



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Action Memorandum Issued for the Time Critical Removal Action for the Lower Three Runs Integrator Operable Unit Tail Portion (Middle and Lower Subunits), CERCLIS Number: 35 at the Savannah River Site

The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) is implementing a time critical removal for the Lower Three Runs Integrator Operable Unit Tail Portion (Middle and Lower Subunits) located along the Lower Three Runs creek within Barnwell County, South Carolina and Allendale County, South Carolina. The selection of the preferred alternative is documented in the Action Memorandum. DOE has worked with South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to ensure that the removal action is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements. The public can provide comments on the Action Memorandum for thirty (30) days from May 16, 2012 to June 15, 2012.

The Lower Three Runs Integrator Operable Unit (creek and floodplain) is located in the southeast portion of the Savannah River Site (SRS). Lower Three Runs Integrator Operable Unit is a large blackwater stream that originates in the northeast portion of SRS and follows a southerly direction before it enters the Savannah River. During reactor operations, secondary reactor cooling water, storm sewer discharges, and miscellaneous wastewater was discharged into Lower Three Runs. Approximately five miles downstream from the PAR Pond dam, the SRS boundary narrows providing a limited buffer of DOE property along the stream and floodplain. This area is referred to as the "Lower Three Runs Tail" section. Based on data collected during 2009 and 2010, three areas within the middle and lower tail subunits contain soils contaminated with cesium-137 at levels that exceed risk based limits.

The selected alternative for this time critical removal action includes:

Soil excavation in three discreet locations where the cesium-137 concentrations exceed risk based limits. The excavation will not exceed one acre in size at each location to a depth not expected to exceed twelve (12) inches. The excavation is confined to each side of the stream, but not within the streambed.

Confirmatory sampling and analysis, and radiological surveying to demonstrate that residual contamination remaining in the soil within the excavated area are less than the cleanup goals.

Installation of fencing as necessary to control access at selected sections of the DOE boundary, and signs to discourage trespassing along the entire boundary of the Lower Three Runs Tail.

Trees and shrubs up to six (6) inches in diameter may be removed to allow access to the contaminated soils. The use and the type of motorized vehicles will be limited to minimize impact to the wetlands. Non-radioactive debris (removed vegetation) will remain on site to decompose naturally, enriching the soil. The waste streams generated as part of this removal action will be transported and disposed in accordance with state and federal laws.

A copy of the Action Memorandum and the Removal Site Evaluation Report 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 Action Memorandum and Removal Site Evaluation Report 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 Action Memorandum and Removal Site Evaluation Report are posted at the following address:

<http://www.srs.gov/general/programs/soil/pub/pubinv.html>

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