



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Interim Action Proposed Plan for the E-Area Low-Level Waste Facility (Slit Trench Disposal Units 1 and 2) Available for Public Comment

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will release an Interim Action Proposed Plan on June 1, 2009, describing the proposed interim remedial alternative for the E-Area Low-Level Waste Facility (Slit Trench Disposal Units 1 and 2) at the Savannah River Site (SRS). This document will be available for public review and copying at the locations listed below. The public comment period is scheduled for June 1, 2009 to July 1, 2009.

The Interim Action Proposed Plan was completed as part of the regulatory agreement for the receipt of Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) regulated low-level radioactive waste at the E-Area Low-Level Waste Facility (LLWF) Slit Trenches. DOE has worked with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) to ensure that the interim remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements. The DOE, EPA, and SCDHEC have evaluated interim remedial alternatives for the facility. The following interim remedial action is recommended for the E-Area LLWF (Slit Trench Disposal Units 1 and 2):

Install Operational Stormwater Runoff Covers: Construction of the operational stormwater runoff covers will involve the placement of grading fill and structural fill over the operational soil cover. The operational stormwater runoff cover will be graded to promote even greater drainage off the trenches. The runoff cover barrier will consist of a low-permeability, geosynthetic material. Sloping under and around the cover material will be adequate to ensure cover stability and promote positive drainage. A soil layer will not be installed over the barrier cover material to allow for visual inspection during both the construction and operational period. The exposed geosynthetic layer will allow for easier and faster detection of damage to the cover system and allow for immediate visual detection of inefficient drainage (e.g., standing water). The stormwater runoff cover will be protected from equipment and vehicle traffic as waste disposal operations continue in the E-Area LLWF. Warning barricades, including sign postings and chains, will be installed around the covered areas.

This interim action alternative will provide greater protection of human health and the environment. A final remedial action will be evaluated and conducted in the future for the entire E-Area LLWF.

The E-Area LLWF is located in the central region of the SRS. Radioactive waste disposal operations at the E-Area LLWF began in 1994. The E-Area LLWF is comprised of 200 acres, although only 100 acres have been developed for waste disposal. The E-Area LLWF contains various disposal unit types, including Slit Trench Disposal Units.

Slit Trench Disposal Units are below-grade earthen trenches used for disposal of CERCLA regulated low-level radioactive waste and other DOE operational low-level radioactive waste. The DOE operates the E-Area LLWF under the authority of the Atomic Energy Act (AEA) and in accordance with DOE Order 435.1, *Radioactive Waste Management*. The E-Area Slit Trench Disposal Units were approved to receive CERCLA waste per the CERCLA Off-Site Rule (OSR). In July 2007, representatives from the DOE, EPA, and SCDHEC constructed an agreement concerning the disposal of CERCLA Waste in the E-Area LLWF Slit Trench Disposal Units. As part of this agreement, the DOE placed the entire E-Area LLWF in the Federal Facility Agreement, which satisfied the OSR requirement for inclusion in an enforceable agreement. This agreement allows the continued disposal of CERCLA waste in the Slit Trench Disposal Units.

Comments on the Interim Action Proposed Plan are requested by July 1, 2009. At the completion of the public comment period, a Responsiveness Summary will be available with the Interim Record of Decision.

Copies of the Interim Action Proposed Plan 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 (USC)-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC; and Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at USC in Columbia, SC

Hard copies of the Interim Action Proposed Plan are available at the following locations:

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

An electronic copy of the Interim Action Proposed Plan is posted at the following address: <http://www.srs.gov/general/programs/soil/pub/pubinv.html>

If there is interest in discussing this recommended interim remedial alternative, a public hearing may be requested. Comments on the Interim Action Proposed Plan should be sent to Paul Sauerborn. For additional information or to request a public meeting, contact Paul Sauerborn at the address listed below:

Paul Sauerborn
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC
Savannah River Site
Building 730-1B
Aiken, SC 29808
1-803-952-6658
paul.sauerborn@srs.gov

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

Paul Sauerborn

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC

Aiken, S.C. 29808

Public Involvement

(803) 952-6658

e-mail: paul.sauerborn@srs.gov
