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Ashalee Clewis
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Sworn to and subscribed before on 09/13/2024

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Texas running out of water, commissioner says

Marley Malenfant
Austin American-Statesman
USA TODAY NETWORK - TEXAS

AUSTIN, Texas – Texas has a water problem.

Texas Department of Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller told WFAA on “Inside Texas Politics” the state is running out of water and lawmakers need to react soon.

“We lose about a farm a week in Texas, but it’s 700 years before we run out of land,” Miller said. “The limiting factor is water. We’re out of water, especially in the Rio Grande Valley.”

Texas is facing water shortages due to a combination of factors, including:

Drought, climate change

Texas has experienced recurring droughts over the past decade, especially in 2023, with higher temperatures and lower rainfall. The state’s semi-arid regions are particularly vulnerable to prolonged dry spells, which deplete surface water sources such as rivers, lakes and reservoirs. Hotter weather also increases evaporation from water bodies.

Population growth

Texas has one of the fastest-growing populations in the U.S., especially in cities like Austin, Dallas and Houston. Rapid ur-

banization increases demand for water, putting pressure on the state’s water supplies and infrastructure.

Agricultural, industrial water use

Texas is a major agricultural state, with crops like cotton and rice and livestock requiring significant amounts of water for irrigation. Additionally, the state’s oil and gas industry (including fracking) consumes large quantities of water, contributing to overall scarcity.

Over-reliance on groundwater

Many regions in Texas rely on groundwater for drinking water, irrigation and industrial uses. Aquifers are being over-drawn faster than they can be replenished, leading to long-term depletion.

Aging infrastructure

Texas’ water infrastructure, such as dams, pipelines and reservoirs, is aging and often not equipped to handle modern water management challenges. Leakage and inefficiencies exacerbate the problem.

These factors are converging to create a situation where Texas’ water resources are increasingly strained, raising concerns for future water availability.

According to the Texas Tribune, Texas’ largest cities lost approximately 88 billion



According to the Texas Tribune, Texas’ largest cities lost approximately 88 billion gallons of water last year. GETTY IMAGES

gallons of water last year due to aging infrastructure and extreme heat, resulting in millions of dollars in costs and further stressing the state’s already limited water supply, according to self-reported water loss audits.

Miller suggested reusing treated water

to help with how much water Texans are losing.

“We gotta recycle our water,” Miller said on Inside Texas Politics. “Our water treatment water goes into the creek, right out in the Gulf. We need to capture that and let my farmers irrigate with it.”

Health

Continued from Page 1A

“Different elements of climate change that are increasing in frequency have proven to affect the prevalence of various mental health disorders, like major depression, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. These drivers of changes in the environment, changes in heat, air pollution, do affect suicide rates and violence rates as well.”

Social and economic inequities, as well as individual characteristics, place some individuals and communities at greater risk for the effects of climate change on mental health, experts say.

Economic burden may increase the likelihood of stress-related mental health problems. Individuals that suffer from mental illness may encounter barriers to employment that impair economic stability. Low-income households are also less likely to have insurance or other financial resources to help recover from dislocation or other impacts prolonging stress after an extreme weather event.

The constant anxiety and stress of living in poverty and/or in neighborhoods with high levels of crime may impede the ability to prepare for and respond to adverse events, according to experts with Climate Health Connect.

Schutzenhofer said turning distress into something fruitful by way of action is one of the most healing things someone can do if they’re experiencing climate distress.

“It’s really important to note that for the vast majority of people, climate distress of various forms is not pathological,” she said. “Meaning it doesn’t always represent a mental disorder or impair someone’s ability to function in the world. Some discomfort about climate change can actually be helpful to us by motivating action, motivating us to act as a community, to protect our environment and to advocate for climate solutions.”

Schutzenhofer recommends support group settings for individuals experiencing climate distress.

“There’s an emerging movement for different communities to host what they call ‘Climate Cafes,’” she said. “They’re not necessarily therapy groups. They’re sort of support groups for people to come together and express their climate distress in a place that is safe. It’s a space where people can then come together to translate their distress into action together.”

Elena Petrova, licensed psychologist and director of Student Counseling and Psychological Services at Augusta University, said when looking for signs of distress there are a few things to keep in mind.

