

The Savannah River Site Environmental Bulletin

April 27, 2023

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Notice of Proposed Floodplain Action at the Savannah River Site

The Department of Energy (DOE) proposes the installation of a fiber optic cable at the Savannah River Site from U.S. Forest Service – Savannah River headquarters to the Advanced Tactical Training Area. A bulldozer-mounted mole plow will be used to bury the fiber optic cable at least 48 inches below the ground surface. The installation route crosses Upper Three Runs (UTR) and Tinker Creek (TC); there are floodplains and wetlands associated with both streams. The proposed action will not result in a loss of floodplain function or storage volume. The installation will occur in the shoulder of existing road fill, avoiding impacts to UTR and TC wetlands. Directional boring will be used to install the fiber optic cable under UTR and TC, avoiding impacts to the streambeds. The no-action alternative fails to meet project objectives. The trenching machine alternative also avoids floodplain and wetland impacts but increases project costs by at least a factor of three. A 15-day public comment period on the proposed action will be from April 27 to May 12, 2023.

An electronic copy of the Floodplain and Wetland Assessment can be found at the following website:

<https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2023-04/FPWA%20FS-SR%20to%20ATTA%20Fiber%20Optic%20Cable%20Installation%20-%20Final%20-%2011Apr2023.pdf>

A copy of the Floodplain and Wetland Assessment will be available in the Administrative Record after the end of the comment period. 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.

Comments on this Floodplain and Wetland Assessment should be submitted to the DOE-SR NEPA Mailbox @ NEPA-SRS-EM@srs.gov.

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The SRS Environmental Bulletin

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