



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

DOE Issues Supplement Analysis and Amended Record of Decision for Salt Waste Processing at SRS

DOE has issued an Amended Record of Decision for the Salt Processing Alternative Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DOE/EIS-0082). DOE completed the EIS and issue a Record of Decision, selecting the Caustic Side Solvent Extraction (CSSX) alternative to process salt waste, in 2001. Now, in order to make sure adequate tank space is available to continue sludge processing in the Defense Waste Processing Facility while design and construction of the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF, which will use the CSSX technology) is completed, DOE has decided to process a small fraction of the waste. The Department anticipates moving forward with this plan in 2006, once the appropriate permits are issued by the State of South Carolina. To treat and dispose of the tank waste, DOE will undertake a two-phase process. The first or interim phase consists of two parts:

Beginning in 2006, SRS will treat some of its lowest activity salt waste through a process involving deliquification, dissolution, and adjustment (DDA) of the waste. Beginning in approximately 2007, SRS will process some additional salt waste having a slightly higher activity level using an Actinide Removal Process and a Modular CSSX unit.

The second and longer-term phase, high capacity salt processing, is scheduled to begin in 2011 with the startup of the SWPF and involves the separation and processing of the remaining (and the majority) of the salt waste.

In accordance with NEPA, DOE prepared a Supplement Analysis to determine if further NEPA review of interim salt processing was necessary. DOE concluded that interim salt processing would not constitute substantial changes to the actions evaluated in the Salt Processing Alternatives EIS that are relevant to environmental concerns, and determined that no further NEPA review is required.

The Supplement Analysis and Amended Record of Decision are available on the DOE NEPA web site at <http://www.eh.doe.gov/nepa> and on the SRS NEPA web site at www.srs.gov/srs-home.html under Documents and Publications.

Related documents, including the Waste Determination prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 3116 of the Defense Authorization Act of 2005, may be found at <http://apps.em.doe.gov/swd>

For copies of the Supplement Analysis and Amended Record of Decision, please contact:

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Current NEPA Actions Affecting SRS

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

This PEIS will evaluate alternatives for disposition of DOE 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)***

This PEIS 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 provide the capability to manufacture plutonium pits for the United States nuclear weapons stockpile. 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. The final supplemental PEIS has been delayed due to Congressional concerns about timing and scope of project.

- ***Safeguards and Security Upgrades for Storage of Plutonium Materials at SRS (DOE/EA-1538)***

DOE has prepared a final EA and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) which analyze the potential environmental consequences of proposed safeguards and security upgrades for storage of plutonium materials and alternatives. You may view the EA and FONSI on the Internet at: www.srs.gov/general/srs-home.html under Documents and Publications. This NEPA review has been completed and updates regarding this action will not appear in future issues.

Public May View SRS NEPA Planning Summary

The Department of Energy (DOE)-Savannah River Site (SRS) has prepared the 2006 version of the annual *SRS National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Planning Summary* in accordance with DOE Order 451.1B. This document, which is available to the public, describes the status of ongoing NEPA compliance activities, status of environmental assessments (EAs), supplement analyses (SAs), and environmental impact statements (EISs) and the planned cost and schedule of each NEPA review.

DOE-SRS is currently preparing no EAs but anticipates preparation of one or more new EAs over the next 12 months. DOE-SRS is not currently supporting the preparation of any programmatic environmental assessments (PEAs) by other DOE offices and does not anticipate supporting the preparation of any PEAs over the next 12 months. DOE-SRS is currently preparing no EISs and does not anticipate initiating any new EISs over the next 24 months. DOE-SRS is currently preparing two Supplement Analyses (SAs) and does not anticipate any new SAs over the next 24 months. DOE-SRS is currently supporting the preparation of one DOE programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) and one DOE supplemental PEIS and does not anticipate supporting the preparation of any additional PEISs over the next 24 months.

The cost information included in the report is the most current available generally through December 2005 (projected costs are estimates). To request a copy, call 1-800-881-7292 or e-mail nepa@srs.gov. You may also view the NEPA planning summary on the Internet at: www.srs.gov/general/srs-home.html under Documents and Publications.

Pre-Construction Fact Sheet Available for T Area Operable Unit

The United States Department of Energy, United States Environmental Protection Agency, and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control announce the availability of a Pre-construction Fact Sheet, which provides background information and describes the remedial options selected for T Area Operable Unit at the Savannah River Site. The T Area OU is located in the southwestern portion of the SRS, and is located .25 miles east of the Savannah River on a terrace between Upper Three Runs Creek to the north and Four Mile Branch to the south.

The remedial action selected in the Record of Decision is:

Dispose Staged Wastes Onsite, Cap Residual Contamination, Place Soil Amendments in Outfall Delta and Inner Swamp, and Implement Institutional Controls.

T Area is one of several industrial use areas at SRS. T Area was used in the development and testing of processes, facilities, and equipment for various SRS programs. Until 1978, T Area included three main buildings constructed in 1950. After 1978, the area was expanded to over 30 buildings consisting of office administrative buildings, process buildings for large-scale experimental demonstrations, laboratories for research and analytical purposes, pilot-scale facilities, bulk tank storage, industrial wastewater processing facilities, and warehouse storage for a wide range of chemicals and specialty equipment. All of the facilities in T Area have been dismantled and removed with the following exceptions: the pump test facility and ancillary structures, the telecommunications building, the air stripper, and a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system. These facilities are still in use.

The Pre-construction Fact Sheet for the Savannah River Site's (SRS) T Area Operable Unit is available at these locations: 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 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

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