“There isn’t one sign in itself that indicates that a person is clearly struggling and having suicidal thoughts,” said Petrova. “I think it’s important for us as members of our learning, living, working communities to be aware of these experiences. But at the same time we need to be observant.”

Petrova said that in terms of situational signs, look for any type of loss, for instance:

- Loss of a loved one.
- Ending of a marriage or romantic relationship.
- Loss of a job.
- Receiving a chronic or incurable medical condition.

“In terms of situational signs, look for any type of loss, for instance:



Emily Schutzenhofer, Board Certified Psychiatrist, Acting Assistant Professor at the University of Washington and Steering Committee Member of the Climate Psychiatry Alliance. PHOTO PROVIDED COURTESY OF EMILY SCHUTZENHOFER

types of major losses can certainly trigger emotional distress and lead to the development of suicidal thoughts, eventually to a suicidal crisis,” she said.

Petrova said if a loved one is exhibiting a combination of behaviors could be a cry for help.

“Sometimes there are certain behaviors that you may observe in a family member that seem unusual,” she said. “For example, they’ve started avoiding social events. Another example is maybe they’ve started using substances. They start to drink more, use or abuse alcohol or maybe any other substance. They’ve become a little bit more irritable. Normally they’re an even keel kind of person. This is something we should pay attention to. Perhaps engage in a conversation with the person.”

Petrova offers some tips on how to engage a loved one that you suspect may be in distress.

“Hey, I really care about you,” she said of how to approach someone with suspected mental distress. “I’ve noticed that you don’t seem like yourself. How have you been? How are you doing? I think those small acts alone can sometimes help a person experience a little bit of hope, experience that somebody cares, which can be very preventative in the development of suicidal thoughts.”

Petrova said suicide can be prevented.

“It’s incredibly preventable,” she said. “We know that the more we place awareness, the more we equip individuals in our communities to know how to recognize the signs, how to speak kindly to someone who may be struggling, the better off we are in the world.”

Petrova said having access to resources is key.

“How amazing it is that we no longer have to rely on 911,” she said. “We have a separate national line that’s fully dedicated to individuals who may be experiencing a suicidal crisis or some type of mental health crisis. Anyone, anywhere in the United States can dial 988 and they can speak with someone who can hear them out and try to understand what they need at that moment.”

This reporting content is supported by a partnership with several funders and Journalism Funding Partners.

Erica Van Buren is the climate change reporter for The Augusta Chronicle, part of the USA TODAY Network. Connect with her at EVanBuren@gannett.com or on X: @EricaVanBuren32.

The Savannah River Site Environmental Bulletin

September 12, 2024

Volume 36, Number 3

U.S. Department of Energy Conducts Phased Submittals of the Seventh Five-Year Remedy Review at Savannah River Site

Second Phase: Savannah River Site Operable Units with Groundwater Remedies

The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) has begun conducting the Seventh Five-Year Remedy Review for remedial actions implemented at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) requires that remedial actions that result in residual hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants remaining at an operable unit (OU) at levels unsuitable for unrestricted exposure be subject to a five-year remedy review. The purpose of this review is to determine whether the remedies remain protective of human health and the environment and to evaluate the implementation and performance of the selected remedies. The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) will review and approve whether the five-year remedy review adequately addresses the protectiveness of each remedy. The methods, findings, and conclusions of the five-year remedy review will be documented in a report that will be made available to the public.

SRS occupies approximately 310 square miles of land adjacent to the Savannah River, principally in Aiken and Barnwell counties of South Carolina. SRS is located approximately 25 miles southeast of Augusta, Georgia, and 20 miles south of Aiken, South Carolina. During the early 1950s, SRS began to produce materials used in nuclear weapons. Chemical and radioactive wastes are by-products of nuclear material production processes. These wastes have been treated, stored, and in some cases disposed of at SRS. Hazardous substances, as defined by CERCLA, are currently present in the environment at SRS, with past disposal practices resulting in soil and groundwater contamination.

