

The Savannah River Site Environmental Bulletin

August 20, 2014

Volume 26, Number 7

Action Memorandum and Responsiveness Summary Issued for the Non-Time Critical Removal Action for the D-Area Ash Landfill (488-4D)

The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) has selected the preferred alternative for the non-time critical removal action for the D-Area Ash Landfill (488-4D), which is a subunit of the D Area Operable Unit (DAOU). A thirty (30)-day public comment period for the D-Area Ash Landfill (488-4D) Removal Site Evaluation Report/Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis was held from June 24, 2014 to July 24, 2014.

The DAOU is one of the area operable units identified at the Savannah River Site (SRS). DAOU is located in the southwest quadrant of SRS approximately 3,000-feet east of the nearest site boundary, the Savannah River. The DAOU is 210 acres and contains surface units and source areas in D Area that potentially pose a threat to human health and the environment. The 488-4D Ash Landfill served as a disposal area for dry coal ash generated at the D-Area Powerhouse. The 488-4D Ash Landfill covers an area of 17 acres within the DAOU.

DOE has selected Alternative 2, Geosynthetic Cover System, which meets the effectiveness, implementation, cost, and acceptance criteria for the D-Area Ash Landfill (488-4D). The geosynthetic cover system includes a geosynthetic clay liner, a geosynthetic drainage layer, and a vegetative cover consisting of 24 inches of common fill, top soil and vegetation. The installation of a geosynthetic cover system will comply with South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's (SCDHEC) Class Three Landfill permeability requirements and will provide overall protection to human health and the environment. The geosynthetic cover system will protect groundwater by reducing infiltration into the landfill by rain and storm water, and prevent migration of ash contaminants into groundwater that could exceed groundwater protection standards. The ash and other material approved for disposal in the 488-4D Ash Landfill will remain in place under the geosynthetic cover system. During construction at the 488-4D Ash Landfill, the 488-2D Ash Basin will be operated as a construction sedimentation basin. In addition, the 488-4D removal action converts the 488-2D Ash Basin into a storm water detention structure as the final state with the basin bottom reconfigured to promote positive drainage from the center of the basin to an outlet structure at each end of the basin. This alternative will not preclude any additional remediation of the DAOU and is consistent with the current and future land use. The ash sluice lines that conveyed slurried ash from the D-Area Powerhouse above ground to the 488-1D Ash Basin will be removed as part of this action and disposed of in the 488-1D Ash Basin, 488-4D Ash Landfill and/or an approved Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act Off-Site Rule disposal facility.

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The selection of the preferred alternative is documented in the Action Memorandum. DOE has worked with the SCDHEC and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that the removal action is consistent with all applicable human health and environmental requirements.

Copies of the Action Memorandum and Responsiveness Summary 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 Action Memorandum and Responsiveness Summary are available at the following:

- Reese Library Government Information Section at Georgia Regents University in Augusta, GA; and
- Asa H. Gordon Library at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA.

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The SRS Environmental Bulletin

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