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

INVOLVING THE SAVANNAH RIVER SITE (SRS) JULY 2022

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

EISs INVOLVING SRS

Title, Document Number, Document Manager, point-of-contact (POC)	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-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 *"Disposal of Decommissioned, Defueled Ex-Enterprise (CVN 65) and Its Associated Naval Reactor Plants EIS/OEIS"* 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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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; DOE NOA 05/22; EPA NOA 05/22	On May 20, 2022, the DOE Office of Nuclear Energy (NE) published a Notice of Availability (NOA; 87 FR 30931) for the Versatile Test Reactor Final Environmental Impact Statement (VTR FEIS; DOE/EIS-0542). In accordance with the Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act of 2017 (NEICA) (Pub. L. 115–248), DOE assessed the mission need for a versatile, reactor-based, fast-neutron source to serve as a national user facility. DOE determined that there is a need for a fast-neutron spectrum VTR to enable testing and evaluating nuclear fuels, materials, sensors, and instrumentation for use in advanced reactors and other purposes. In accordance with NEICA, DOE is pursuing construction and operation of the 300-megawatt (thermal) VTR. The reactor would be a pool-type, sodium-cooled reactor that uses a uranium-plutonium-zirconium metal fuel. DOE prepared the VTR EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of alternatives for constructing and operating VTR and associated facilities for post-irradiation examination of irradiated test specimens and the management of VTR spent nuclear fuel. The Final VTR EIS also evaluated the potential environmental impacts of options for production of VTR driver fuel (the fuel that powers the reactor) at either Idaho National Laboratory of the Savanah River Site. At the time of the preparation of this monthly status report, DOE announced in the Federal Register (FR) on August 3, 2022 (87 FR 47400), its Record of Decision (ROD) for the VTR pursuant to the Final VTR EIS to implement its Preferred Alternative to construct and operate a VTR at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Site, and to establish, through modification and construction, co-located facilities for post-irradiation examination of test products and for management of spent VTR driver fuel at INL. DOE has not decided whether to establish VTR driver fuel production capabilities at the INL Site, the Savannah River Site (SRS), or a combination of the two sites. Once a preferred alternative or option for VTR driver fuel production is identified, DOE will announce its preference in a subsequent FR notice. DOE would then publish a ROD no sooner than 30 days after its announcement of a preferred alternative/option for VTR driver fuel production. The Final VTR EIS and this ROD are available for viewing or download at https://www.energy.gov/nepa/nepa-documents and https://www.energy.gov/ne/nuclear-reactor technologies/versatile-test-reactor.

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EAs INVOLVING SRS

Title, Document Number, Document Manager, point-of-contact (POC)	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Milestones	
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