



# Environmental Bulletin

Volume 16, Number 4  
February 18, 2005

*from the Savannah River Site*

## Pre-Construction Fact Sheet Available for R-Reactor Seepage Basin Operable Unit

The United States Department of Energy (DOE), United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) announce the completion of the final design of the remedy selected for the R-Reactor Seepage Basin (RRSB) Operable Unit (OU) and the availability of a Pre-construction Fact Sheet. This fact sheet provides a description of the remedy selected for the RRSB at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

The RRSB OU is located in the east-central portion of SRS approximately 5.2 miles from the nearest SRS boundary. The RRSB OU originally consisted of six unlined seepage basins, process sewer lines, sanitary sewer line, and discharge lagoon. In November 1957, a failed calorimeter experiment resulted in the discharge of radioactive wastewater containing cesium-137, strontium-90 and tritium to the basins. The basins were deactivated, backfilled and covered with an asphalt emulsion in the 60's and 70's. In 1996, a clean soil and asphalt cover was installed to limit the growth of contaminated vegetation.

The remedial action selected in the Record of Decision for the RRSB consists of the following:

Contaminated vegetation will be cut, chipped, composted, and disposed of under an asphalt bioturbation barrier. Principal threat source material will be covered with a 6-inch reinforced-concrete intruder barrier. Process sewer lines outside the perimeter fence will be excavated and disposed of on-unit. Groundwater will be managed by an SCDHEC-approved groundwater mixing zone application. This remedy will be the final remedy for this operable unit.

The Pre-construction Fact Sheet for the SRS RRSB OU is available at the following locations: DOE Public Reading Room at the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina (USC)-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC; Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at USC in Columbia, SC; 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 1-800-249-8155 or e-mail: [jim02.moore@srs.gov](mailto:jim02.moore@srs.gov)

### **Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) Available**

#### **National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Wastewater Permit Compliance Alternatives**

The public comment period for the previously noticed draft EA will be open until March 18, 2005. Any comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable. Comments regarding and requests for copies of the draft EA should be sent to:

Andrew R. Grainger, NEPA Compliance Officer  
U. S. Department of Energy, SR Operations Office  
Building 742-A, Room 179, Aiken, SC 29808  
e-mail: [nepa@srs.gov](mailto:nepa@srs.gov)  
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## The SRS Environmental Bulletin

For more information on this or other  
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