

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

INVOLVING THE SAVANNAH RIVER SITE (SRS) JANUARY 2023

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

EISs INVOLVING SRS

Title, Document Number, Document Manager, point-of-	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	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; Bert Crapse, Nuclear Materials Program Division (WDPD) EM POC: Bill Ostrum, EM- 4.31					Notice of Intent 05/19, Public Comment Period ended 07/19; No ice of Public Scoping Period Re-opening 08/20; Public Scoping Re-opening Closed 09/20; NOA 08/22; Draft EIS/OEIS 09/22; Virtual Public Hearings 09/22; Public Comment Period 10/22	On August 19, 2022, the Department of the Navy (DoN) with DOE as a cooperating agency, issued a Federal Register Notice (FRN; 87 FR 51068) announcing (1) the availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement for the Disposal of Decommissioned, Defueled Ex-Enterprise (CVN 65) and its Associated Naval Reactor Plants (Ex-Enterprise CVN 65 Draft EIS/OEIS; DOE/EIS-0524), and (2) a 45-day public comment period and two public hearings to receive comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) implementing regulations and a Presidential Executive Order. The Draft EIS/OEIS includes an analysis of the potential environmental impacts associated with alternatives for the disposal of ex-Enterprise, including its defueled reactor plants. The Proposed Action executes the statutory responsibilities of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program (NNPP) and Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) policy for inactive ships stricken from the Naval Vessel Register and designated for disposal by dismantling in order to reduce DoN inactive ship inventory and eliminate costs associated with maintaining the ship in a safe stowage condition. The 45-day public comment period began August 19, 2022, and ended October 3, 2022. Virtual public meetings were on September 20 and September 22, 2022, providing an overview of the Draft EIS/OEIS and answering questions from the public. The August 19 NOA provided details on submitting comments and accessing the virtual public meetings. A copy of the NOA can be downloaded at https://www.carrierdisposaleis.com/portals/carrierdisposaleis/files/public_notices/CVN65_FederalRegister_NoticeOfAvailability_DEIS_and_VPM_2022-17502.pdf .
Surplus Plutonium Disposition Program (DOE/EIS-0549) Document Manager: Maxcine Maxted, NA-23 NEPA Compliance Officer: Lynn Alexander, NA-GC SR POC: Tracy Williams, EQMD EM POC: Bill Ostrum, EM-4.31	No ice of Availability 12/22; Draft Environmental Impact Statement 12/22	Public Hearings 01/23; Virtual Online Public Meeting 01/23	Public Comment Period Extension Announcement 02/23	Public Comment Period Ends 03/23	FR NOI 12/20; Virtual Public Scoping Meetings 01/21; Public Scoping Period Ended 02/21; EPA NOA 12/22; DOE NOA 12/22; DEIS 12/22; Public Hearings 01/23; Virtual Online Public Meeting 01/23	On December 16, 2022, NNSA & EPA issued Notices of Availability (NOAs) in the Federal Register (FR) (DOE FRN:87 FR 77096; EPA FRN:87 FR 771206) announcing (1) the availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Surplus Plutonium Disposition Program (SPDP DEIS) (DOE/EIS-0549) and (2) a 60-day public comment period ending February 14, 2023, and four public hearings to receive comments on the Draft EIS in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). NNSA prepared the Draft SPDP EIS to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of dispositioning 34 metric tons of surplus plutonium using capabilities at multiple sites across the Nation. NNSA's preferred alternative would implement a dilute and dispose strategy, which includes processing surplus plutonium to plutonium oxide, diluting it with an adulterant to inhibit plutonium recovery, and disposing the resulting contact-handled transuranic waste in the existing Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) facility. The Draft SPDP EIS analyzes the preferred alternative including various sub-alternatives that would require capabilities at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina, Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, the Pantex Plant in Texas, the WIPP facility in New Mexico, and the Y-12 National Security Complex in Tennessee. The Draft SPDP EIS also analyzes a No Action Alternative. Three of the public hearings <u>were</u> held in-person at three locations and the fourth <u>was</u> an internet-based virtual public hearing. <u>Notices were also</u> published in local New Mexico and South Carolina newspapers in advance of the hearings. A change to the location of the LANL public hearing location was announced on this website: https://www.energy.gov/nnsa/nnsa-nepa-reading-room . The DOE FR NOA <u>provided</u> further details on submitting comments and dates/times for the four public hearings. The FR NOAs, Draft EIS, and additional information about public comment opportunities are posted at https://www.energy.gov/nepa/doeeis-0549-surplus-plutonium-disposition-program . At the time of the preparation of this monthly status report, NNSA and EPA announced on February 10, 2023, extending the public comment period for the SPDP DEIS for 30 additional days, to a total of 90 days. The DEIS public comment period will now end on March 16, 2023. A copy of the comment extension announcement is posted at https://www.energy.gov/nepa/articles/doeeis-0549-epa-notice-availability-amended-draft-environmental-impact-statement/.

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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; ROD 08/22	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 or the Savannah River Site. 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, <u>at which time will be duly reflected in a future update of this monthly status report.</u> 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)	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	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: Joel Maul, Waste Disposition Programs Division 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