



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Revision 3 Action Memorandum Issued for the Disposition of Water in the 105-P Disassembly Basin at the Savannah River Site

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) previously selected the preferred alternative for the non-time critical removal action at the Disassembly Basin within the 105-P Reactor Complex located at the Savannah River Site's (SRS's) P-Area. A 30-day public comment period was held for the Removal Site Evaluation Report/Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (RSER/EE/CA) from March 13, 2008 to April 14, 2008.

P Area, located in the southeast portion of the SRS, is approximately 14.2 miles from A-Area, which is on the northwest edge of the SRS. P Area, which includes Building 105-P, is located entirely in Barnwell County. The Disassembly Basin, a concrete basin inside the 105-P Reactor Building, is comprised of seven interconnected sections and currently has approximately 4.4 million gallons of water over contaminated sediments and reactor activated metal components.

On June 16, 2008, the DOE submitted the Action Memorandum documenting its selection of RSER/EE/CA Alternative #3, Forced Evaporation of the Basin Water, as the preferred alternative to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (ARF #015483; DOE Letter, ACP-08-183). A revised Action Memorandum was issued on September 26, 2008 (ARF #01563; DOE Letter, ACP-08-225). The revised Action Memorandum acknowledged continued use of the 105-P Disassembly Basin to receive potentially contaminated rainwater from basins and sumps within the reactor building and from ancillary facilities. Management of potentially contaminated P-Area rainwater prevents releases to the environment and is a historical use of the disassembly basin, but was not identified in prior removal documentation.

The Revision 3 Action Memorandum does not modify the original selection of forced evaporation to treat the basin water. It includes the evaporation of an additional 380,000 gallons of shield water from the 105-R Disassembly Basin and grouting of a seismic slot/expansion joint, between the 105-P Reactor Building and associated Disassembly Basin. The 105-R Disassembly Basin shield water will be transported to the 105-P Disassembly Basin for evaporation because the shield water does not have a disposal path within R-Area. The seismic slot, or expansion joint, will be grouted to preclude leakage to the minus 40 level of the 105-P Reactor should any occur from evaporator operations of the 105-P Disassembly Basin. SRS will submit a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Off-Site Rule Request to EPA for approval to use the 105-P Disassembly Basin for treatment of CERCLA waste.

Copies of the Revision 3 Action Memorandum (ARF # 016060; DOE Letter, ACP-09-173) are available in the Administrative Record. The Administrative Record is available in the information repositories listed below:

DOE Public Reading Room at the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina (USC)-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC; and Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at USC in Columbia, SC.

Hard copies of the Revision 3 Action Memorandum (ARF # 016060; DOE Letter, ACP-09-173) are available at the following locations:

Reese Library at Augusta State University in Augusta, GA; and
Asa H. Gordon Library at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA.

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