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from the Savannah River Site

Record Of Decision Issued for the A-Area Miscellaneous Rubble Pile Operable Unit

Correction: The details underlined below are changes from a previous article published in Vol. 14, No. 20 of the Environmental Bulletin.

The United States Department of Energy (DOE), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) have selected the remedial approach for Savannah River Site's (SRS) A-Area Miscellaneous Rubble Pile (ARP) Operable Unit (OU). 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 September 21, 2001 to November 4, 2001. Due to a change in the selected remedy for the Trenches Area (i.e., from passive soil vapor extraction to active soil vapor extraction), after the initial public comment period, a second 45-day public comment period was held for the draft RCRA permit modification from September 25, 2002 to November 8, 2002.

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

Piles Area – Hot Spot Removal and Disposal: Under this remedial action, the polychlorinated biphenyl/polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PCB/PAH) waste pile and the lead hot spot would be excavated, removed, and disposed in an off-unit permitted disposal facility. The lead hot spot would be excavated to a depth of approximately 1-foot below the land surface, while the PCB/PAH waste pile would be excavated to native soil. This alternative would eliminate all unacceptable risks identified in the Piles Area.

Ash Area – Institutional Controls: This remedial action consists of implementing institutional controls that would prohibit future residential land use and restrict access and activities. Under this alternative, existing work control procedures will provide protection for current workers. Warning signs and deed restrictions or notifications would be used to restrict access and minimize exposure of future industrial workers to the Ash Area. This alternative is considered acceptable due to the low levels of arsenic.

Trenches Area – Active Soil Vapor Extraction, Soil Cover, and Institutional Controls: This remedial action includes the installation of active soil vapor extraction wells to remove the tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE) in the vadose zone by venting these solvents to the atmosphere where they are quickly photodegraded. A soil cover of a minimum thickness of 1 foot would be placed over both the trenches and asphalt debris source areas. The soil cover would provide a physical barrier between PAH surface contamination and remedial workers and future industrial workers. Institutional controls would prohibit future residen-

tial land use and provide additional protection of future industrial workers in the Trenches Area.

The ARP OU is a 5.8-acre unit at the southern end of A/M Area at SRS. The unit is bounded by a gravel road to the north and two drainage ditches from the A/M Area to the east and southwest. Disposal activities at the ARP began in the early 1950's, but the exact dates of operation and specific waste disposed at the unit were not documented. However, based on field characterization work performed at the site, it is clear that the primary wastes disposed at the site were construction rubble and an ash-like material.

The ARP OU contains three primary sources of contamination: construction debris piles, a near-surface ash layer, and a T-shaped disposal trench. Because these three areas are physically distinct and are located in separate areas of the OU, the ARP was divided into three separate subunits: the Piles Area, the Ash Area, and the Trenches Area.

The remedial decision is documented in the Record of Decision document. This document includes a responsiveness summary that addresses public comments. DOE has worked with SCDHEC and EPA to ensure the remedial approach is 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:

- 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:

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

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environmental and compliance activities
at SRS, please contact:

Jim Moore	Lyddie Broussard
Westinghouse	Westinghouse
Savannah River Co.	Savannah River Co.
Aiken, S.C. 29808	Aiken, S.C. 29808
(800) 249-8155	Public Involvement
e-mail: jim02.moore@srs.gov	(803) 725-7169

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Aiken, S.C. 29808

