



Office of Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy
Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed Action Title: Sampling of Western Sector Treatment System Piping Remnants to Determine Waste Disposition Path Forward

Program or Field Office: Savannah River Site

Location(s) (City/County/State): Aiken/Aiken County/South Carolina

Proposed Action Description:

The Western Sector Treatment System (WSTS) operates under a United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) risk-based approval for polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) remediation. The approval allows Savannah River Site (SRS) the ability to dismantle, remove, and decontaminate, as needed, system components that have contacted PCBs. Due to the extreme size of the WSTS piping and its two heat exchangers, it may not be practicable or possible to reduce the equipment in size to decontaminate it using the USEPA-approved Resource Conservation and Recovery Act alternate debris treatment technology. Therefore, USEPA and SRS agreed to a biased sampling approach using historical data to identify locations with the highest concentrations within the system to conservatively characterize the entire waste stream for disposal. Small sections of vapor, condensate, and groundwater piping will be sampled and analyzed at the locations agreed to by USEPA to aid in the determination of the future disposal path for the large pieces of piping and heat exchangers.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B3.1 SITE CHARACTERIZATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of [10 CFR Part 1021](#).

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

☒ The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D. To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

☒ There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

☒ The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Based on my review of the proposed action, I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer:

Date Determined: 05/23/2024

Comments: EEC No: CBU-G-2024-00007 Rev No: 0