



The ENVIRONMENTAL BULLETIN

from the Savannah River Site

April 28, 1998 • Volume 9 • Number 6

D-Area Oil Seepage Basin Operable Unit

The Department of Energy (DOE) will release a Statement of Basis/ Proposed Plan proposing cleanup action for the D-Area Oil Seepage Basin (DAOSB) Operable Unit at the Savannah River Site (SRS) on May 1, 1998. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) will also release a draft Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit modification for this unit. The plan and draft permit modification will be available for public review and copying at the locations listed below. The public comment period is scheduled for May 1, 1998, to June 14, 1998.

DOE, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the (SCDHEC) are recommending the following for the DAOSB:

(1) No further action is required at the DAOSB subsurface soils due to an interim action (April 1996) and bio-vent testing being performed at this unit which eliminated the source of groundwater contamination. Remedial alternatives were not developed for soils, surface water, or sediments at the unit since no contaminants were found in these media. Remediation of these media is not warranted based on the evaluation of Federal and State standards and the risk assessment.

(2) The DAOSB proposed groundwater alternative is Natural Attenuation/ Groundwater Mixing Zone with institutional controls. Under this alternative, natural attenuation mechanisms such as biodegradation, flushing, volatilization, adsorption, and hydrolysis would continue to reduce contaminant concentrations in the groundwater to acceptable primary drinking water standards. The alternatives considered for the groundwater include: No Action, Natural Attenuation/Groundwater Mixing Zone, Air Sparging and Extraction/Stripping/ Discharge.

The DAOSB was constructed in 1952 as a series of unlined trenches for disposal of waste oil products from D-Area and other areas at SRS that were unacceptable for incineration in the 400-D powerhouse boilers. As the trenches were filled, the waste oils, along with general office and cafeteria waste, were occasionally ignited. This practice continued until 1973 when open burning ceased

throughout SRS. In 1975 the basin was removed from service and was backfilled with soil. An Interim Action was conducted in 1996 to remove drums, debris and contaminated soils. Bio-vent testing was conducted in 1996 to 1997 and post test results have demonstrated that contaminant levels in subsurface soils have been reduced to levels that will pose no threat to human health and the environment.

Comments on the Statement of Basis/ Proposed Plan and the draft RCRA permit modification are requested by June 14, 1998. All comments received will be considered and addressed in a responsiveness summary that will be made available with the Record of Decision and the final RCRA permit decision, and will be sent to each person who submits comments.

Copies of the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan will be available in the administrative record beginning May 1, from these Information Repositories:

- DOE Public Reading Room at the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC;
- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC;
- Reese Library at Augusta State University in Augusta, GA; and
- Asa H. Gordon Library at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA.

The Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan is also available on the Internet at the SRS Home Page (<http://www.srs.gov>), under "Happening Now," (<http://www.srs.gov/general/srs-home.htm>) and on the SRS Environmental Restoration Home Page under "Public Involvement," (<http://www.srs.gov/general/sci-tech/enviro-rest/extpage/pub/pubinv.html>).

Copies of the draft RCRA permit modifications are available for review at SCDHEC during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays at the following locations:

SCDHEC
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
8901 Farrow Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29203
Phone: (803) 896-4000

SCDHEC
Lower Savannah District
Environmental Quality Control Office
218 Beaufort St., NE
Aiken, SC 29802
Phone: (803) 641-7670

Want to comment?

Comments on the Statement of Basis/ Proposed Plan and requests for public meetings, send to:

Mary Flora
Westinghouse Savannah River Co.
Savannah River Site
703-A
Aiken, S.C. 29808
(803) 725-2272 or 1 (800) 249-8155
mary.flora@srs.gov

Comments on the Draft RCRA Permit Modification and requests for public hearings, send to:

J.T. Litton, Director
Division of Hazardous and
Infectious Waste Mgmt.
Bureau of Land and Waste
Mgmt.
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, S.C. 29201-1708
(803) 896-4000

Correction

In the April 13, 1998 issue of the Environmental Bulletin Volume 9, Number 5, there was a misprint on page 2. In the "for more information" section, the first line was incorrect and should read as follows:

The Interim Action Proposed Plan is available on the Internet in the SRS Home Page under "Happening Now" instead of:

The Statements of Basis/Proposed Plans are available on the Internet in the SRS Home Page under "Happening Now."