



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Statement of Basis/ Proposed Plan for the A-Area Burning/Rubble Pits (731-A, -1A) and Rubble Pit (731-2A) and the Miscellaneous Chemical Basin/Metals Burning Pit (731-4A, -5A) Operable Unit

The United States Department of Energy (USDOE) will release a Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan on June 15, 2006 describing the proposed remedial actions for the A-Area Burning/Rubble Pits (731-A, -1A) and Rubble Pit (731-2A) (ABRP) and the Miscellaneous Chemical Basin/Metals Burning Pit (731-4A, -5A) (MCB/MBP) 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 June 15, 2006 to July 29, 2006.

The Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan was completed to meet the terms of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), a law governing the investigation and cleanup of waste units. USDOE has worked with the United States Environmental Protection Agency- Region 4 (USEPA) and the SCDHEC to ensure the remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

The USDOE, USEPA and SCDHEC have reviewed the risks associated with the operable unit and have evaluated cleanup alternatives. The following final actions are recommended for the ABRP/MCB/MBP OU:

1. Burning/Rubble Pits (731-A, -1A), Potential Pit, Depressional Area, Ash Scatter Area/Ditch – No Action: No contaminants of concern (COCs) were identified for these areas; therefore, the preferred remedial alternative is No Action.
2. Rubble Pit (731-2A) and A-Area Ash Pile (788-2A) – Soil Cover and Institutional Controls: A soil cover to address benzo(a)pyrene surface contamination was placed over Rubble Pit 731-2A under an interim action. This action was sufficient as the final remedy for Rubble Pit 731-2A; therefore, no additional actions are required. A soil cover is recommended for the A-Area Ash Pile due to human health and ecological COCs. The A-Area Ash Pile COCs include arsenic, coal-related radionuclides, and selenium. Institutional controls (i.e., warning signs, land-use restrictions, etc.) help prevent exposure to contaminated soil in both subunits.
3. ABRP Trench and MCB Vadose Zone – Soil Vapor Extraction and Institutional Controls: Soil vapor extraction is recommended for these areas to remediate the volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the subunits. Trichloroethane (TCE) is present in the ABRP Trench Vadose Zone; and, TCE and tetrachloroethylene (PCE) are present in the MCB Vadose Zone. Institutional controls (i.e., warning signs, land-use restrictions, etc.) help prevent exposure to contaminated soil in both subunits.

4. MCB Surface Soil and MBP Surface Soil – Excavation, Offsite Disposal, and Backfill: The MCB surface soil contained polychlorinated biphenyls that exceeded human health and ecological remedial goals. The MBP surface soil contained aluminum in concentrations that exceeded the ecological remedial goal. The contaminated soils in both subunits were excavated, sent offsite for disposal, and the areas were backfilled under an interim action. The remedial actions in these areas were sufficient as the final remedial action; therefore, no additional actions are required.

These alternatives will be protective of human health and the environment. They are also intended to be the final actions for the ABRP/MCB/MBPOU.

The ABRP/MCB/MBP Operable Unit is located approximately 1.5 miles south of M-Area, west of Road D and north-east of Road C, and 3 miles east of the SRS boundary. Between 1951 and 1973, Pits 731-A and 731-1A were used to burn paper, plastics, wood, rubber, rags, cardboard, oil, degreasers, and solvents. Combustible materials were burned monthly. Pit 731-2A was only used as a rubble pit. After burning was discontinued in 1973, Pits 731-A and 731-1A were also converted to rubble pits and used to dispose of concrete rubble, bricks, tile, asphalt, plastic, metal, wood products, and rubber. When the pits were filled to capacity, they were covered with compacted clay-rich native soil and vegetation was established. The actual closing date is not recorded; however, the estimated time is 1978. Other potential sources of contamination identified as part of the ABRP area include a Potential Pit, Depressional Area, Trench, Ash Scatter Area/Ditch. Specific disposal records are not known to exist for these subunits.

The A-Area Ash Pile (788-2A), used for the disposal of dry ash from the A-Area powerhouse prior to 1994, covers approximately 2 acres and is about 20 feet thick. The A-Area Ash Pile is located between the Pits Area and the Ash Scatter Area/Ditch subunits. The Trench subunit extends beneath the Ash Pile.

The MCB received liquid chemical wastes and is located in an old borrow pit. No construction records exist for the borrow pit. No records of specific materials disposed were kept, although its presumed use was for the disposal of solvent and used oil.

The MBP was a cleared area that was used for burning lithium-aluminum alloys, scrap, and cuttings from A & M Area operations. Unit photographs show what is thought to be typical disposal of metal shavings, pieces of aluminum, plastic pipe, metal drums, and other miscellaneous scrap. The site was reportedly placed into service in 1960 and taken out of service in 1974. At that time, the waste piles were regraded and the area was allowed to revegetate with natural flora.

Comments on the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan and the draft RCRA permit are requested by July 29, 2006. 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 Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan are available in the administrative record, which also contains the RCRA Facility Investigation/Remedial Investigation (RFI/RI) Report with Baseline Risk Assessment for this unit. 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 Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan 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 Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan 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 Environmental Quality Control Office
206 Beaufort Street, NE
Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (803) 641-7670

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. 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:

Jim Moore
Westinghouse Savannah River Company
Building 730-1B
Aiken, SC 29808
1-800-249-8155
jim02.moore@srs.gov

or

SCDHEC
Attn: Richard Haynes, P.E., Director
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