



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Interim Action Determination for Disposition of Certain Plutonium Materials Stored at the Savannah River Site Available for Public Review

The Department of Energy (DOE) is preparing the Surplus Plutonium Disposition Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SPD SEIS, DOE/EIS-0283-S2). DOE is evaluating alternatives for disposition of non-pit plutonium that is surplus to the national security needs of the United States. The Department continues to evaluate alternative disposition paths for surplus plutonium materials and options for supplying feed materials to the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility, which will manufacture mixed oxide (plutonium and uranium) fuel for commercial nuclear power plants. DOE issued a revised Notice of Intent for the SPD SEIS on July 19, 2010 (75 Federal Reserve [FR] 41850). At present, DOE anticipates that the earliest completion date for the SPD SEIS would be the summer of 2012.

In order to reduce storage requirements and reduce the risk inherent in storing nuclear materials, DOE will prepare and ship up to 500 kg of plutonium materials to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad, New Mexico. These materials are currently within the scope of the SPD SEIS. However, because of the small quantity involved relative to the 6 metric tons of non-pit plutonium materials being evaluated in the SPD SEIS, and because this material does not lend itself to disposition using the other alternatives, disposal of this material as TRU waste would not affect DOE's ultimate selection of disposition alternatives. This action will result in about 880 cubic meters of TRU waste and require approximately 120 shipments to WIPP. DOE estimates that this process would take place over a period of approximately three years.

To request a copy of the Interim Action document, call 1-800-881-7292 or e-mail nepa@srs.gov.

You may also view the NEPA Interim Action document on the Internet at:
<http://www.srs.gov/general/pubs/envbul/nepa1.htm>

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