Each SRS OU is unique in size, location, environmental factors, and contaminant type. Contaminants may include chemicals (e.g., trichloroethylene, tetrachloroethylene, etc.), metals, pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls, and radionuclides (e.g., tritium, cesium-137, etc.). Contaminants may be found in surface soils, subsurface soils, sediment, surface water, and/or groundwater. Operable unit-specific remedial actions are designed to address the contaminants for the protection of human health and the environment. In general, contaminated media are either covered, stabilized in place, treated, removed, or managed with land use controls (LUCs). Common remedies implemented at SRS include LUCs, cover systems (i.e., soil covers, geosynthetic covers), excavation and disposal actions, removal systems (i.e., soil vapor extraction, electrical resistance heating, dynamic underground stripping), treatment systems (i.e., enhanced bioremediation, air stripping, chemical oxidation), stabilization (i.e., in situ grouting), groundwater mixing zones, and monitored natural attenuation.

DOE, EPA, and SCDES previously agreed to conduct phased remedy reviews for OU groupings based on remedy similarity rather than combining all OU reviews in a single report. The OUs are grouped in five phases by the following remedy types: (1) native soil covers and/or LUCs, (2) groundwater, (3) engineered cover systems, (4) geosynthetic or stabilization/ solidification cover systems, and (5) operating equipment. These groupings were chosen to provide the opportunity to effectively identify and resolve issues for similar remedies simultaneously and efficiently implement optimization initiatives for similar projects.

The SRS Environmental Bulletin

The five-year remedy review will address three major questions:

- Are the remedies functioning as intended by the decision document?
- Are the exposure assumptions, toxicity data, cleanup levels, and remedial action objectives used at the time of remedy selection still valid?
- Has any other information emerged that could call into question the protectiveness of the remedy?

The second phased submittal of the Seventh Five-Year Remedy Review Report will focus on SRS OUs with groundwater remedies. The implemented remedies for these OUs include groundwater monitoring activities associated with Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA) or a Mixing Zone permit as well as interim remedial actions. Groundwater remedies that include operating equipment are discussed in the remedy review report for operating equipment.

In general, SRS uses a graded approach for groundwater remediation. The selection of groundwater remediation technologies for a specific contamination area is based on the size, contaminant type, contaminant concentration, and configuration of the plume. These attributes are the result of the nature and mass of the source of contamination and the subsurface characteristics in the area of the plume. Many large plumes consist of several zones that are most efficiently addressed with separate complementary corrective action/remedial technologies. The highest concentrations of contaminants are found in the source zone. The most robust, high-mass-removal technologies, for example electrical resistance heating, are best suited for remediation of the source zone. In the primary plume zone, active remedies such as pump-and-treat, or low energy remedies such as in-situ oxidation may be appropriate. In the dilute fringe zone, contaminants are generally low in concentration and can often be treated with passive techniques.

MNA is a passive groundwater remedial action where the fringe and dilute areas of a plume degrade by natural biogeochemical or physical processes such as biodegradation, radioactive decay, dilution, and simple dispersion. MNA remedies must be accompanied by source control, such as those discussed above, and a technical justification that conditions are favorable for natural attenuation. The groundwater plume should not be expanding significantly, and surface water standards should not be exceeded at the groundwater discharge point.

The Seventh Five-Year Remedy Review Report for SRS OUs with Groundwater Remedies will include a review of the following OUs:

- C-Area Groundwater;
- Chemicals, Metals, and Pesticides Pits (080-170G, 080-171G, 080-180G, 080-181G, 080-182G, 080-183G, and 080-190-G);
- D-Area Oil Seepage Basin (631-G);
- L-Area Southern Groundwater;
- R-Area OU; and
- R-Area Reactor Seepage Basins (904-57G, 904-58G, 904-59G, 904-60G, 904-103G, 904-104G) and 108-4R Overflow Basin.

DOE will notify the public when the Seventh Five-Year Remedy Review Report for Savannah River Site Operable Units with Groundwater Remedies is complete and is available to the public. The report is currently planned to be available to the public in December 2025.

For additional information, contact: Barbara Smoak, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, Savannah River Site, 730-1B, Aiken, SC 29808 / (803) 952-8060 / barbara.smoak@srs.gov

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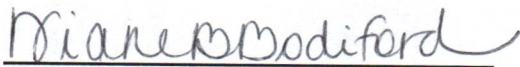
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Personally appeared before me, Jonathan Vickery, who being duly sworn on oath says he is the Managing Editor of The People-Sentinel, a weekly newspaper published and circulated in the State of South Carolina; that the notice, of which a true copy is hereby attached, was published in said issue(s) of September 11, 2024.



