

SAVANNAH RIVER SITE JANET GRIFFIN
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The North Augusta Star

State of South Carolina
County of Aiken

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April 02, 2024

Public Notice: Action Memorandum and Responsiveness Summary Issued for the Non-Time Critical Removal Action for the D-Area Coal Storage Area (484-17D)

The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) has selected the preferred alternative for the non-time critical removal action at the D-Area Coal Storage Area (484-17D) located at the Savannah River Site (SRS) in Aiken, South Carolina. A thirty (30)-day public comment period for the D-Area Coal Storage Area (484-17D) Removal Site Evaluation Report/Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis was held from June 13, 2019 to July 13, 2019. No comments were received from the public during the public comment period.

The D-Area Coal Storage Area (484-17D) is located within the D-Area Operable Unit (DAOU) at the SRS. DAOU is located within the southwest quadrant of SRS approximately 3,000-feet east of the nearest site boundary, the Savannah River. The DAOU is 210 acres and contains surface units and source areas in D Area that potentially pose a threat to human health and the environment. The D-Area Coal Storage Area (484-17D) is approximately fifteen acres in size and supported the D-Area Powerhouse (484-D) from 1953 to 2012 as a temporary storage area for coal prior to use at D-Area Powerhouse (484-D). The D-Area Coal Storage Area (484-17D) soils have received very low-pH (acidic) leachate from the stored coal since D-Area Powerhouse operations began in the 1950s; the acidic leachate is mobilizing metals and other inorganics that were present in the coal and underlying soils, causing contamination of the shallow groundwater beneath the coal storage area.

DOE has selected Alternative 2 - Addition of Soil Neutralization Amendments, which will reduce the acidity in the upper portion of the vadose zone and subsequently reduce the amount of acidic leachate to groundwater. Addressing the acidic vadose zone soils will eventually improve groundwater conditions over time. This will be achieved by mixing neutralization amendments (e.g., lime or calcium carbonate material) into the vadose zone soils at the D-Area Coal Storage Area (484-17D). This alternative does not preclude any additional remediation of the DAOU and is expected to be consistent with the eventual final remedial action.

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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August 7, 2019