



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Early Action Record of Decision Available for the P Area Operable Unit

The Early Action Record of Decision (EAROD) is being issued by the United States Department of Energy (DOE), the lead agency for the Savannah River Site (SRS), with concurrence by the United States Environmental Protection Agency – Region 4 (EPA) and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), announcing the early action remedial decision for the P Area Operable Unit at SRS.

The EAROD was completed to meet the terms of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), a law governing the investigation and cleanup of waste units. The DOE has worked with EPA and SCDHEC to ensure this early remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

P Reactor building was the second of the five nuclear reactors constructed at the SRS. The reactor went critical on February 20, 1954, and was operated continuously until 1988 when it was shut down for system upgrades. In 1991, the P Reactor was put into a 'cold standby' status, followed by 'cold shutdown with no capability of restart' status in 1993. In its present state, all irradiated-fuel and target assemblies have been removed from the P Reactor building and all fluids have been drained from the process systems. All electrical and mechanical hazards have been eliminated by severing or terminating the original lines that entered P Area.

Early remedial actions will occur in conjunction with long-term action at a site to ensure the site is cleaned up as quickly and effectively as possible. The scope of this EAROD is to document the final end state decision for the P Reactor building and the early remedial action for the five subunits within the P Area Operable Unit (PAOU).

This EAROD:

- Select In Situ Decommissioning (ISD) as an acceptable alternative to off-site disposal for the P Reactor building, which will allow the final PAOU ROD to focus on evaluating remedial alternatives that are consistent with ISD end state.
- Allow for consolidation within the P Reactor building of remedial waste generated from other subunits within the PAOU, subject to approval by the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) parties. Such consolidation would occur prior to final closure of the P Reactor building but would not delay implementation of any remedy for such closure.
- Perform early actions to eliminate two source zones of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) contamination of groundwater at Potential Source Area (PSA)-3A and PSA-3B.
- Perform an early action to eliminate radiologically contaminated soil at P02 Outfalls.
- Perform an early action to eliminate a localized High Contamination Area of radiologically contaminated rail road bed material and soil along the P Reactor cask car railroad tracks.

The EAROD is part of the Administrative Record File and is available for public review during normal business hours at the following information repositories.

- 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 EAROD 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.

Any comments or questions may be directed to:

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