

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS (EISs) and ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS (EAs)

INVOLVING THE SAVANNAH RIVER SITE (SRS) APRIL 2022

Note: Items underlined are changes made since the previous report.

EISs INVOLVING SRS

Title, Document Number, Document Manager, point-of- contact (POC)	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Milestones	Comments
Disposal of Decommissioned, Defueled USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65) DOE/EIS-0524 Department of the Navy (DON): John C. Walker, Document Manager SR POCs: Tracy Williams, EQMD; Sean Protzman, Nuclear Materials Program Division (NMPD) EM POC: Bill Ostrum, EM- 4.31					Notice of Intent 05/19, Public Comment Period ended 07/19; Notice of Public Scoping Period Re-opening 08/20; Public Scoping Re- opening Closed 09/20	On May 31, 2019, the Department of the Navy (DON), with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) as a cooperating agency, announced its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) (EIS-0524) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of alternatives for disposal of the decommissioned, defueled ex Enterprise (CVN 65) aircraft carrier, including its reactor plants. The proposed action executes the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) policy for inactive ships stricken from the Naval Vessel Register and designated for disposal by dismantling to reduce the Navy's inactive ship inventory and eliminate costs associated with maintaining the ship in a safe stowage condition. The 45-day public scoping period began May 31, 2019 and ended July 15, 2019. Public scoping meetings were held on June 18 in Newport News, VA; June 20 in Brownsville, TX; June 25 in Bremerton, WA; and June 27 in Richland, WA. A copy of the NOI is available at https://www.energy.gov/nepa/downloads/eis-0524-notice-intent/ . On August 12, 2020, the Department of the Navy published an announcement reopening the public scoping period to add Mobile, Alabama as a potential location for commercial dismantlement. The scoping period was reopened from Aug. 12 to Sept. 11, 2020. During that time, the public was encouraged to submit comments on the scope of the analysis, viable alternatives, or environmental issues to consider. Due to current federal and state guidance and measures put in place in response to COVID-19, the Navy was unable to hold an in-person public scoping meeting in Mobile, Alabama. To assist the public in determining whether to submit a formal comment on the project, the Navy responded to questions from the public from Aug. 19 to Sept. 2, 2020. Details about submitting public comments were made available the Navy's " <i>Disposal of Decommissioned, Defueled Ex-Enterprise (CVN 65) and Its Associated Naval Reactor Plants EIS/OEIS</i> " webpage at https://carrierdisposaleis.com/ .
Surplus Plutonium Disposition Program (DOE/EIS-0549) Document Manager: Maxcine Maxted, NA-23 SR POC: Tracy Williams, EQMD EM POC: Bill Ostrum, EM-4.31					FR NOI 12/20; Virtual Public Scoping Meetings 01/21; Public Scoping Period Ended 02/21	On December 16, 2020, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), a semi-autonomous agency within the United States (U.S.) Department of Energy (DOE), announced in the Federal Register its intent, consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), to prepare a Surplus Plutonium Disposition Program (SPDP) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate alternatives for the safe and timely disposition of plutonium surplus to the defense needs of the United States. NNSA will prepare a SPDP EIS to evaluate the dilute and dispose alternative, also known as "plutonium downblending," and any other identified reasonable alternatives for the disposition of surplus plutonium. The dilute and dispose approach would require new, modified, or existing capabilities at the Savannah River Site (SRS), Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), Pantex Plant (Pantex), and the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). The FR notice invited public participation in the process and encouraged public involvement on the scope and alternatives that should be considered. The public scoping period began with the publication of the FR Notice and concluded February 1, 2021. Comments received after this date will be considered to the extent practicable. In light of recent public health concerns, NNSA hosted two virtual (2) virtual public scoping meetings on January 25 and 26, 2021. Details for those virtual meetings were posted at https://www.energy.gov/nnsa/nnsa-nepa-reading-room , as well as announced in local media outlets. A copy of the FR Notice is posted at https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2020/12/f81/notice-of-intent-eis-0549-surplus-plutonium-disposition-2020-12.pdf . NNSA announced on February 2, 2021 extending the public scoping comment period to February 18, 2021. Announcement of the extension was posted on the NNSA website at https://www.energy.gov/nnsa/articles/nnsa-extend-public-scoping-period-environmental-impact-statement-surplus-plutonium .

