

SAVANNAH RIVER SITE COLD WAR HISTORIC PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION

NARRATIVE AND PHOTOGRAPHY

400/D AREA – HEAVY WATER PRODUCTION

Aiken County, South Carolina



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ABSTRACT

This report is a thematic study of buildings and facilities constructed at Savannah River Site to produce heavy water in the 400/D Area. It was prepared in accordance with a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed by the Department of Energy–Savannah River (DOE-SR) and the South Carolina Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) dated February 27, 2003 that stipulated that a thematic study and photographic documentation be produced that told the story of D Area’s genesis, its operational history, and its closure. D Area, also known as the 400 Area, was the site of the Savannah River’s heavy water production facilities constructed as part of the Savannah River Site (SRS) between 1950 and 1955. Heavy water was integral to the Site’s Cold War nuclear production mission as it was used to moderate and cool the five production reactors that operated at Savannah River. The study provides historic contexts for the site’s Cold War history and a context for heavy water production based on primary and secondary research and oral history. Documentation photography is provided in Appendix B .

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