



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Record of Decision Issued for R-Reactor Seepage Basin Operable Unit

The United States Department of Energy (DOE), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) have selected the remedial approach for Savannah River Site's (SRS) R-Reactor Seepage Basin (RRSB) Operable Unit (OU). A 30-day public comment period for the Proposed Plan was held from June 9, 2003, to July 8, 2003.

DOE, the EPA, and SCDHEC have determined that the preferred remedial action consists of the following:

The preferred alternative for the RRSB is the installation of reinforced concrete intruder barrier system with granitic monuments extended over PTSM inside the boundary fence, excavate all contaminated process and sewer lines and associated soils above principal threat source material levels outside of the boundary fence with, disposal on site under the intruder barrier system. Groundwater contamination will be addressed by a mixing zone. Land use controls will be instituted to control unauthorized access to the area.

The RRSB consists of six unlined basins, process sewer lines, and an abandoned sanitary sewer system, consisting of a sanitary sewer line and a sanitary discharge lagoon located in the abandoned construction staging area north of the R-Reactor building (105-R). The RRSB is located north of the R-Reactor and straddles the boundary between the Upper Three Runs (UTR) and Lower Three Runs (LTR) watersheds. All six basins were constructed between June 1957 and March 1958 and received an estimated 5 million gallons of purge water from the R-Reactor disassembly basin.

The 108-4R overflow basin was constructed to collect overflow from two adjacent underground storage tanks within a vault (108-3R) that stored diesel fuel for standby generators in the R-Reactor. The 108-4R overflow basin did not receive contaminated water from the R-Reactor disassembly basin and has been backfilled to grade and a grass cover established.

The remedial decision is documented in the Record of Decision document. This document includes a responsiveness summary that addresses public comments. DOE has worked with SCDHEC and EPA to ensure the remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

Copies of the Record of Decision are available in the administrative record. 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-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC; and
- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC.

Hard copies of the Record of Decision are available at the following:

- Reese Library at Augusta State University in Augusta, GA; and
- Asa H. Gordon Library at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA.

For additional information, contact Jim Moore at the address listed below.

Jim Moore
Westinghouse Savannah River Company
Savannah River Site
Building 742-A
Aiken, SC 29808
1-800-249-8155
jim02.moore@srs.gov

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Aiken, S.C. 29808



The SRS Environmental Bulletin

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

Jim Moore

Lyddie Broussard

Westinghouse

Westinghouse

Savannah River Co.

Savannah River Co.

Aiken, S.C. 29808

Aiken, S.C. 29808

(800) 249-8155

Public Involvement

e-mail: jim02.moore@srs.gov

(803) 725-7169

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Aiken, S.C. 29808



