Department of Energy
Savannah River Operations Office
P.O. Box A
Aiken, South Carolina 29802

APR 2 2 2026

Ms. Susan B. Fulmer, P. G., Manager
Federal Remediation Section
Division of Site Assessment, Remediation and Revitalization
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
South Carolina Department of Environmental Services
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Mr. Jon Richards
Savannah River Site Remedial Project Manager
Superfund and Emergency Management Division
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Ms. Fulmer and Mr. Richards:

SUBJECT: Savannah River Site's Responses to the Regulatory Comments on the 5-Year Monitoring Report (Data Summary Letter) for the K-Area Groundwater Operable Unit, 2021 through 2025, SEMS Number: 99 (RDDD-25-166, dated September 29, 2025)

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is submitting the subject comment responses for your review. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) comments and South Carolina Department of Environmental Services'(SCDES) approval were received on December 12, 2025, and January 26, 2026, respectively. This report will not be revised; however, all comment responses will be included in the next report, as applicable. Please review the enclosure and provide your response within thirty (30) days of receipt. The effort and time that the EPA and the SCDES have provided on this operable unit are appreciated.

Questions from you or your staff may be directed to me at (803) 952-6211, or the DOE Program Manager, April Coffman, at (803) 508-0490.

Sincerely,

MATTHEW BAKER

Digitally signed by MATTHEW BAKER
Date: 2026.04.22 08:49:01 -04'00'

Matthew R. Baker
Acting FFA Remedial Project Manager
DOE-Savannah River Operations Office
Remediation, Deactivation, and Decommissioning Division

RDDD-26-139

Ms. Susan Fulmer
Mr. Jon Richards

APR 2 2 2026

Enclosure:
SRS Responses to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Comments on the 5-Year Monitoring Report (Data Summary Letter) for the K-Area Groundwater Operable Unit, 2021 through 2025, SEMS Number: 99

c w/o encl:
M. Reece, SCDES-Columbia
H. J. Porter, SCDES-Columbia
J. Blalock, SCDES-Columbia
S. French, SCDES-Columbia
R. G. Stewart, SCDES-Columbia
M. Mehta, SCDES-Columbia
G. O'Quinn, SCDES-Midlands Aiken Environmental Affairs Office
T. G. Corley, SCDES-Midlands Aiken Environmental Affairs Office
C. L. Robertson, SCDES-Midlands Aiken Environmental Affairs Office
E. G. Downing, SCDES-Midlands Aiken Environmental Affairs Office
H. L. Herlong, SCDES-Midlands Aiken Environmental Affairs Office

c w/encl:
H. H. Cathcart, SCDES-Columbia
M. McRae, TechLaw, Inc.

SRS Responses to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Comments on the 5-Year Monitoring Report (Data Summary Letter) for the K-Area Groundwater Operable Unit, 2021 through 2025, SEMS Number: 99, (RDDD-25-166, Dated September 29, 2025), Savannah River Site, Aiken, South Carolina

Comments Received: December 12, 2025

EPA GENERAL COMMENT

1. The Report should discuss the hydrogeology of the K-Area Groundwater (KAGW) Operable Unit (OU) including but not limited to the relative depth to groundwater, water table elevations, groundwater gradient and flow direction. Also, the Report should present a potentiometric surface map for the K-Area Groundwater Operable Unit (KAGW OU) wells using the most recent first quarter 2025 (1Q25) groundwater elevations listed in Attachment 1 (KAGW 5-Year Data Table 2021 through 2025) that show the relative gradient and flow direction. *Please revise the Report to discuss the hydrogeology of the KAGW OU and include a potentiometric surface map using the 1Q25 groundwater elevations listed in Attachment 1.*

