



# Environmental Bulletin

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*from the Savannah River Site*

## **FONSI Available for a Replacement A-Area Steam Boiler Plant at SRS**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has issued a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for the final environmental assessment (EA) entitled Replacement Source of Steam for A Area at the Savannah River Site (DOE/EA-1568). DOE will take action to replace the existing coal-fired A-Area steam boiler plant (Building 784-A), which was constructed in 1953 at SRS. The preferred alternative evaluated in the final EA is a steam boiler plant consisting of two 30,000 pounds per hour boilers. The primary boiler will be wood-fired and will provide most of the steam required for A Area. The standby boiler will be fuel oil-fired and will operate when the primary boiler is taken offline for maintenance and during the winter season to meet peak steam demand. The balance of the plant, which will include all associated fuel handling and storage equipment, will be contained inside of a protective structure housing a three- to five-day biomass supply. The replacement boiler plant will 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. An alternative location for the proposed facility is an existing asphalt parking lot located near the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL). Extensive automation and control systems for boiler operation will be used to support operation of the replacement boilers. The primary end-users of steam from the replacement plant will be Savannah River Ecology Laboratory and SRNL.

An electronic copy of the final EA and FONSI may be viewed by directing your browser to <http://www.srs.gov/general/srs-home.html>. Requests for copies of the final EA and FONSI should be sent to:

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## Current Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Recommendation Summary

### **Recommendation 238- DOE Budget – Stakeholder Participation Consistency**

Concerned that they have not had an opportunity to provide meaningful input in the FY 2008 budget process, the SRS CAB issued another recommendation regarding the disparity and the need for a more consistent and effective budget participation process across the DOE complex. The SRS CAB still has major concerns about the lack of a current SRS stakeholder budget participation process which include a site priorities listing, planned key accomplishments and over-target activities. The Board wants DOE-SR to reestablish a consistent involvement process in the planning and formulation aspects of the SRS budget. Specifically, the Board recommended that for FY09 and all outyear budgets, DOE-SR provide a briefing to the SRS CAB in March of each year on the status of the fiscal year budget currently being formulated for the SRS; that

DOE-HQ reconfirm the length of the budget embargo period and provide potential alternatives to shorten this period to provide stakeholders more time to provide meaningful input in the budget process; and that DOE-SR ensure that all program presentations to SRS CAB committees have a budget component that addresses the budget and expense history of each project.

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### SRS Citizens Advisory Board Remaining 2006 Meeting Schedule

**November 13-14**  
Augusta Towers Hotel  
2651 Perimeter Parkway  
Augusta, Ga. 30909  
(706) 855-8100  
[www.gfhotels.com](http://www.gfhotels.com)

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### *Want more Information on any SRS NEPA Issues?*

For more information on any SRS NEPA issue  
call the SRS NEPA Hotline at 1-800-881-7292  
or E-mail at [nepa@srs.gov](mailto:nepa@srs.gov)

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## 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.mpfais.com](http://www.mpfais.com). The final supplemental PEIS has been delayed due to Congressional concerns about timing and scope of project. The NOI for the Complex 2030 Supplemental EIS below will cancel the Modern Pit Facility EIS and information regarding DOE/EIS-0236-S2 will not appear in future updates.

- *Supplement to the Stockpile Stewardship and Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement - Complex 2030 (DOE/EIS-0236-S4)*

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) will prepare a supplement to the Stockpile Stewardship and Management Programmatic EIS to address the environmental impact from the continued transformation of the nuclear weapons complex by implementing NNSA's vision of the complex as it would exist in 2030 - Complex 2030, as well as alternatives. The existing SRS tritium operations, including the Tritium Extraction Facility, would be part of the No Action alternative; that is, those operations would continue at SRS as part of Complex 2030. SRS would also be an alternative site for a Consolidated Plutonium Center for long-term research and development, surveillance, and manufacturing operations for a baseline capacity of 125 pits per year. The NOI is scheduled to be issued in October 2006.

- *EIS for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership Technology Demonstration Program (DOE/EIS-0396)*

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 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. The draft EA is scheduled to be available in October 2006.

- *Replacement Source of Steam for A Area at SRS (DOE/EA-1568)*

DOE analyzed potential environmental consequences of the proposed replacement source of steam at 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 1953 at SRS. The preferred alternative evaluated in the EA is a steam boiler plant consisting of two 30,000 pounds per hour boilers. The primary boiler will be wood-fired and provide the majority of steam required for A Area. The standby boiler will be fuel oil-fired and operate when the primary boiler is taken offline for maintenance and during the winter season to meet peak steam demand. The balance of the plant, including all associated fuel handling and storage equipment, will be contained to the maximum extent possible inside of a protective structure. The replacement boiler plant will 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 will be used to support operation of the replacement boilers. The primary end-users of steam from the replacement plant will be the Savannah River National Laboratory and the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory. The final EA and finding of no significant impact were issued in October 2006 and information regarding this EA will not appear in future updates. (see related article on page 1)

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## **The SRS Environmental Bulletin**

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