

# The Savannah River Site Environmental Bulletin

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## DOE, SCDHEC and EPA have agreed to Preliminary Cease Waste Removal in H-Area Tank Farm, Waste Tank 12H at the Savannah River Site

The Department of Energy (DOE), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) signed a Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) in support of environmental remediation activities at the Savannah River Site (SRS). One of the conditions in the FFA is that all three agencies must agree waste removal activities may cease and tank stabilization can commence.

This decision process occurs in two phases. The first phase is the preliminary cease waste removal phase, where DOE, SCDHEC and EPA mutually agree that waste removal activities can cease in order to enter into the sampling and analysis phase to completely analyze and characterize the residual material remaining in the tank. This preliminary decision to move on to the sampling and analysis phase is non-binding and does not complete the FFA requirement to cease waste removal.

DOE met with SCDHEC and EPA on Thursday, December 19, 2013 to discuss details of waste removal efforts and preliminary data concerning residual material in Waste Tank 12H. The three agencies, upon review of the information, tentatively agreed that further waste removal efforts are not technically practicable from an engineering perspective. The preliminary agreement to cease waste removal activities prompts DOE to perform sampling and analysis activities in Tank 12H.

Following characterization of the residual material in the tank, a tank-specific closure module, under the Industrial Wastewater Construction Permit will be developed for Tank 12H and will be submitted to SCDHEC and EPA and provided for public comment to inform the final decision to cease waste removal. Once the closure module is approved and the final decision to cease waste removal is agreed to by the three agencies, the second phase of the decision is satisfied. The Tank 12H Closure Module in the H-Area Tank Farm is not expected to be completed until 2015.

Once DOE, SCDHEC and EPA agree that it is not technically practicable, from an engineering perspective, to continue waste removal activities DOE may proceed with operational closure of Tank 12H. Tank 12H is one of 29 tanks in H-Area Tank Farm planned for closure.

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# The SRS Environmental Bulletin

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