Jonathan Vickery

Sworn to before me this 11th day
of September 11 2024



Diane B Bodiford

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Notice to Creditors of Estates
All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371ES with the Probate Court of Barnwell County, the address of which is 141 Main Street #108, Barnwell, S.C. 29812, within eight (8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim. Estate: William Henry Delk Jr. Date of Death: August 14, 2024 Case Number: 2024 ES 06 00156 Personal Representative: William Matthew Delk Address: 126 Reedy Branch Drive, Clarks Hill, S.C. 29821
2024-163 3tp 9-11-24

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2024-164 3tp 9-11-24

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2024-168 3tp 9-25-24

Notice to Creditors of Estates
All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371ES with the Probate Court of Allendale County, the address of which is 292 Barnwell Highway, Allendale, S.C. 29810, within eight (8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and

NOTICES

LEGALS

address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim. Estate: Willie Daniel Barnes Date of Death: July 23, 2024 Case Number: 2024 ES 03 00071 Personal Representative: Mary Darlene Malphrus Address: 223 Spanish Moss, Ridgeland, S.C. 29936
2024-169 3tp 9-25-24

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U.S. Department of Energy Conducts Phased Submittals of the Seventh Five-Year Remedy Review at Savannah River Site Second Phase: Savannah River Site Operable Units with Groundwater Remedies

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- D-Area Oil Seepage Basin (631-G);
- L-Area Southern Groundwater;
- R-Area OU; and
- R-Area Reactor Seepage Basins (904-57G, 904-58G, 904-59G, 904-60G, 904-103G, 904-104G) and 108-4R Overflow Basin.

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For additional information, contact: Barbara Smoak, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions Aiken, S.C. 29808, (803) 952-8060 or email: barbara.smoak@srs.gov

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County Council for Allendale County will conduct a public hearing relating to an Ordinance "TO AUTHORIZE A TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE IN THE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED THREE MILLION DOLLARS (\$3,000,000)."

The public hearing will be held in the County Council Chambers at the Allendale County Courthouse, 292 Barnwell Highway, Allendale, South Carolina, at 6:00 p.m. on September 19, 2024. At the time and place fixed for this public hearing, all taxpayers, residents or other interested persons who appear will be given an opportunity to express their views for or against the matters contemplated by the Ordinance. Any persons wishing to submit written comments may submit them to P.O. Box 190, Allendale, South Carolina 29810, no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 18, 2024.

In compliance with ADA Section 504, Allendale County is prepared to make accommodations for individuals with disabilities needing special assistance. Special assistance requests should be made to the County Council Office at (803) 584-3438 at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the scheduled public hearing.

By order of the County Council of Allendale County,

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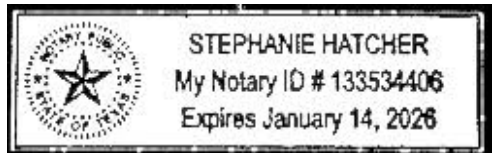
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Attention: Savannah River

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS

BLDG 730-1B 2040

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The Savannah River Site
 Environmental Bulletin
 September 12, 2024
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U.S. Department of Energy Conducts Phased Submittals of the Seventh Five-Year Remedy Review at Savannah River Site

Second Phase: Savannah River Site Operable Units with Groundwater Remedies

The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) has begun conducting the Seventh Five-Year Remedy Review for remedial actions implemented at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) requires that remedial actions that result in residual hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants remaining at an operable unit (OU) at levels unsuitable for unrestricted exposure be subject to a five-year remedy review. The purpose of this review is to determine whether the remedies remain protective of human health and the environment and to evaluate the implementation and performance of the selected remedies. The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) will review and approve whether the five-year remedy review adequately addresses the protectiveness of each remedy. The methods, findings, and conclusions of the five-year remedy review will be documented in a report that will be made available to the public.

SRS occupies approximately 310 square miles of land adjacent to the Savannah River, principally in Aiken and Barnwell counties of South Carolina. SRS is located approximately 25 miles southeast of Augusta, Georgia, and 20 miles south of Aiken, South Carolina. During the early 1950s, SRS began to produce materials used in nuclear weapons. Chemical and radioactive wastes are by-products of nuclear material production processes. These wastes have been treated, stored, and in some cases disposed of at SRS. Hazardous substances, as defined by CERCLA, are currently present in the environment at SRS, with past disposal practices resulting in soil and groundwater contamination.