Response: Clarification

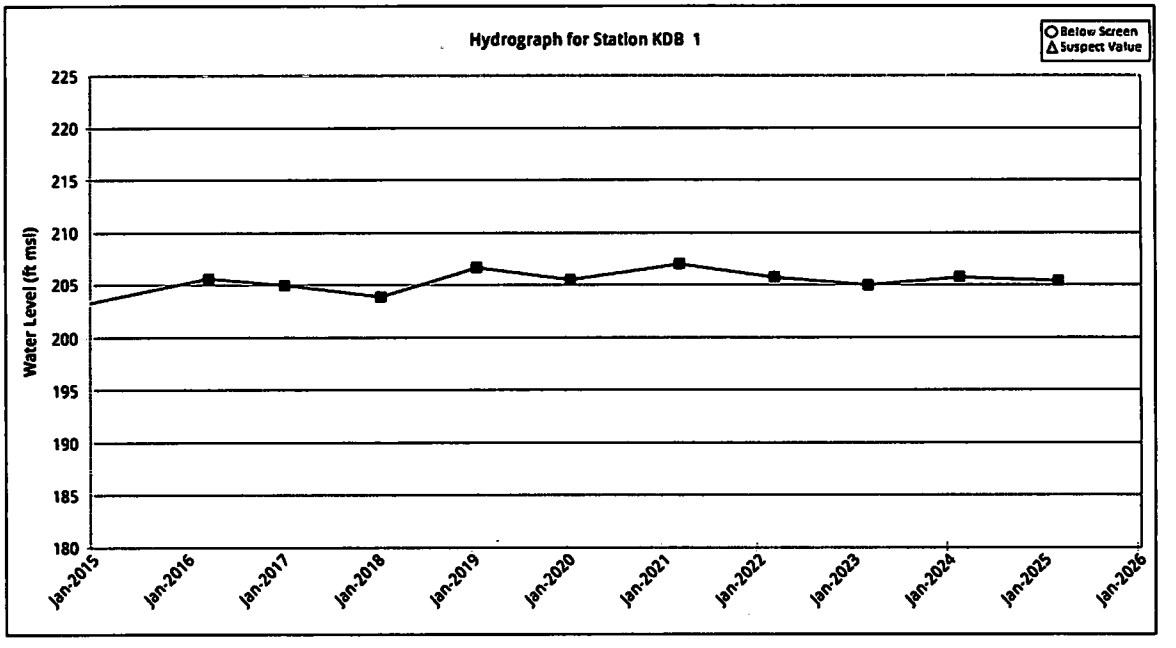
The KAGW OU is around an elevation of 275 feet above mean sea level. Between 2021 and 2025, the water table (i.e., within the Upper Three Runs Aquifer [UTRA]) ranged from approximately 200 to 207 feet above mean sea level (68 - 75 ft below ground surface) across the KAGW OU.

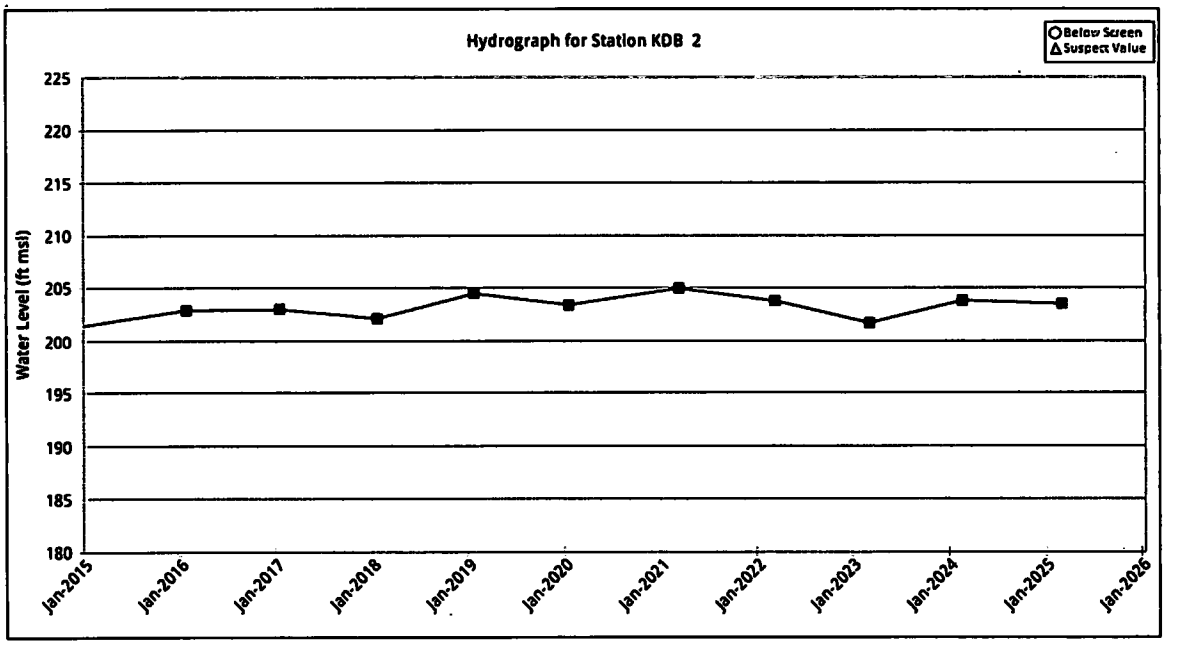
Only six monitoring wells are visited as part of the KAGW OU pre-work plan characterization monitoring, with most of them located near the 105-K Reactor Building facility. This does not provide adequate data for the generation of potentiometric surface maps and determination of groundwater gradient. However, based on previous local and regional interpretations, groundwater flows to the west/southwest towards Indian Grave Branch (see Figure 1 in the report).

