



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Record of Decision Issued for the M Area Operable Unit

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 4 (EPA), and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) have issued the Record of Decision for the M Area Operable Unit (MAOU) at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

DOE has worked with SCDHEC and EPA to ensure that the remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements. The selected remedial actions are listed below:

Building Slab 313-M: Passive soil vapor extraction (SVE) will be implemented in areas where VOCs (e.g., trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachloroethylene (PCE)) are present in the vadose zone at concentrations that may impact groundwater above maximum contaminant levels (MCLs). Institutional Controls, including grouting of manholes to prevent access, will also be implemented.

Building Slabs 320-M and 321-M: Passive SVE will be implemented in areas where VOCs (e.g., TCE and PCE) are present in the vadose zone at concentrations that may impact groundwater above MCLs and with the stockpiled soils (less than 50 mg/kg) from the early action. The stockpiled soils will be consolidated and placed so that no further handling of the materials is needed after treatment. The SVE system at the early action location may include an infiltration/vapor barrier to enhance barometric pumping and to impede groundwater migration. Institutional Controls, including grouting of manholes to prevent access, will also be implemented.

Building Slabs 322-M, 324-M, 340-M, 341-M, 341-1M and 341-8M, Salvage Yard Area (741-A, 740-A, 743-A), Test Reactor Facilities (305-A and 777-10A), Warehouses (330-M and 331-M), Miscellaneous Buildings, and Electrical Transformers: Institutional Controls will be implemented.

These alternatives will be protective of human health and the environment. They are also intended to be the final actions for the MAOU.

The MAOU is located in the northwest portion of the Savannah River Site. Special nuclear materials for the Department of Defense were produced in this area between 1952 and 1988. An important step in the production cycle was the manufacture of fuel and target assemblies in M Area for nuclear reactors. M Area consisted of three major production buildings (313-M, 320-M, and 321-M) that began operation in the early 1950s and continued operation at various production levels until the early 1990s. In addition to the production facilities, two support laboratories (320-M and 322-M) and three support facilities (322-M, 324-M, and 340-M) were also located in this area. Two test reactor facilities were located to the south (305-A and 777-10A).

Copies of the Record of Decision 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-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 Record of Decision 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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