



# Environmental Bulletin

Volume 17, Number 10  
June 2, 2006

*from the Savannah River Site*

## **Environmental Assessment being prepared for a replacement A-Area Steam Boiler Plant**

DOE has determined that an environmental assessment (EA) will be prepared to analyze the potential environmental consequences of the proposed replacement source of steam alternatives at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The purpose of the proposed action is to replace the existing coal-fired A-Area steam boiler plant (Building 784-A), which was constructed in 1951 at SRS. The preferred alternative to be evaluated in the EA would be a steam boiler plant consisting of two 30,000 pounds per hour boilers. The primary boiler would be wood-fired and would provide the majority of steam required for A Area. The standby boiler would be fuel oil-fired and would operate when the primary boiler is taken offline for maintenance and also during the winter season to meet peak steam demand. The balance of the plant, which would include all associated fuel handling and storage equipment, would be contained to the maximum extent possible inside of a protective structure. The replacement boiler plant would be located near the current site of the existing A-Area boiler plant to allow for easy fuel and ash transportation access as well as connections to the existing A-Area infrastructure. Extensive automation and control systems for boiler operation would be used to support operation of the replacement boilers. The primary end-user of steam from the replacement plant would be the Savannah River National Laboratory.

Notifications of DOE's intent to prepare this EA were sent to the States of Georgia and South Carolina on April 26, 2006. If you would like a copy of the predecisional EA when it becomes available, please contact:

Andrew R. Grainger, NEPA Compliance Officer  
U.S. Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office  
Building 730-1B, Room 3150, Aiken, SC 29808  
e-mail: [nepa@srs.gov](mailto:nepa@srs.gov)  
Fax/telephone 1-800-881-7292

## Current NEPA Actions Affecting SRS

- ***Disposition of Scrap Metals Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) (DOE/EIS-0327)***

DOE will evaluate alternatives for disposition of scrap metals that may have been in radiological areas. The disposition options to be analyzed include continuation of the suspension on unrestricted release of metals for recycling, unrestricted release of scrap metals for recycling, and disposal. The notice of intent (NOI) for this PEIS was issued on July 12, 2001. A public scoping meeting was held on July 31, 2001, in North Augusta, South Carolina. The draft PEIS has not been issued, and the schedule is uncertain.

- ***Supplemental PEIS on Stockpile Stewardship and Management for a Modern Pit Facility (DOE/EIS-0236-S2)***

DOE will evaluate alternative sites (Los Alamos National Laboratory, Nevada Test Site, Pantex Plant, Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, and Savannah River Site) for a Modern Pit Facility, to create the capability to manufacture plutonium pits for the stockpile of United States nuclear weapons. This PEIS will be followed by a site-specific EIS to address the impacts of construction and operation of the Modern Pit Facility at the selected site. The NOI for this PEIS was issued on September 23, 2002. A local public scoping meeting was held on October 29, 2002, in North Augusta, SC. Information regarding the draft PEIS can be found at 68 FR 33487, June 4, 2003. The draft PEIS may be viewed electronically at [www.mpeis.com](http://www.mpeis.com). The final supplemental PEIS has been delayed due to Congressional concerns about timing and scope of project.

- ***EIS for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership Technology Demonstration Program (DOE/EIS-xxxx)***

DOE will evaluate technologies that would change the way spent nuclear fuel from commercial light-water power reactors is managed. The proposed action is to demonstrate U.S. capability to safely recycle spent nuclear fuel using proliferation-resistant separation processes and the conversion of transuranics into shorter-lived radioisotopes. The proposed action includes three key elements that would comprise a proliferation-resistant closed fuel cycle: (1) the demonstration of separation processes in which usable and waste materials that are found in spent nuclear fuel are separated; (2) the demonstration of the conversion of transuranics; and (3) the demonstration of an advanced fuel fabrication process.

- ***National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Compliance Alternatives (DOE/EA-1563)***

DOE will analyze potential environmental consequences of the proposed NPDES Stormwater Compliance Alternatives at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) has renewed the NPDES general industrial stormwater permit that regulates certain SRS stormwater discharges. This permit authorizes the continued discharge of stormwater effluents from SRS operations through 39 industrial outfalls into State surface waters for the next four years. In order to meet the more restrictive conditions of the reissued permit, compliance schedules will be negotiated, as needed, for certain outfalls as designated by SCDHEC. (see related article in the Volume 17, Number 5 issue of the SRS Environmental Bulletin).