Water table elevation information in the form of hydrographs for the six monitoring well locations is included in the following figures. For clarity, the information provided above and below will be included in the next 5-year letter report. No changes are proposed for the 2025 5-Year Monitoring Report.

SRS Responses to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Comments on the 5-Year Monitoring Report (Data Summary Letter) for the K-Area Groundwater Operable Unit, 2021 through 2025, SEMS Number: 99, (RDDD-25-166, Dated September 29, 2025), Savannah River Site, Aiken, South Carolina

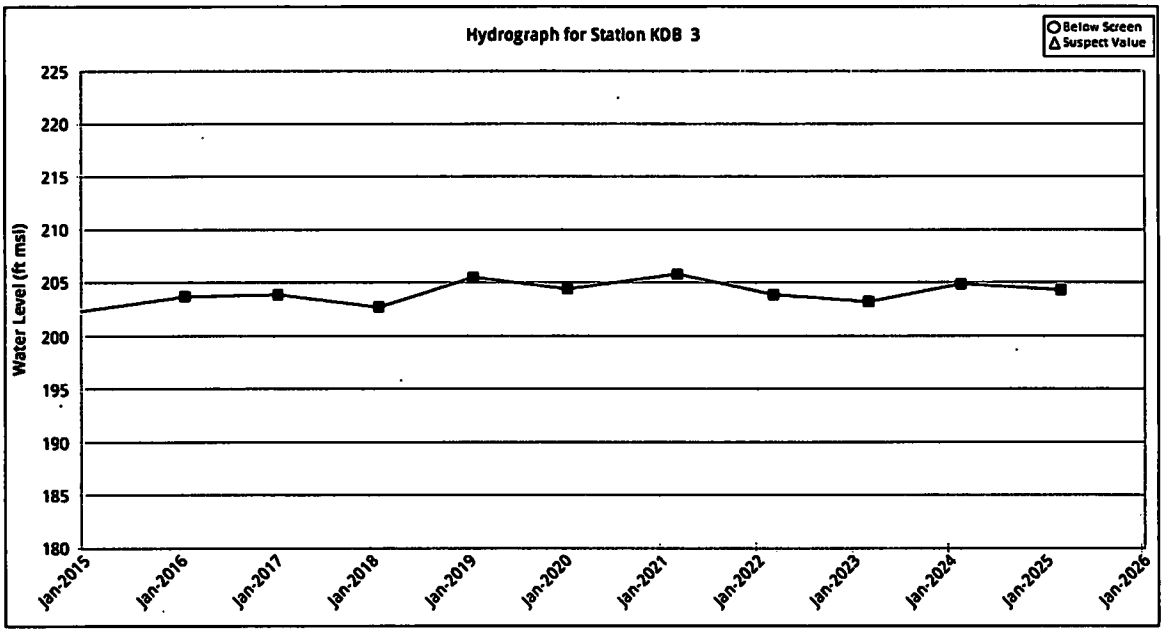
Comments Received: December 12, 2025

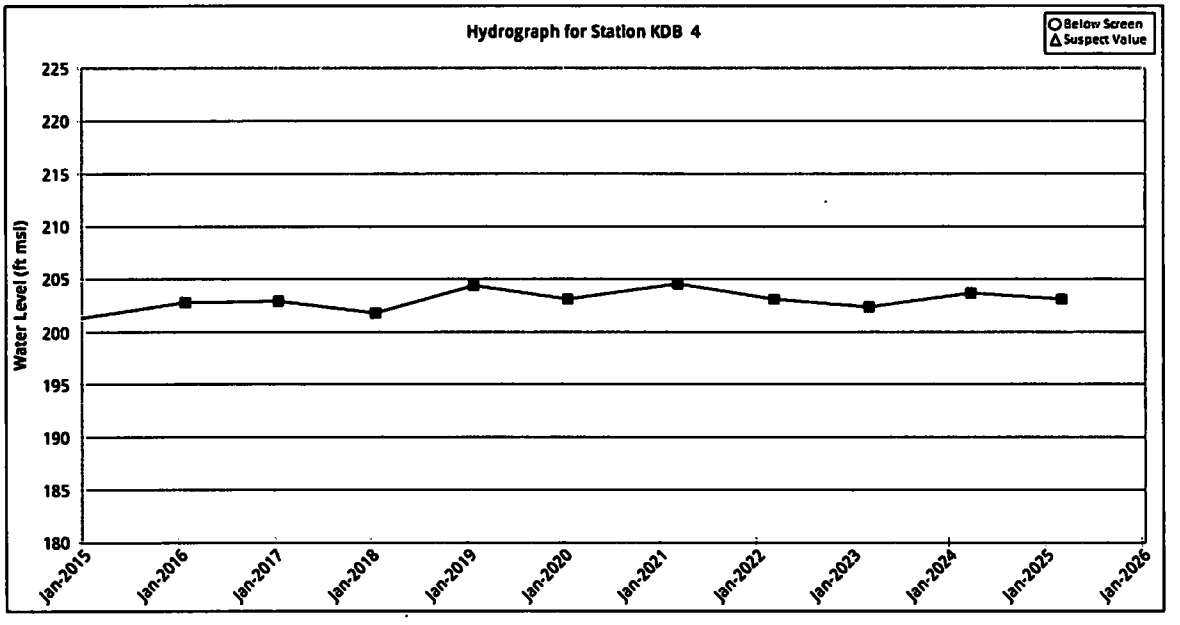




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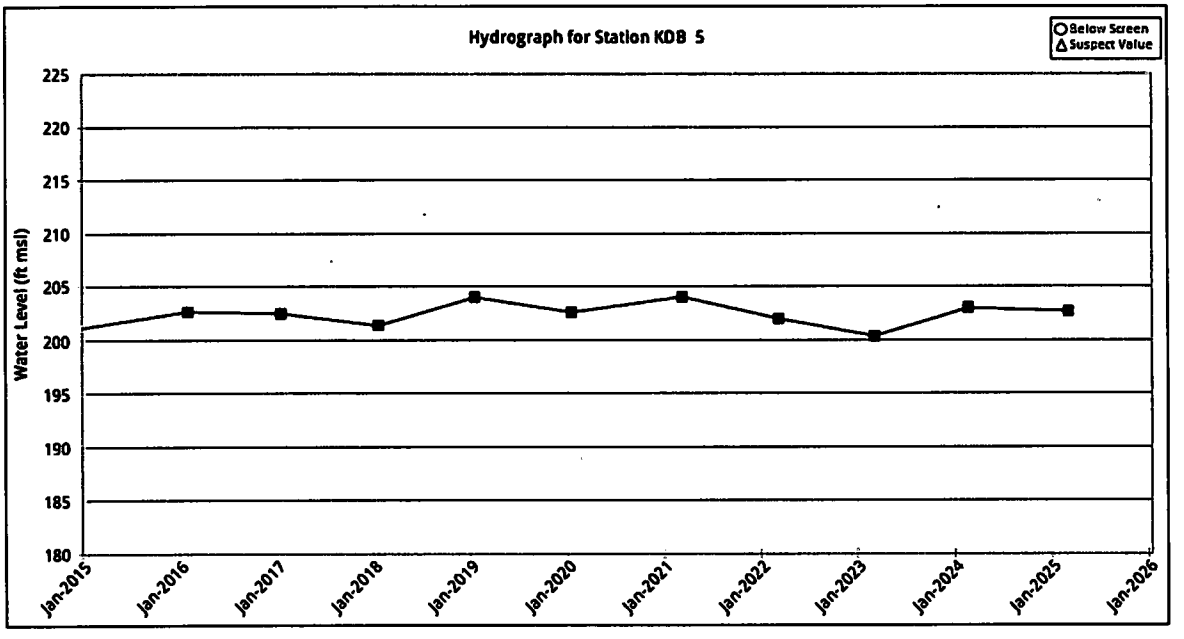
Comments Received: December 12, 2025

