



# Environmental Bulletin

Volume 15, Number 23  
September 28, 2004

*from the Savannah River Site*

## **Record of Decision Issued for the R-Area Burning/Rubble Pits and Rubble Pile Operable Unit**

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) R-Area Burning/Rubble Pits and Rubble Pile (RBRP/RRP) Operable Unit. 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 January 7, 2004, to February 20, 2004. The remedial decision is documented in the Record of Decision document. This document includes a responsiveness summary that addresses public comments received by SRS. DOE has worked with EPA and SCDHEC to ensure the remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

DOE, the EPA, and SCDHEC have determined that remedial action is necessary for this unit. The preferred remedial action consists of the following:

The remedial actions are to remove the soil that exceeds the industrial remedial goal levels from the rubble pile material (including 1 foot beneath the rubble pile). The soil removed will be segregated as RCRA hazardous and RCRA non-hazardous based on RCRA requirements. The non-hazardous soil will be placed into the open R-Area Burning Rubble Pits sub-unit. The open pit would be backfilled to grade with rubble pile material, placing any remaining RCRA non-hazardous rubble pile material over both pits. A low permeability cover system would be installed over both pits, along with implementation of institutional controls. The RCRA hazardous soil will be disposed of at an appropriate treatment, storage, and disposal facility.

The RBRP/RRP OU is located at SRS, approximately 4.5 miles from the nearest SRS boundary. The OU includes five sub-units: RBRP pit 131-R (Closed Pit) and pit 131-1R (Open Pit), the pit perimeter, RRP (pile and soil beneath the pile), wetland, and groundwater in the vicinity. There were no prior removal actions for this operable unit. Burning/rubble pits at SRS were used from 1951 to 1973 for periodic burning of combustible wastes such as wood, cardboard, paper, plastics, rubber, rags, oils, and organic liquids of unknown use or origin. Burning in open pits at SRS was discontinued in 1973; after that time, the pits that were still active continued to receive inert debris such as scrap metal and construction materi-

als. Disposal in burning/rubble pits at SRS ended by 1983. Debris identified in the pile includes miscellaneous construction materials, friable asbestos material, stainless steel shavings, empty 55-gallon drums, approximately fifteen 25-gallon containers, railroad ties, building insulation, floor and ceiling tiles, lawn wastes, light bulbs, coiled metal, and small amounts of coal and ash.

This selected remedy will be protective of human health and the environment. It is also intended to be the final action for the RBRP/RRPOU.

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 at the address listed below.

Jim Moore  
Westinghouse Savannah River Company  
Savannah River Site  
Building 742-A  
Aiken, SC 29808  
1-800-249-8155  
[jim02.moore@srs.gov](mailto:jim02.moore@srs.gov)

# MAILING LIST

Name \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Add to mail list

\_\_\_\_ Remove from mail list

\_\_\_\_ Correct my address

Mail to:

SRS Environmental Bulletin  
Savannah River Site  
Building 742-A  
Aiken, S.C. 29808



---

## The SRS Environmental Bulletin

For more information on this or other  
environmental and compliance activities  
at SRS, please contact:

Jim Moore

Westinghouse

Savannah River Co.

Aiken, S.C. 29808

(800) 249-8155

jim02.moore@srs.gov

Paul Sauerborn

Westinghouse

Savannah River Co.

Aiken, S.C. 29808

(803) 725-0665

paul.sauerborn@srs.gov

---

The SRS Environmental Bulletin

Savannah River Site

Building 742-A

Aiken, S.C. 29808