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Supplement Analysis for the Spent Nuclear Fuel Accelerated Basin De-inventory Mission for H-Canyon at Savannah River Site (DOE/EIS-0279-SA-07) Document Manager: Jeff Bentley, Nuclear Materials SR POC: Tracy Williams, EQMD EM POC: Bill Ostrum, EM-4.31	<u>Supplement Analysis (SA)</u>	<u>Amended Record of Decision (AROD)</u>			<u>SA 03/22, AROD 04/22</u>	On April 20, 2022, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) published a Federal Register Notice (FRN: 87 FR 23504) announcing its decision to amend its August 7, 2000, Record of Decision (ROD) to the Savannah River Site Spent Nuclear Fuel Management Final Environmental Impact Statement (SRS SNF EIS (DOE/EIS-0279)). The changes to the August 7, 2000, ROD memorialize DOE's decision to <u>manage approximately 29.2 metric tons of heavy metal of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and target materials (hereafter referred to collectively as SNF), using conventional processing without recovery of uranium at the H-Canyon facility at the Savannah River Site (SRS). DOE anticipates that processing this SNF would begin in 2022 and continue for approximately 12 to 13 years. DOE will send the dissolved material to the liquid high-level radioactive waste (HLW) system prior to immobilization the material in a borosilicate glass waste form in the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF). In the meantime, DOE will continue to safely store SNF and target materials in L-Basin at SRS, pending processing in H-Canyon. In accordance with DOE NEPA regulations at 10 CFR 1021.314, DOE prepared the SRS Accelerated Basin De-inventory Supplement Analysis (ABD SA (DOE/EIS-0279-SA-07, 2022) in March 2022. Based on the SRS ABD SA, DOE has determined that a supplemental or new environmental impact statement is not required. DOE also concluded in the SRS ABD SA that the proposed change and new information is not a substantial change relative to the alternatives analyzed in the SRS SNF EIS and, thus, no further NEPA analysis is required. Updates will not appear in subsequent reports. Copies of the SRS ABD SA and April 20, 2022 FRN announcing DOE's Amended ROD (AROD) is available at https://www.energy.gov/nepa/eis-0279-spent-nuclear-fuel-management-aiken-south-carolina.</u>
Versatile Test Reactor Environmental Impact Statement (DOE/EIS-0542) Document Manager: Gordon McClellan, Office of Nuclear Energy Idaho Operations Office SR POC: Tony Polk, Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL), Tracy Williams, EQMD EM POC: Bill Ostrum, EM-4.31					Notice of Intent 08/19, Public Scoping Period Ended 09/19, FR NOA 12/20, EPA NOA 12/20; Online Public Hearings 01/21; Public Comment Period Extended 02/21; Public Comment Period Extension Ended 03/21; IAD 05/21	On December 21, 2020, the Department of Energy Office of Nuclear Energy (DOE-EM) announced the availability of the Draft Versatile Test Reactor Environmental Impact Statement (VTR EIS) (DOE/EIS-0542). NE is also announcing a public comment period and public hearings to receive comments on the Draft VTR EIS. DOE prepared the Draft VTR EIS to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of alternatives for constructing and operating a versatile test reactor (VTR), and the associated facilities for post-irradiation examination of test and experimental fuels and materials. The Draft VTR EIS also evaluates the potential environmental impacts of options for VTR driver fuel (the fuel that powers the reactor) fabrication and the management of spent nuclear fuel from the VTR. Comments will be accepted during the comment period that will extend through February 16, 2021, 45 days after the date that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) published its Notice of Availability in the Federal Register on December 31, 2020. DOE hosted online public hearings in place of in-person hearings on Wednesday, January 27, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. (Eastern Time) and Thursday, January 28, at 8:30 a.m. Participation information was posted at https://www.energy.gov/ne/nuclear-reactor-technologies/versatile-test-reactor . A copy of the FR NOA is posted at https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2020/12/f82/doe-noa-eis-0542-versatile-test-reactor-2020-12.pdf ; a copy of the EPA NOA is https://www.energy.gov/nepa/downloads/doeis-0542-epa-notice-availability-draft-environmental-impact-statement . NE issued a Federal Register Notice (FRN: 86 FR 9335) issued by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on February 12, 2021 announcing extension of the Draft VTR EIS public comment period to March 2, 2021. A copy of the EPA FRN is available at https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-02-12/pdf/2021-02888.pdf . On May 25, 2021, NE issued an announcement noting that the draft EIS did not contain specific geotechnical data for the candidate site at the Materials and Fuels Complex at Idaho National Laboratory and issued an Interim Action Determination (IAD) to complete those geotechnical investigations to support preliminary design. A copy of that IAD is available at https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2021-05/interim-action-determination-eis-0542-versatile-test-reactor-2021-05-25_0.pdf .

