

The Savannah River Site Environmental Bulletin

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Action Memorandum and Responsiveness Summary Issued for the Non-Time Critical Removal Action for the P-Area Groundwater Operable Unit

The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) has selected the preferred alternative for the non-time critical removal action for the P-Area Groundwater Operable Unit (PAGW OU). A thirty (30)-day public comment period for the PAGW OU Removal Site Evaluation Report/Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis was held from April 10, 2018 to May 10, 2018.

P-Area is located within the central portion of the Savannah River Site (SRS) ~4.0-kilometers (2.5 miles) east-southeast of the geographical center of SRS and about 6.4 kilometers (4 miles) west of the nearest site boundary. The PAGW OU encompasses the groundwater beneath P-Area, northwest to Steel Creek, northeast toward PAR Pond and SRS Road F, and southeast to Meyers Branch. Groundwater has been impacted by P Reactor complex operations. The PAGW OU includes volatile organic compound (VOC) groundwater plumes containing primarily trichloroethylene (TCE) with minor quantities of tetrachloroethylene, and a larger tritium groundwater plume. Tritium will be addressed in a separate, future decision and is not addressed as part of this removal action.

DOE has selected Alternative 2A, Permeable Reactive Barrier in the Neck Area of the TCE groundwater plumes. The installation of a permeable reactive barrier in the well-defined highly permeable sediments in the neck area of the TCE groundwater plumes will reduce VOC mass, cut off the source area of the plumes and prevent significant VOC migration in groundwater past the treatment zone. This alternative will not preclude any additional remediation of the PAGW OU and is expected to be consistent with the expected final remedial actions at the PAGW OU.

The selection of the preferred alternative is documented in the Action Memorandum and Responsiveness Summary. DOE has worked with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that the removal action is consistent with all applicable human health and environmental requirements.

Copies of the Action Memorandum and Responsiveness Summary 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 Action Memorandum and Responsiveness Summary are available at the following:

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

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The SRS Environmental Bulletin

For additional information about the five-year remedy review process at SRS, please contact:

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