

The Savannah River Site Environmental Bulletin

March 10, 2020

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Early Action Statement of Basis / Proposed Plan for the D-Area Operable Unit *Available for Public Comment*

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) will release an Early Action Statement of Basis / Proposed Plan (EASB/PP) for the D-Area Operable Unit (DAOU) on March 10, 2020 describing the preferred remedial approach for portions of this unit at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) will also release a draft Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit modification for the proposed remedial action for this unit. These documents will be available for public review and copying at the locations listed below. The forty-five (45) day public comment period is scheduled for March 10, 2020 to April 23, 2020.

The Early Action SB/PP was completed to meet the terms of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), a law governing the investigation and cleanup of waste units. DOE has worked with the United States Environmental Protection Agency-Region 4 (EPA) and the SCDHEC to ensure the remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements. DOE, EPA, and SCDHEC have reviewed the risks associated with the DAOU and have evaluated cleanup alternatives presented in this plan.

D Area is located within the southwest quadrant of the SRS. The DAOU was built on approximately 210 acres, with the purpose to supply heavy water for the defense program. To support the operations, the 484-D Powerhouse was constructed to provide power to the Site. The 484-D Powerhouse was shut down in 2012. This EASB/PP addresses four subunits that were associated with the operation of the 484-D Powerhouse: 488-1D Ash Basin, 488-2D Ash Basin, 488-4D Ash Landfill, and the 489-D Coal Pile Runoff Basin (Southern 75%). Removal actions for each of these subunits have been completed. A final remedial action is needed at these subunits due to the remaining coal-related contaminants, which may pose a threat to human health and the environment. Groundwater is not considered part of the DAOU and will be addressed in the D-Area Groundwater Operable Unit.

For the 488-1D Ash Basin, 488-2D Ash Basin and the 488-4D Ash Landfill subunits, the proposed remedy is Land Use Controls. Land Use Controls will be implemented in the short-term through the SRS Site Use Program, which includes access controls for on-site workers, and site access control to prohibit trespassing (e.g., fencing and entry control systems) from off-site personnel. In the long-term, if the property is ever transferred to nonfederal ownership, the deed shall include restrictions precluding residential use of the property. For the 489-D Coal Pile Runoff Basin (Southern 75%) and the Inlet Basins portion of the 488-1D Ash Basin subunit, the proposed remedy is No Action, since it poses no threat to human health or the environment.

Comments on the Early Action SB/PP and the draft RCRA permit are requested by April 23, 2020. Upon completion of the public comment period, a Responsiveness Summary that addresses public comments will be prepared. The Responsiveness Summary will be made available with the Record of Decision and the final RCRA permit modification and will be sent to each person who submits comments.

To aid in the review of the Early Action SB/PP, an Early Action SB/PP Fact Sheet for the DAOU was prepared.

For additional information, contact: Angie Benfield, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, Savannah River Site, 730-1B, Aiken, SC 29808

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Copies of the Early Action SB/PP and the Fact Sheet 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 (USC)-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC; and
- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at USC in Columbia, SC.

Hard copies of the Early Action SB/PP and Fact Sheet are available at the following locations:

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

The Early Action SB/PP and Fact Sheet are available electronically at the following address: <http://www.srs.gov/general/programs/soil/pub/pubinv.html>

Copies of the draft RCRA permit modification are available for review at SCDHEC during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, at the following locations:

SCDHEC

Bureau of Land and Waste Management
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: (803) 898-2000

SCDHEC

Aiken Environmental Affairs Office
206 Beaufort St., N.E.
Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (803) 642-1637

If there is interest in discussing the recommended remedial approach, a public hearing may be requested. Comments on the Early Action SB/PP should be sent to Angie Benfield. Comments on the draft RCRA permit modification or requests for a public hearing should be sent to Ms. Stacey French. For additional information or to request a public meeting contact:

Angie Benfield

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SCDHEC

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