



Environmental Bulletin

Volume 23 Number 5
February 17, 2011

from the Savannah River Site

REVISED ACTION MEMORANDUM ISSUED FOR THE REMOVAL SITE EVALUATION REPORT/ENGINEERING EVALUATION/COST ANALYSIS (RSER/EE/CA) FOR THE REMOVAL ACTION OF TRITIUM CONTAMINATED SOIL AND CONCRETE at the MODERATOR PROCESSING SUBUNIT at the D AREA OPERABLE UNIT

Pursuant to the National Contingency Plan (40 CFR 300.415(b)(4)(i)), the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) prepared a Removal Site Evaluation Report/Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (RSER/EE/CA) for the Tritium Contaminated Soil and Concrete at the Moderator Processing Subunit at the D Area Operable Unit (SRSN-RP-2009-00542, Revision.1, September 2009). Both the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) commented on the Revision.0 RSER/EE/CA on August 13, 2009. The Revision.1 RSER/EE/CA which incorporated both the SCDHEC and USEPA comments was made available for public comment from September 30, 2009 to October 30, 2009. The Action Memorandum documenting the selection of Alternative 2, Removal and On-Unit Thermal Treatment with Institutional Controls, was submitted to the regulators on November 19, 2009 and issued to the public on December 3, 2009. The Revised Action Memorandum addresses the disposition of cesium (Cs-137) contaminated concrete and soil, wire, conduit, cast iron pipe, and cast iron pipe with lead joints that were identified while excavating and removing the tritium contaminated materials and that cannot be treated by On-Unit Thermal Treatment.

The D Area Operable Unit (DAOU) is located in the western portion of the Savannah River Site (SRS). The Moderator Processing Subunit is located in the northern area of the DAOU and is approximately 6 hectare (15 acres) in size and is comprised of six facility buildings. Tritium was produced as a by-product in the course of producing the heavy water moderator. Spills of moderator onto the concrete slabs and soils in and near three of these facility buildings resulted in tritium contamination within the Moderator Processing Subunit. The Moderator Processing Subunit remained operational until the late 1990s. The purpose of the removal action is to prevent and reduce potential leaching of tritium in the soils and concrete that would result in a maximum contaminant level exceedance in the groundwater.

DOE has worked with SCDHEC and the USEPA to ensure that the removal action is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

A copy of the Revised Action Memorandum is 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.

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