

The Savannah River Site Environmental Bulletin

November 17, 2014

Volume 26, Number 15

Early Action Statement of Basis / Proposed Plan for the C-Area Operable Unit - *Available for Public Comment*

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) will release an Early Action Statement of Basis / Proposed Plan (SB/PP) for the C-Area Operable Unit (CAOU) on November 17, 2014 describing the preferred remedial approach for this unit 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 forty-five (45) day public comment period is scheduled for November 17, 2014 to January 1, 2015.

The Early Action SB/PP 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. DOE has worked with the United States Environmental Protection Agency-Region 4 (EPA) and the SCDHEC to ensure the remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements. DOE, EPA, and SCDHEC have reviewed the risks associated with the CAOU and have evaluated cleanup alternatives. The preferred alternative for the CAOU subunits is a combination of No Action and Land Use Controls.

The CAOU is located at the SRS in Barnwell County, South Carolina. The CAOU is one of several operable units identified at SRS and is comprised of several subunits. C-Reactor was in operation from 1955 to 1987 with a mission of producing nuclear materials for the defense program. Reactor operations resulted in the generation of chemical and radioactive wastes. The C-Reactor Building is identified as a historically significant structure. A remedial action is needed at the CAOU due to the contamination present within several of the CAOU subunits that may pose a threat to human health. Groundwater is not considered part of the CAOU and will be addressed in the C-Area Groundwater Operable Unit.

The proposed remedy is No Action for two of the CAOU subunits that have been determined to pose no threat to human health or the environment. For the remaining subunits listed in the CAOU Early Action SB/PP that may pose a threat to human health, the proposed remedy is Land Use Controls. Land use controls will be implemented in the short-term through the SRS Site Use Program, which provides access controls for on-site workers, and through site access control against trespassing (e.g., fencing and entry control systems). In the long-term, if the property is ever transferred to nonfederal ownership, the deed shall include restrictions precluding residential use of the property.

Comments on the Early Action SB/PP and the draft RCRA permit are requested by January 1, 2015. 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.

To aid in the review of the Early Action SB/PP, an Early Action SB/PP Fact Sheet for the CAOU was prepared.

Copies of the Early Action SB/PP and the Fact Sheet 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 (USC)-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC; and
- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at USC in Columbia, SC.

Hard copies of the Early Action SB/PP and Fact Sheet 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.

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The Early Action SB/PP and Fact Sheet are available electronically 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

2600 Bull Street

Columbia, SC 29201

Phone: (803) 898-2000

or

SCDHEC-Region 5

Midlands EQC Region - Aiken

206 Beaufort St., N.E.

Aiken, SC 29801

Phone: (803) 642-1637

If there is interest in discussing the recommended remedial approach, a public hearing may be requested. Comments on the Early Action SB/PP should be sent to Ms. Janet Griffin. Comments on the draft RCRA permit modification or requests for a public hearing should be sent to Mr. David Scaturo. For additional information or to request a public meeting contact:

Janet Griffin

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC

Savannah River Site

Building 730-1B

Aiken, SC 29808

(803) 952-8467

janet.griffin@srs.gov

or

SCDHEC

Attn: David Scaturo, P.E., P.G., Director

Division of Waste Management

Bureau of Land and Waste Management

2600 Bull Street

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For more information on this
or other environmental and compliance
activities at SRS, please contact:

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