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## SRS Citizens Advisory Board Remaining 2006 Meeting Schedule

July 24-25

North Augusta Community Center  
101 Brookside Avenue  
North Augusta, S.C. 29841  
(803) 441-4290

November 13-14

Augusta Towers Hotel  
2651 Perimeter Parkway  
Augusta, Ga. 30909  
(706) 855-8100  
[www.gfhotels.com](http://www.gfhotels.com)

September 25-26

DoubleTree Hotel  
181 Church Street  
Charleston, S.C. 29401  
(843) 577-2644  
[www.doubletree.com](http://www.doubletree.com)

**Public Notice of Availability**  
**United States Department of Energy**  
**Savannah River Operations Office**  
**Removal Site Evaluation Report Engineering Evaluation Cost Analysis**  
**for the Removal Action at the Outside Facilities 211-F**  
**At the Savannah River Site**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to perform a non-time critical removal action at the 211-F Outside Facilities located at the Savannah River Site's F-Area. The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) regulations require a Removal Site Evaluation Report/Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (RSER/EECA) to evaluate removal alternatives.

The 211-F Outside Facilities are located adjacent to the F-Area Canyon. These facilities provided handling and storage of raw material and waste for the F-Canyon via a series of tanks, piping and pumps. For purposes of this RSER/EECA, 211-F is divided into two sections, the Waste Handling Vault (WHV) and the Outside Section (OS). The WHV houses Tanks 800, 801, 804, 808, and 809 and contains a sump. The remaining portion of 211-F constitutes the OS. The WHV section, referred to as the 800-series underground tanks, consists of five underground tanks housed in a concrete structure 48' wide x 60' 6" long x 34' deep. The vault consists of six cells with removable covers. The concrete floor of the vault is sloped toward an unlined sump, which is located in the sixth cell of the vault. The sump contents were pumped overhead; there were no below grade external lines from the sump. The OS includes the Chemical Storage Facilities, Water Handling Facilities, Acid Recovery Unit (ARU), General Purpose (GP) Evaporators, GP Waste Tanks, Segregated Solvent Facilities, Tank 805 Cell, Tank 820 Cell, and recycle sump. Vessels, sumps, and equipment in the OS were stationed in diked areas or on concrete aprons. The aprons served as dikes because the sides are elevated and act as a containment feature. The contents of the sumps in the OS were pumped overhead to various locations. There were no underground discharges from the OS sumps.

The purpose of the RSER/EECA, as required by the National Contingency Plan, is to identify the objectives of the removal action and to develop various alternatives that might satisfy those objectives. This RSER/EECA evaluated four alternatives for the WHV and three alternatives for the OS, recommends a removal action, and provides for public comment.

The preferred alternative for the WHV is to leave the 800-series underground tanks in place in their final deactivated condition. Fill only the cells of the vault with earth or gravel-type material to grade elevation, providing pipe sleeves from the cell floors to grade elevation. Install the 2-foot cell covers and place a nominal 12-inch concrete cover of the cells at grade elevation, with the cover sloped to facilitate runoff. This action will be re-evaluated when the F-Area Completion operable unit is addressed in the Federal Facility Agreement. The preferred alternative for the OS is to remove equipment, tanks, and any piping associated with the OS remaining after deactivation; dismantle and remove building structures, structural steel, and concrete, etc.; decontaminate chemical and radiological contamination as necessary; fill dike areas, sumps and trenches to grade or top of walls; provide a nominal 6 inch concrete cover and slope to allow for drainage. The removal will also include the loading and transporting of the debris to a CERCLA Approved Landfill.

DOE plans to release this document for public comment. The preferred alternative may be modified or changed based on public comments. Following the public comment period, an Action Memorandum will be prepared and transmitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control by DOE-SR.

This RSER/EECA, completed under CERCLA is available for public review from June 2, 2006, to July 2, 2006, at the following locations:

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

For additional information, contact Jim Moore at 1-800-249-8155 or e-mail: [jim02.moore@srs.gov](mailto:jim02.moore@srs.gov).

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**Mail to:**

**SRS Environmental Bulletin  
Savannah River Site  
Building 730-1B  
Aiken, S.C. 29808**



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## **The SRS Environmental Bulletin**

For more information on this or other  
environmental and compliance activities  
at SRS, please contact:

**Jim Moore**

**Washington**

**Savannah River Co.**

**Aiken, S.C. 29808**

**(800) 249-8155**

**e-mail: jim02.moore@srs.gov**

**Paul Sauerborn**

**Washington**

**Savannah River Co.**

**Aiken, S.C. 29808**

**(803) 952-6658**

**paul.sauerborn@srs.gov**

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Aiken, S.C. 29808

