remedial approach, a public hearing may be requested. Comments on the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan should be sent to Mr. Jim Moore and Mr. John Litton. Comments on the draft RCRA permit modification or requests for a public hearing should be sent to Mr. John Litton. For additional information or to request a public meeting contact:

Jim Moore or  
WSRC  
Savannah River Site  
Building 742-A  
Aiken, SC 29808  
1-800-249-8155  
jim02.moore@srs.gov

SCDHEC  
Attn: John Litton, P.E., Director  
Division of Waste Management  
Bureau of Land and Waste Management  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, SC 29201  
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## Current NEPA Actions Affecting SRS

- **Disposition of Scrap Metals Programmatic EIS (DOE/EIS-0327)** This Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) will evaluate alternatives for disposition of scrap metals from DOE sites that may have been in radiological areas. The disposition options to be analyzed include continuation of the suspension on unrestricted release of metals for recycling, unrestricted release of scrap metals for recycling, and disposal. The Notice of Intent (NOI) for this PEIS was issued on July 12, 2001. Public meetings were held on July 31, 2001, in North Augusta, SC. The draft PEIS is scheduled to be available in December 2002.
- **Supplemental PEIS on Stockpile Stewardship and Management for a Modern Pit Facility (DOE/EIS-0236-S2)** This PEIS will evaluate alternative sites (Los Alamos National Laboratory, Nevada Test Site, Pantex Plant, Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, and Savannah River Site) for a Modern Pit Facility, to provide the capability to manufacture plutonium (Pu) pits for the United States nuclear weapons stockpile. This PEIS will be followed by a site-specific EIS to address the impacts of construction and operation of the Modern Pit Facility at the selected site. The NOI for this PEIS was issued on September 23, 2002. A public scoping meeting was held on October 29, 2002, in North Augusta, SC. The draft PEIS is scheduled to be available in May 2003, the final PEIS projected for March 2004, and the ROD scheduled for April 2004.
- **Supplement Analysis (SA), Changes Needed to the Surplus Plutonium Disposition Program (DOE/EIS-0283-SAI)** The SA evaluates the impacts of making Pu feed for the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility from approximately 6.5 metric tons of Pu materials originally intended for Immobilization. The SA explains how these impacts have been addressed in the Storage and Disposition PEIS (DOE/EIS-0229) and the Surplus Plutonium Disposition EIS (DOE/EIS-0283). The SA and amended ROD are scheduled to be available in December 2002.
- **Supplement Analysis (SA), Disposition of Certain Nuclear Materials (DOE/EIS-0220-SA4)** The SA evaluates the impacts of disposing of certain materials, including cobalt-60 and thulium-170, as waste, and provides the basis for determining if this existing EIS should be supplemented, a new EIS should be prepared, or no further NEPA documentation is required. The SA compares the materials and the proposed disposal of the materials, to the materials and disposal technologies evaluated in the SRS Waste Management EIS (DOE/EIS-0217) and the Interim Management of Nuclear Materials EIS (DOE/EIS-0220). The determination and related SA will be made available to the public for information. An amended ROD will be prepared as appropriate
- **Removal, Transportation and Storage of Radioisotopic Thermoelectric Generators (RTGs) (DOE/EA-1351)** This programmatic environmental assessment (PEA) is being developed jointly by DOE and the U.S. Air Force. It addresses: (1) the removal and transportation of 10 Strontium-90 RTGs from Burnt Mountain Seismic Array Laboratory in Alaska to a DOE site or an Air Force facility; and (2) long-term storage of the 10 identified plus about 50 other RTGs. The PEA is on hold while an EM-1 policy review of Greater than Class C waste is being conducted.
- **Implementation of a Comprehensive Management Program for the Storage, Transportation, and Disposition of Potentially Re-Usable Uranium Materials (DOE/EA-1393)** DOE-Oak Ridge (OR) has prepared a PEA to implement a comprehensive management program to safely, efficiently, and effectively store its potentially reusable low enriched uranium, normal uranium, and depleted uranium. The comprehensive management program addressed in this PEA looks at transportation, including preparation of uranium materials for safe shipment, long-term storage, and maintenance. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is scheduled for December 2002.
- **Natural Resources Management Activities at SRS (DOE/EA-0826)** DOE-SR prepared an EA in 1993 to analyze the potential environmental impacts of continued management of SRS natural resources. Based on the analyses in the EA, DOE-SR determined the proposed action was not a major Federal action significantly affecting the human environment within the meaning of NEPA, and issued a FONSI. In 2000, DOE-SR issued a revised FONSI that determined implementation of a revised red-cockaded woodpecker Management Plan would have impacts no greater than those described in the 1993 EA. DOE-SR now proposes a second revised FONSI which will address minor differences between the 1991 and the next version of the SRS Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP). The NEPA review is on hold until the next version of the NRMP is finalized.
- **Offloading and Transportation of LLW Across SRS (DOE/EA-1218)** DOE-SR prepared an EA in 1997 to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with commercial shipments of low-level radioactive waste (LLW) across SRS. Based on the analyses in the EA, DOE-SR determined the proposed action was not a major federal action significantly affecting the human environment within the meaning of NEPA, and issued a FONSI in 1997 which addressed and selected barge/roadway LLW shipment. DOE-SR now proposes a revised FONSI to address LLW shipment by rail/roadway

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Savannah River Site  
Building 742-A  
Aiken, S.C. 29808**



## **The SRS Environmental Bulletin**

**For more information on this or other  
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