



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

DOE Requests Temporary Authorization to Modify the Corrective Action System at the M-Area Hazardous Waste Management Facility: A-2 Air Stripper System at the Savannah River Site

The U. S. Department of Energy at the Savannah River Site has requested from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control a temporary authorization to suspend operations of the A-2 Air Stripper corrective action system that is a part of the M-Area Hazardous Waste Management Facility. The A-2 Air Stripper system includes the air stripper and six recovery wells. The A-2 Air Stripper system has successfully treated over two billion gallons of groundwater contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The SRS believes that the VOC recovery rate at the A-2 Air Stripper has significantly declined to the point where the system is no longer efficient and cost effective; and suspended operations are requested to validate whether or not continued operation of the system is required.

The proposal includes sampling prior to system shutdown as well as rebound testing during the shutdown period. The proposal allows the aquifer a chance to rebound in water elevation and concentrations while allowing for sufficient monitoring to measure significant changes in the plume. The strategy also allows enough time to evaluate the performance of the system while maintaining it to support restart, if necessary.

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