



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

SRS Comprehensive Plan in development

The Site is in the process of developing the SRS Comprehensive Plan. The SRS planning hierarchy starts with the SRS Strategic Plan and is followed by the SRS Comprehensive Plan. The SRS Strategic Plan gives a broad perspective vision of the future, where we hope to be. The SRS Strategic Plan was released in December 1997 and is available by calling any one of the individuals below. The SRS Comprehensive Plan provides the crosscutting details of how the vision is reached. It defines and integrates the crosscutting actions necessary to implement the goals and objectives of the SRS Strategic Plan.

The SRS Comprehensive Plan consists of the following sub-plan components: Natural Resource, Infrastructure, Future Use, Facilities, and Cultural Resources. Earlier this year, a focus group of

stakeholders reviewed and provided comments on the Future Use Plan, a sub-plan component, which was submitted to DOE-Headquarters in March 1998.

The Site will involve stakeholders in the development of the SRS Comprehensive Plan through the Citizens Advisory Board Risk Management and Future Use Subcommittee and other organizations. Meetings will also be scheduled with interested stakeholders and regulators, as appropriate, to receive input.

The first Citizens Advisory Board Risk Management and Future Use Subcommittee meeting to discuss the SRS Comprehensive Plan is scheduled for July 15 at the North Augusta Community Center, at 6:00 p.m. If you have questions related to this Plan, please contact Chuck Borup, DOE-SR, (803) 725-1579, Chris Noah, WSRC, (803) 725-5997 or Jim Moore, WSRC, (803) 725-5663.

Release of the National and Site Accelerating Cleanup: Paths to closure

The National and Site Accelerating Cleanup: Paths to Closure final documents were officially released by Secretary Peña on June 30, 1998. The final documents reflect changes made to address comments received on previous drafts. Copies of both the National and Site Accelerating Cleanup: Paths to Closure are available on the World Wide Web as follows:

National (<http://www.em.doe.gov/closure/final/index.html>)

Site (<http://www.em.doe.gov/closure/final/sp98docs.html>)

Hard copies of the National Accelerating Cleanup: Paths to Closure

may be obtained by calling the Center for Environmental Management Information at 1-800-736-3282.

Hard copies of the SRS Site Accelerating Cleanup: Paths to Closure may be obtained by calling the Savannah River Site at 1-800-249-8155 or by requesting a copy through the SRS Internet Home Page (www.srs.gov/general/srs-home.html). Requests can also be mailed to the following address:

U.S. Department of Energy
Savannah River Operations Office
P. O. Box A
Aiken, South Carolina 29802
Attention: Mr. Gary Little

RCRA modification requested

The U.S. Department of Energy-Savannah River Operations Office has requested from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) a modification to Savannah River Site's 1992 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Part B Permit Renewal Application, Volume IV, F-Area Hazardous Waste Management Facility, and Volume V, H-Area Hazardous Waste Management Facility.

The revisions (Rev. 10 for Volume IV and Rev. 11 for Volume V) are responses to May 29, 1998, SCDHEC comments on previously submitted revisions.

This notice begins a 60-day comment period. More information, including the actual permit application, is available for review and copying at the DOE Public Reading Room located in the University of South Carolina-Aiken library, or by contacting personnel listed on page two. The permittees compliance history during the life of the permit being modified is available from the Agency contact person.

A public meeting will be held August 6 at 3:00 p.m. at the Aiken County Public Library. Representatives from SRS will be available to answer questions.

Red-cockaded woodpecker Management Plan revised

The US Forest Service at SRS is in the process of revising the Site's Red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) Management Plan. Through intensive habitat management combined with an aggressive research program, the status of this endangered species has improved dramatically at SRS from 4 birds in 1985 to a current population of 155. The objectives of the revision are to synthesize site-specific research, corroborate these findings with other studies and to integrate this information into an ecologically sound plan, which will allow greater flexibility to accommodate changing Site missions.

The revised plan restores an endangered ecosystem rather than simply concentrating on a single species. Instead of the original two management zones, three zones are proposed: primary RCW habitat, supplemental habitat, and other uses. Suitable habitat intensively managed for the RCW drops from approximately 80,000 acres to 65,000 acres, while the population objective drops from 400 to 323 groups in primary habitat (with an additional 106 groups in supplemental habitat). Another change includes the ability to build "credits" in supplemental habitat which is key to increased flexibility for site future missions.

South Carolina Begins "Safe Harbor Agreement" Policy

Because mandatory protection of the Red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) and its habitat can potentially restrict logging, development and other uses of private lands next to SRS, it could be perceived as a threat by some landowners. However, options are now available to minimize the risk to landowners while maintaining or increasing RCW habitat. Under a recently approved plan, some South Carolina landowners may now enter into a "Safe Harbor Agreement". The landowners must first determine the baseline number, if any, of RCW clusters (habitat areas for an RCW family) on their land.

This survey must be performed by a person knowledgeable in RCW ecology. The cost of establishing this baseline is the landowner's responsibility. If potential suitable habitat exists and a baseline has been determined, an agreement with the state is signed, and the landowners are held responsible for maintaining suitable habitat for the number of baseline clusters. If none are initially found, there is no obligation to manage for RCW's. If landowners, through beneficial land management, attract additional woodpeckers, they are not penalized and they have the authority to alter habitat in the additional clusters above the baseline.

