

The Savannah River Site Environmental Bulletin

November 11, 2014

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Action Memorandum Issued for the Time Critical Removal Action for the D-Area Ash Basin (488-2D)

The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) is implementing a time critical removal action for the D-Area Ash Basin (488-2D), a subunit of the D-Area Operable Unit (DAOU). DOE has worked with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure that the removal action is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements. The public can provide comments on the Action Memorandum for thirty (30) days from November 11, 2014 to December 11, 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 D-Area Ash Basin (488-2D) served as a settling basin for slurried ash generated at the D-Area Powerhouse. The D-Area Ash Basin (488-2D) covers an area of approximately fifteen (15) acres within the DAOU. Due to risks associated with the potential for a berm failure, the ash removal of the 488-2D Ash Basin is essential to reduce the risk to human health and the environment and to maintain the current DAOU closure/construction schedule.

The selected alternative for this time critical removal action includes the excavation and transfer of the contaminated media (ash) from the D-Area Ash Basin (488-2D) into either the 488-1D Ash Basin or the 488-4D Ash Landfill. The placed ash will remain in the 488-1D Ash Basin or the 488-4D Ash Landfill for final disposal since both the 488-1D Ash Basin and 488-4D Ash Landfill will be closed under separate Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act actions. The extent of the removal will be based on visual inspection followed by confirmation sampling. Confirmation sampling to verify ash removal will be performed and evaluated in accordance with an approved confirmation sampling and analysis plan and unit specific field sampling plan. The final remedial decision for the 488-2D Ash Basin will be described in a future DAOU Early Action Record of Decision.

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

A copy of the Action Memorandum and the Removal Site Evaluation Report 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.

Hard copies of the Action Memorandum and Removal Site Evaluation Report are available at the following locations:

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

An electronic copy of the Action Memorandum and Removal Site Evaluation Report are posted at the following address:

<http://www.srs.gov/general/programs/soil/pub/pubinv.html>

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The SRS Environmental Bulletin

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