



# Environmental Bulletin

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*from the Savannah River Site*

## Remedy proposed for A-Area Rubble Pile

The Department of Energy (DOE) will release a Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan on September 21, 2001, describing the proposed remedial approach for A-Area Miscellaneous Rubble Pile Operable Unit at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) will also release a draft Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit modification for the proposed remedial action for this unit. These documents will be available for public review and copying at the locations listed below. The public comment period is scheduled for September 21, 2001, to November 4, 2001.

DOE, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and SCDHEC have reviewed the risks associated with this unit and have evaluated cleanup alternatives. The three agencies are recommending the following action for the A-Area Miscellaneous Rubble Pile operable unit:

**Piles Area – Hot Spot Removal and Disposal:** Under this remedial action, the polychlorinated biphenyl / polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PCB/PAH) waste pile and the lead hot spot would be excavated, removed, and disposed in an off-unit permitted disposal facility. The lead hot spot would be excavated to a depth of approximately one foot below the land surface, while the PCB/PAH waste pile would be excavated to native soil. This alternative would eliminate all unacceptable risks identified in the Piles Area.

**Ash Area – Institutional Controls:** This remedial action consists of implementing institutional controls that would prohibit future residential land use and restrict access and activities. Under this alternative, work control procedures protect current workers. Warning signs and deed restrictions or notifications would be used to restrict access and minimize exposure of future industrial workers to the Ash Area. This alternative is considered acceptable due to low levels of arsenic.

**Trenches Area – Passive Soil Vapor Extraction, Soil Cover, and Institutional Controls:** This remedial action includes the installation of passive soil vapor extraction wells (Baroballs™) to remove the tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE) in the vadose zone by venting these solvents to the atmosphere where they are quickly photodegraded. The one-foot soil cover would be placed over both the trenches and asphalt debris source areas. The soil cover would provide a physical barrier between PAH surface contamination and remedial workers and future industrial workers. Institutional controls would prohibit future residential land use and provide additional protection of future industrial workers in the Trenches Area.

These alternatives will be protective of human health and the environment. They are also intended to be the final actions for the A-Area Miscellaneous Rubble Pile operable unit.

The A-Area Miscellaneous Rubble Pile operable unit (ARP) is a 5.9-acre unit at the southern end of A/M Area at Savannah River Site. The unit is bounded by a gravel road to the north and two drainage ditches from the A/M Area to the east and southwest. Disposal activities at the ARP began in the early 1950s, but the exact dates of operation and specific waste disposed at the unit were not documented. However, based on field characterization work performed at the site, it is clear that the primary waste disposed at the site were construction rubble and an ash-like material. The ARP contains three primary sources of contamination: construction debris piles, a near-surface ash layer, and a T-shaped disposal trench. Because these three areas are physically distinct and are located in separate areas of the ARP, the ARP was divided into three separate subunits: the Piles Area, the Ash Area, and the Trenches Area.

Copies of the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan are available in the administrative record, which also contains the RCRA Facility Investigation/Remedial Investigation with Risk Assessment Report for this unit. The administrative record is available in 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 Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan are available at 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 in the SRS Home Page under (<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/srenviro/erd/pub/pubinv.html>).

Copies of the draft RCRA permit modification and Statements of Basis 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 SCDHEC, Bureau of Land and Waste Management, 8901 Farrow Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29203, Phone: (803)896-4000, or SCDHEC, Lower Savannah District, Environmental Quality Control Office, 218 Beaufort St., N.E., Aiken, SC 29802, Phone: (803) 641-7670. If there is interest in discussing this recommended remedial approach, a public hearing may be requested. Comments on the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan, draft RCRA permit or to request a hearing should be sent to John Litton at SCDHEC, Attn: John Litton, P.E., Director, Division of Waste Management, Bureau of Land and Waste Management, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201, (803) 896-4000.

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## The SRS Environmental Bulletin

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Access the Environmental Notice web site:  
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