



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

REMOVAL SITE EVALUATION REPORT/ENGINEERING EVALUATION/COST ANALYSIS (RSER/EE/CA) FOR TRITIUM CONTAMINATED SOILS AND CONCRETE AT THE MODERATOR PROCESSING SUBUNIT AT THE D AREA OPERABLE UNIT

The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to perform a non-time critical removal of tritium contaminated soil and concrete at the Moderator Processing 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 moderator processing 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 September 30, 2009, to October 30, 2009.

The RSER/EE/CA was completed to meet the terms of CERCLA, a law governing the investigation and cleanup of waste units. 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.

DOE, EPA and SCDHEC have reviewed the risks associated with the moderator processing subunit at the DAOU and have evaluated cleanup alternatives. Tritium was identified as a contaminant migration constituent of concern. Alternative 2, Removal and On-Unit Thermal Treatment with Institutional Controls, has been selected as the preferred removal action. Alternative 2 includes the excavation of contaminated soil and concrete and applying heat to the stockpiled material in thermal treatment cells to induce volatilization of tritium. The scope of the removal action involves approximately 3000 cubic yards of tritium contaminated media. 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 moderator processing subunit is located in the northern area of the DAOU and is approximately 15 acres in size and is comprised of six decommissioned buildings. Spills of moderator onto the concrete slabs and soils in and near three of these buildings resulted in tritium contamination within the moderator processing subunit. The moderator processing subunit remained operational until the late 1990s.

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 is 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>

DOE plans to release this document for a 30-day public comment period beginning September 30, 2009 to October 30, 2009. The preferred alternative may be altered or changed based on public comment. Following the public comment period, an Action Memorandum will be prepared and transmitted to EPA and SCDHEC by DOE-Savannah River.

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**For more information on this or
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