Each SRS OU is unique in size, location, environmental factors, and contaminant type. Contaminants may include chemicals (e.g., trichloroethylene, tetrachloroethylene, etc.), metals, pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls, and radionuclides (e.g., tritium, cesium-137, etc.). Contaminants may be found in surface soils, subsurface soils, sediment, surface water, and/or groundwater. Operable unit-specific remedial actions are designed to address the contaminants for the protection of human health and the environment. In general, contaminated media are either covered, stabilized in place, treated, removed, or managed with land use controls (LUCs). Common remedies implemented at SRS include LUCs, cover systems (i.e., soil covers, geosynthetic covers), excavation and disposal actions, removal systems (i.e., soil vapor extraction, electrical resistance heating, dynamic underground stripping), treatment systems (i.e., enhanced bioremediation, air stripping, chemical oxidation), stabilization (i.e., in situ grouting), groundwater mixing zones, and monitored natural attenuation.

DOE, EPA, and SCDES previously agreed to conduct phased remedy reviews for OU groupings based on remedy similarity rather than combining all OU reviews in a single report. The OUs are grouped in five plumes by the following remedy types: (1) native soil covers and/or LUCs, (2) groundwater, (3) engineered cover systems, (4) geosynthetic or stabilization/ solidification cover systems, and (5) operating equipment. These groupings were chosen to provide the opportunity to effectively identify and resolve issues for similar remedies simultaneously and efficiently implement optimization initiatives for similar projects.

The five-year remedy review will address three major questions:

- Are the remedies functioning as intended by the decision document?
- Are the exposure assumptions, toxicity data, cleanup levels, and remedial action objectives used at the time of remedy selection still valid?
- Has any other information emerged that could call into question the protectiveness of the remedy?

The second phased submittal of the Seventh Five-Year Remedy Review Report will focus on SRS OUs with groundwater remedies. The implemented remedies for these OUs include groundwater monitoring activities associated with Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA) or a Mixing Zone permit as well as interim remedial actions. Groundwater remedies that include operating equipment are discussed in the remedy review report for operating equipment.

In general, SRS uses a graded approach for groundwater remediation. The selection of groundwater remediation technologies for a specific contamination area is based on the size, contaminant type, contaminant concentration, and configuration of the plume. These attributes are the result of the nature and mass of the source of contamination and the subsurface characteristics in the area of the plume. Many large plumes consist of several zones that are most efficiently addressed with separate complementary corrective action/remedial technologies. The highest concentrations of contaminants are found in the source zone. The most robust, high-mass-removal technologies, for example electrical resistance heating, are best suited for remediation of the source zone, and in the primary plume zone, active remedies such as pump-and-treat, or low energy remedies such as in-situ oxidation may be appropriate. In the dilute fringe zone, contaminants are generally low in concentration and can often be treated with passive techniques.

MNA is a passive groundwater remedial action where the fringe and dilute areas of a plume degrade by natural biogeochemical or physical processes such as biodegradation, radioactive decay, dilution, and simple dispersion. MNA remedies must be accompanied by source control, such as those discussed above, and a technical justification that conditions are favorable for natural attenuation. The groundwater plume should not be expanding significantly, and surface water standards should not be exceeded at the groundwater discharge point.

The Seventh Five-Year Remedy Review Report for SRS OUs with Groundwater Remedies will include a review of the following OUs:

- C-Area Groundwater;
- Chemicals, Metals, and Pesticides Pits (080-170G, 080-171G, 080-180G, 080-181G, 080-182G, 080-183G, and 080-190-G);
- D-Area Oil Seepage Basin (631-G);
- L-Area Southern Groundwater;
- R-Area OU; and
- R-Area Reactor Seepage Basins (904-57G, 904-58G, 904-59G, 904-60G, 904-103G, 904-104G) and 108-4R Overflow Basin.

DOE will notify the public when the Seventh Five-Year Remedy Review Report for Savannah River Site Operable Units with Groundwater Remedies is complete and is available to the public. The report is currently planned to be available to the public in December 2025. IPL0193434 Sep 12 2024