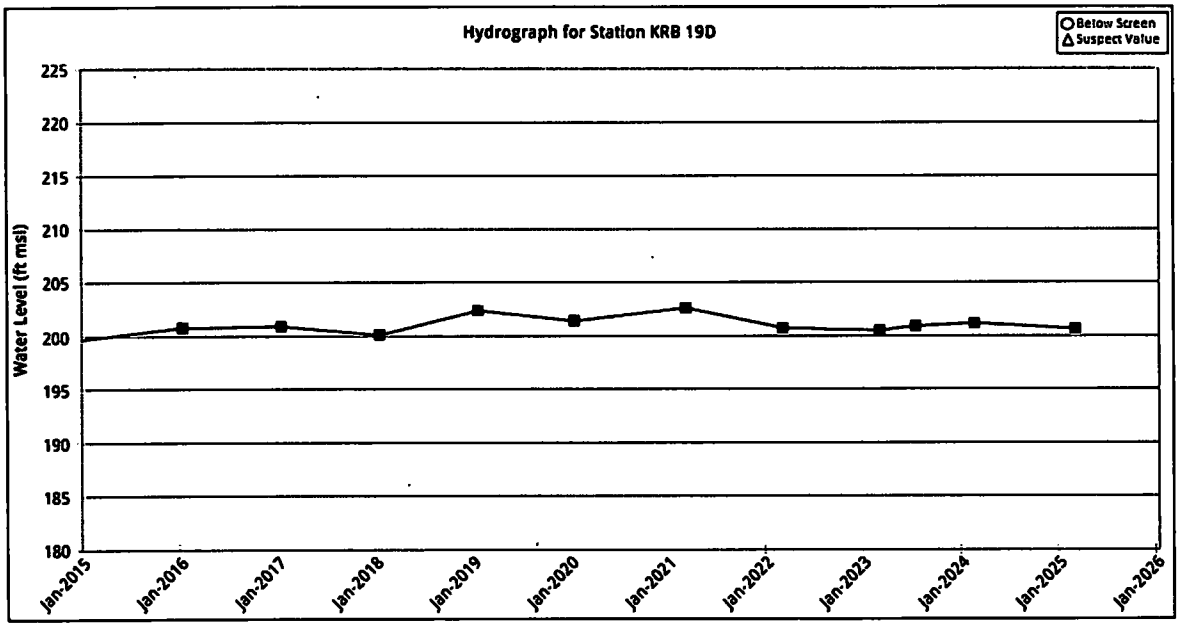




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Comments Received: December 12, 2025





Responsible Party: Evan Eastabrooks, (803) 952-8154, evan.eastabrooks@srs.gov

SRS Responses to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Comments on the 5-Year Monitoring Report (Data Summary Letter) for the K-Area Groundwater Operable Unit, 2021 through 2025, SEMS Number: 99, (RDDD-25-166, Dated September 29, 2025), Savannah River Site, Aiken, South Carolina

Comments Received: December 12, 2025

EPA SPECIFIC COMMENT

1. **Tritium Flux Calculations, Page 5:** The first sentence in this section should clarify upfront that the stream flow rate and tritium concentration from surface water station KSW-07 were used for the 2025 data point as noted in Table 2 (Tritium Stream Flux Calculations (Ci/year)). The first sentence states, "Stream flow measurements are also collected annually during sampling at surface water stations KSW-07, KSW-17, and KSW-18;" however, as noted in Table 2 and later in the text on page 6, station KSW-06, which is typically used for stream flow measurements, did not have a stream flow measurement during 2025 due to a fallen tree laying in the stream and tritium concentration and stream flow rate at KSW-07 were used for the 2025 data point. *Please revise the first sentence to clarify upfront that the stream flow rate and tritium concentration from surface water station KSW-07 were used for the 2025 data point due to a fallen tree laying in the stream and preventing flow at KSW-06.*

Response: Agree

The referenced text should be revised for clarity as follows: "Stream flow measurements are also required to be collected annually during sampling at surface water stations ~~KSW-07~~KSW-06, KSW-17, and KSW-18. However, station KSW-06 did not have a stream flow measurement during 2025 due to a fallen tree laying in the stream. Because of this, the stream flow rate and tritium concentration from surface water station KSW-07 was used for the 2025 data point. KSW-07 is located north of the majority of the K-Area Reactor Complex tritium plume, so it can be seen as similar to KSW-06."

No changes are proposed for the 2025 5-Year Monitoring Report.

Responsible Party: Evan Eastabrooks, (803) 952-8154, evan.eastabrooks@srs.gov