
Executive Summary



The Savannah River Site Environmental Report for 2007 (WSRC-STI-2008-00057) prepared for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) according to requirements of DOE Order 231.1A, “Environment, Safety and Health Reporting,” and DOE Order 5400.5, “Radiation Protection of the Public and Environment.” The report’s purpose is to

- *present summary environmental data that characterize site environmental management performance*
 - *confirm compliance with environmental standards and requirements*
 - *highlight significant programs and efforts*
 - *assess the impact of SRS operations on the public and the environment*
-

Minimal Impact

SRS posted another exemplary environmental compliance record in 2007, as its operations continued to result in minimal impact to the offsite public and the surrounding environment. The site’s radioactive and chemical discharges to air and water were well below regulatory maximums for environmental and public health protection; its air and water quality met appropriate requirements; and the radiation dose from its discharges was smaller than natural background doses or safety-based dose standards.

The largest radiation dose that an offsite, hypothetical, maximally exposed individual could have received from SRS operations during 2007 was estimated to be 0.10 millirem. (A millirem is a standard unit of measure for radiation exposure.) The 2007 SRS dose is just 0.10 percent of the DOE all-pathway dose standard of 100 millirem per year, and far less than the natural average dose of about 300 millirem per year to people in the United States. The 2007 all-pathway dose is 50 percent less than the 2006 dose of 0.20 millirem.

Extensive Monitoring; Documented Compliance

Environmental monitoring is conducted extensively within a 2,000-square-mile network extending 25 miles from SRS, with some monitoring performed as far as 100 miles from the site. The area includes neighboring cities, towns, and counties in Georgia and South Carolina. Thousands of samples of air, rainwater, surface water, drinking water, groundwater, food products, wildlife, soil, sediment, and vegetation are collected by SRS and state authorities and analyzed for the presence of radioactive and nonradioactive contaminants.

Compliance with environmental regulations and with DOE orders related to environmental protection provides assurance that onsite processes do not impact the public or the environment adversely. Such compliance is documented in this report.

SRS had a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) compliance rate of 100 percent in 2007. The NPDES compliance rate goal is 98 percent.

The NPDES program protects streams, reservoirs, and other wetlands by limiting the release of nonradiological pollution into surface waters. Discharge limits are set for each facility to ensure that SRS operations do not negatively impact aquatic life or degrade water quality.

No Notices of Violation or Exceedances

Issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), Notices of Violation (NOVs) are the regulatory tool used to inform organizations when their activities do not meet

expected requirements. These can include NOVs against the organization's permitted activities or against the general provisions of environmental regulations. SRS received no NOVs in 2007 and had no Clean Air Act or Clean Water Act permit condition exceedances, marking the first time the site has operated a full calendar year with no such occurrences.

Wide Distribution

The annual *SRS Environmental Report* has been produced for more than 50 years. Copies are distributed to government officials, universities, public libraries, environmental and civic groups, news media, and interested individuals.