For more information on the proposed RCW plan revision, or "Safe Harbor Agreement" policy, contact Beth LeMaster; USDA Forest Service-Savannah River Institute; P.O. Box 710, New Ellenton, SC, 29809, 803-725-8717.

for more information...

Find additional information on the Internet in the SRS Home Page under "Environment", (<http://www.srs.gov>).

Copies of the draft RCRA permit modification/s are available for review at SCDHEC during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays at the following locations:

SCDHEC
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
8901 Farrow Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29203
Phone: (803)896-4000
or SCDHEC
Lower Savannah District
Environmental Quality Control Office
218 Beaufort St., N.E.
Aiken, SC 29802
Phone: (803) 641-7670

Additional contacts:

Mary A. Flora
Westinghouse Savannah River Company
Savannah River Site
Building 703-A
Aiken, SC 29808
1-800-249-8155
mary.flora@srs.gov
or

SCDHEC
Attn: John Litton, P.E., Director
Division of Hazardous and Infectious Waste Mgt.
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 896-4000

Need NEPA documents?

Andrew R. Grainger

U.S. Department of Energy
Savannah River
Operations Office

Building 742-A, Rm. 183
Aiken, S.C. 29802
E-mail: nepa@srs.gov

Fax/Phone: 1 (800) 881-7292

Current NEPA actions affecting SRS

• **Rocky Flats Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy (DOE/EIS-0277)**, The final EIS is expected to be issued third quarter, 1998.

• **Accelerator for Production of Tritium (DOE/EIS-0270)**, The comment period ended February 2, 1998. Final EIS and ROD are projected for August and September 1998, respectively.

• **Tritium Extraction Facility (DOE/EIS-0271)**, The draft EIS EPA NOA appeared in the Federal Register May 8, 1987 (63 FR 25475). The public hearing was held on June 9, 1998. The comment period closed June 22, 1998.

• **DOE Waste Management (DOE/EIS-0200)**, Multiple RODs will be issued. The TRU ROD was issued January 23, 1998 (63 FR 3629). Planned RODs are HWL Treatment, mid 1998, HLW storage, fall 1998, LLW/LLMW, end 1998.

• **SRS Spent Nuclear Fuel (DOE/EIS-0279)**, The EIS will evaluate alternative utilization strategies for existing, modified and new facilities or processes for managing all aluminum-clad spent nuclear fuel assigned to SRS. The draft EIS is projected to be released in August, 1998.

• **Surplus Plutonium Disposition (DOE/EIS-0282)**, The draft EIS was issued July 1998.

• **Wetland Mitigation Bank Program (DOE/EA-1205)**, Preparation of the draft EA is progressing with a proposed issue date of third quarter 1998.

• **A-01 Outfall Constructed Wetland Project (DOE/EA-1246)**, The predecisional draft EA was sent to S.C. and Ga. for review and comment on March 18, 1998. A decision (FONSI or EIS) is expected later this year.

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

* DOE Public Reading Room, Gregg-Graniteville Library, USC-Aiken, Aiken, S.C. * Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department, USC-Columbia, Columbia, S.C. * Reese Library, Augusta State University, Augusta, Ga. * Asa H. Gordon Library, Savannah State University, Savannah, Ga.

INTERNET ACCESS

SRS Home Page,
<http://www.srs.gov>

DOE releases draft Surplus Plutonium Disposition Environmental Impact Statement; seeks public comment

The Department of Energy has released the draft Surplus Plutonium Disposition Environmental Impact Statement for public review and comment. The document analyzes the environmental impacts of siting three facilities to implement the U.S. plutonium disposition strategy. The four candidate sites are: the Hanford Site, WA; Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory, ID; Pantex Plant, TX; and Savannah River Site, SC. A summary of the environmental impact statement is available through the Internet at: www.doe-md.com. Copies

of the full EIS (3-volumes) are available by calling the toll-free number 1-800-820-5134.

The Secretary of Energy has announced that the Savannah River Site is the preferred location for the mixed oxide (MOX) fuel fabrication facility and the immobilization facility; and that the Savannah River Site and the Pantex Plant are the equally preferred sites for the pit disassembly and conversion facility.

DOE is encouraging the public to comment on the draft environmental impact statement and will accept comments through September 16, 1998.

Comments can be made at public meetings, in writing, by telephone, and via the Internet. The final environmental impact statement and record of decision are expected to be issued in early 1999. The Savannah River Site meetings will be held at 1 and 6 p.m. on August 13, 1998, at the North Augusta Community Center, 495 Brookside Drive, North Augusta, SC. Other meetings will be held in Richland, WA, Amarillo, TX, Portland, OR, and Idaho Falls, ID.

For more information contact Gail Jernigan at 1-800-881-7292 or Rick Ford at (803) 725-8449.

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Aiken, S.C. 29808



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For more information on this or other
cleanup and compliance activities at
SRS, please contact:

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