



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Removal Site Evaluation Report/Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis for Volatile Organic Compound Contaminated Soil at the Bubble Tower Subunit at the D Area Operable Unit

The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to perform a non-time critical removal of volatile organic compound (VOC) contaminated soil at the Bubble Tower Subunit at the D Area Operable Unit (DAOU). Under the comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) the Removal Site Evaluation Report/Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (RSER/EE/CA) describes how the proposed removal action meets the criteria established in the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan (NCP), 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 300.415. The purpose of this RSER/EE/CA is to identify the objectives of the removal action for the Bubble Tower subunit at the DAOU, and to develop alternatives that address the potential threats from release of contaminants to the environment. This document will be available for public review and copying at the locations listed below. The public comment period is scheduled for July 27, 2009 to August 26, 2009.

The RSER/EE/CA was completed to meet the terms of CERCLA, a law governing the investigation and cleanup of waste units. The DOE has worked with the United States Environmental Protection Agency-Region 4 (USEPA) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental control (SCDHEC) to ensure the remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

The DOE, USEPA and SCDHEC have reviewed the risks associated with the Bubble Tower Subunit at the DAOU and have evaluated cleanup alternatives. Tetrachloroethylene was identified as a contaminant migration constituent of concern. Alternative 2, Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) with Institutional Controls, has been selected as the preferred removal action. Alternative 2 entails the placement of Microblower™ equipped SVE wells at 11 locations. The Microblower™ system removes VOCs from the soil by applying a vacuum to the subsurface to remove the vapor-phase contaminants. The scope of the removal action involves an approximate area of 10,890 square feet, a depth of 10 feet, and an in situ volume of 4,033 cubic yards. The Microblower™ system would likely be operational for four years to achieve the remedial goal objectives. Institutional controls would include warning signs, deed restriction, and short-term and long-term monitoring to determine the effectiveness of the removal action.

The DAOU is located in the western portion of the Savannah River Site (SRS). The Bubble Tower Subunit is located in the northern area of the DAOU and is approximately 95 acres in size. The VOC contaminated soil is located near the 717-D Maintenance Shop within the Bubble Tower Subunit. The 717-D Maintenance shop was deactivated in 1999.

Upon completion of the public comment period, an Action Memorandum with a Responsiveness Summary that addresses public comments will be prepared.

Copies of the RSER/EE/CA 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 RSER/EE/CA 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.

An electronic copy of the RSER/EE/CA is posted at the following address: <http://www.srs.gov/general/programs/soil/pub/pubinv.html>

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