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EA for the South Carolina Army National Guard Proposal to Construct and Operate Training Facilities and Infrastructure on 750 Acres at the Department of Energy Savannah River Site DOE/EA-1999 SR POCs: James Fender, OAM, Acquisition Operations Division Tracy Williams, EQMD EM POC: Sunil Patel, EM-4.11					NOI 09/14	DOE-SR and the South Carolina Army National Guard (SCARNG) are preparing an EA to analyze the potential environmental impacts from the proposed construction and operation of training facilities and infrastructure by the SCARNG on approximately 750 acres at Savannah River Site (SRS). The proposed construction and operation of facilities and infrastructure, based on the draft SCARNG Master Plan, comprise two tracts of land on SRS, the approximately 470-acre B-Area site (Tract A) and the approximately 280-acre Gun Site 51 (Tract B). The draft EA is undergoing internal review. Issuance of the draft EA has been delayed due to additional requirements imposed on the SCARNG by their higher headquarters, National Guard Bureau (NGB). The SCARNG is presently working with NGB to address these requirements.
NEPA Determination for revised SRS Natural Resources Management Plan						DOE-SR prepared an EA in 1993 (DOE/EA-0826, Environmental Assessment - Natural Resources Management Activities at Savannah River Site) to analyze the potential environmental impacts of continued management of SRS natural resources. Based on the analyses in the EA, DOE-SR determined that the proposed action was not a major Federal action significantly affecting the human environment within the meaning of NEPA, and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). In 2000, DOE-SR issued a revised FONSI that determined implementation of a revised Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Management Plan would have impacts no greater than those described in the 1993 EA. In 2005, DOE-SR revised its Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP) to update SRS's natural resources management goals and objectives at the site and to supersede the 1991 NRMP, and issued a revised FONSI that determined that implementation of the revised NRMP was bounded by the 1993 EA and did not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the human environment within the meaning of NEPA. DOE-SR is revising its 2005 NRMP to update SRS' natural resources management goals and to supersede its 2005 NRMP. Upon completion of the revised NRMP, DOE-SR will issue its determination as to whether implementation of the updated management goals and objectives would result in impacts greater than those described in the 1993 EA.
Draft Environmental Assessment for the Commercial Disposal of Savannah River Site Contaminated Process Equipment DOE/EA-2154 Document Manager: James Joyce, Office of Waste and Materials Management, EM-4.2 SR POCs: Patricia Suggs, Waste Disposition Programs Tracy Williams, EQMD EM POC: Bill Ostrum, EM-4.31					NOI 01/21; NOA 12/21; DEA 12/21; Public Informational Webinar 01/22; Public Comment Period Ended 02/22	On December 21, 2021, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced in the Federal Register (86 FR 722217) the availability of its Draft Environmental Assessment for the Commercial Disposal of Savannah River Site Contaminated Process Equipment (DOE/EA-2154) [Draft Savannah River Site (SRS) Contaminated Process Equipment Environmental Assessment (EA)]. The Draft SRS Contaminated Process Equipment EA evaluates the potential impacts from a proposed action to dispose of certain SRS contaminated process equipment at a commercial low-level radioactive waste (LLW) disposal facility outside of South Carolina, licensed by either the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) or an Agreement State pursuant to NRC's regulations for land disposal of radioactive waste. The proposed disposal of the SRS contaminated process equipment is being analyzed consistent with the Department's interpretation of the statutory term "high-level radioactive waste" (HLW) as defined in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (AEA), and Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended (NWPA). The FR Notice (FRN) also announced a 45-day public comment period extended from the date of publication of FRN through February 4, 2022. DOE held an informational webinar on January 11, 2022. The FRN provided further information on the public comment process and the informational webinar, which is available at https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-12-21/pdf/2021-27558.pdf . The Draft SRS Contaminated Process Equipment EA is available at: https://www.energy.gov/em/articles/draft-environmental-assessment-commercial-disposal-srs-contaminated-process-equipment/ .
Questions and comments concerning this report can directed to the DOE-SR NEPA Mailbox, NEPA-SRS-EM@srs.gov						