



# The ENVIRONMENTAL BULLETIN

*from the Savannah River Site*

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## Tritium facility impact assessed

The Department of Energy (DOE) has published for public comment the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) (DOE/EIS-0271D) for the proposed construction and operation of a Tritium Extraction Facility (TEF) at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

The draft EIS analyzes the environmental impacts associated with alternative locations at the Savannah River Site where the proposed tritium facility would be built. The preferred alternative is to locate the TEF near the center of SRS at H Area, immediately adjacent to and west of the existing Building 233-H (Reservoir Loading Facility).

Other alternatives are to use the existing Allied General Nuclear Services (AGNS) Facility, located in Barnwell County adjacent to the eastern boundary of SRS, or to incorporate the tritium extraction function with an accelerator for the production of tritium, if one is constructed. If the AGNS alternative is chosen, some modifications and new construction would be necessary.

The proposal to build the TEF at the Savannah River Site is based on the Record of Decision (ROD) (60 FR 63878, December 12, 1995) issued following the

Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Tritium Supply and Recycling (DOE/EIS-0161, October 1995). That ROD selected the dual-track approach to develop a new tritium production source—an accelerator and a commercial light-water reactor (CLWR). DOE will select one of these approaches as the primary source of tritium. If feasible, DOE would continue to develop the second alternative as a backup tritium source. The ROD stated that the Department would construct a tritium extraction facility at the Savannah River Site if the CLWR option is selected as the primary source of tritium. An extraction capability for CLWR targets will also be required if CLWR technology is selected as the backup tritium source.

The public comment period extends through June 22, 1998. The Department will hold a public meeting, with two sessions, to discuss the Draft EIS and receive comments. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 1998, at the North Augusta Community Center, 101 Brookside Drive, North Augusta, SC. The first session begins at 1:00 p.m. and the second begins at 6:00 p.m. In

addition to the public meeting, comments may be submitted in writing to Andrew R. Grainger, NEPA Compliance Officer, Savannah River Site, Building 742-A, Room 183, Aiken, South Carolina 29802; verbally by calling (800) 881-7292; or electronically to [nepa@srs.gov](mailto:nepa@srs.gov).

Copies of the draft EIS can be found in the DOE Public Reading Room at the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC and the Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC. Copies may be obtained by contacting Mr. Grainger as given above. The Draft TEF EIS is available on the Internet at the following address: <http://www.srs.gov/general/srtech/tef/tefeis.htm> or <http://tis.eh.doe.gov.nepa/>.

After the comment period ends, the Department will revise the Draft EIS and issue a final TEF EIS which will be part of the information used by the Department in deciding among the alternatives.

# Beneficial Reuse Program feasible for future applications

The SRS Beneficial Reuse Program has demonstrated the technical feasibility of recycling stainless steel radioactive scrap metal (RSM) into usable products. To date, two industrial companies have been subcontracted to undertake the RSM melting, casting of ingots, and product fabrication. The two companies are Carolina Metals Inc. (CMI) of Barnwell, South Carolina and Manufacturing Sciences Corporation (MSC) of Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Approximately 100 tons of contaminated stainless steel has been processed to produce a variety of boxes and drums for utilization at SRS, ORNL, LANL, INEEL, and Hanford. Though technical feasibility has been clearly demonstrated, a continuing "business reality" is yet to be achieved. In 1998 SRS, for the first time, will conduct a competition of RSM fabricated containers and standard commercially fabricated containers.

In mid-February 1998, SRS issued a Request for Proposal for the supply of 300 Heavy Water Storage Drums. Proposals will be accepted from both RSM recycle and standard commercial drum fabricators.

SRS is also investigating the possibility of processing a (one hundred ton) Reactor Water Heat Exchanger. SRS will invite private industry to provide its recommendations on the best way to process the heat exchangers.

In addition, the Accelerator Production of Tritium (APT) will require between 3000 and 12000 tons of steel shielding. Investigation into the possibility of utilizing the site's steel RSM for such purposes will be initiated.

The Citizens Advisory Board recognized the feasibility of the program and has made a recommendation to DOE-SR.

## SRS CAB RECOMMENDATION No. 54

Take radioactive scrap metal and either free release the metal or turn it into a usable product instead of disposing it as waste. DOE is also encouraged to take the lead to develop a market at SRS and across the DOE complex for free release or beneficial reuse products.

# Graph

## Production and distribution

The followingf ais a summary of the status of each product

### Boxes (CMI)

Sixteen boxes have been fabricated by CMI and distributed to SRS.

### Standard Drums (MSC)

Four hundred drums have been fabricated by MSC and delivered. Distribution has been to SRS, LANL, Hanford, and ORNL.

### Over-pack Drums (MSC)

Three hundred and fifty (larger than standard) drums have been fabricated by MSC and delivered. Distribution has been to SRS, LANL, and INEEL.

### Transportable Vitrification System Containers (MSC)

Forty Transportable Vitrification System (TVS) Containers have been fabricated by MSC and delivered to ORNL. In addition to programmatic funding, support for the TVS Container fabrication came from the Mixed Waste Focus Area and from SRS Set-Aside sources.

### Heavy Water Storage Drums (MSC)

One hundred Heavy Water Storage Drums have been fabricated by MSC and delivered to SRS.

### Shielding Bricks (CMI)

A ten ton Reactor Pump from SRS was melted at CMI, combined with all remaining process inventory in the vendor shop, and cast into 690 RAM-LOC™ shielding blocks for use at SRS. In addition to programmatic funding, financial support was received from SRS Set-Aside funding.

# Current NEPA actions affecting SRS

- **Rocky Flats Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy (DOE/EIS-0277)**, The public comment period ended January 5, 1998. Comments are being resolved and will be incorporated in the final EIS which is expected to be issued second quarter, 1998.
- **Accelerator for Production of Tritium (DOE/EIS-0270)**, The comment period ended February 2, 1998. Final EIS and ROD are projected for July and August 1998, respectively.
- **Tritium Extraction Facility (DOE/EIS-0271)**, The draft EIS will be published early May 1998. The public meeting is scheduled for June 9, 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, mid 1998, LLW/LLMW in early 1999.
- **SRS Spent Nuclear Fuel (DOE/EIS-0279)**, Work on draft EIS has begun and is expected to be available in July 1998.
- **Surplus Plutonium Disposition (DOE/EIS-0282)**, The draft EIS is scheduled to be issued June 1998.
- **Wetland Mitigation Bank Program (DOE/EA-1205)**, Preparation of the draft EA is progressing with a proposed issue date of second quarter 1998.
- **Reuse of TNX as a Multi-Purpose Pilot Plant Project Campus (DOE/EA-1231)**, The comment period ended February 17, 1998. A FONSI was issued April 24, 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 late May 1998.

## Need NEPA documents?

Andrew R. Grainger

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## 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>

## for more information...

The Statements of Basis/Proposed Plans are also available on the Internet in the SRS Home Page under "Happening Now", (<http://www.srs.gov>) and on the SRS Environmental Restoration Home Page, (<http://www.srs.gov/general/sci-tech/enviro-rest/extpage/pub/pubinv.html>). 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

If there is interest in discussing this recommended remedial approach, a public hearing may be requested by contacting John Litton. Comments on the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan may be sent to Mary Flora and comments on the draft RCRA permit modification may be sent to John Litton. For additional information or to request a public meeting contact:

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

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Aiken, S.C. 29808



## The SRS Environmental Bulletin

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

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