

# The Savannah River Site Environmental Bulletin

June 24, 2014

Volume 26, Number 6

## Removal Site Evaluation Report/Engineering Evaluation/ Cost Analysis (RSER/EE/CA) for the D-Area Ash Landfill (488-4D) Available for Public Comment

The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to perform a non-time critical removal action for the D-Area Ash Landfill (488-4D), which is a subunit of the D Area Operable Unit (DAOU). Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), the Removal Site Evaluation Report/Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (RSER/EE/CA) describes how the proposed removal action meets the criteria established in the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan, 40 Code of Federal Regulations 300.415. The purpose of this RSER/EE/CA is to identify the objectives of the removal action and to develop alternatives that address the potential threats from release of contaminants to the environment from this subunit. This document will be available for public review and copying at the locations listed below. The 30-day public comment period is scheduled for June 24, 2014 to July 24, 2014.

The RSER/EE/CA was completed to meet the terms of CERCLA, a law governing the investigation and cleanup of waste units. The DOE has worked with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency-Region 4 (EPA) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) to ensure the remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

The DAOU is one of the area operable units identified at the 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 comprises an area of 17 acres within the DAOU.

DOE, EPA, and SCDHEC have reviewed the risks associated with this subunit and have evaluated cleanup alternatives. The preferred removal action for the 488-4D Ash Landfill is Alternative 2, Geosynthetic Cover System, which meets the effectiveness, implementation, cost, and acceptance criteria. 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 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

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Landfill will remain in place under the geosynthetic cover system. 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 powerhouse above ground to the 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 CERCLA Off-Site Rule disposal facility.

Upon completion of the public comment period, an Action Memorandum with a Responsiveness Summary that addresses public comments will be prepared.

Copies of the RSER/EE/CA 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 RSER/EE/CA 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.

An electronic copy of the RSER/EE/CA is 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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