SRNS-RP-2026-01023

The Savannah River Site
Environmental Bulletin
September 16, 2026 Volume 38, Number 5

Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan for D-Area Ash Basin Wetlands (NBN) in Support of Savannah River and Floodplain Swamp Integrator Operable Unit Available for Public Comment

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) will release a Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan (SB/PP) for the D-Area Ash Basin Wetlands (no building number [NBN]) for the Savannah River and Floodplain Swamp Integrator Operable Units (IOU) on September 16, 2026, describing the preferred remedial approach for this Operable Unit (OU) at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) will also release a draft Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit modification for the proposed remedial action for this OU. 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 September 16, 2026, to October 31, 2026.

The SB/PP was completed to meet the terms of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, 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 SCDES to ensure the remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements. DOE, EPA, and SCDES have reviewed the risks associated with this unit and have evaluated the cleanup alternatives presented in this plan.

The D-Area Ash Basin Wetlands (NBN) is located downgradient of D Area. It is a forested mixed compositional bottomland wetland that received overflow ash from the D-Area Ash Basins via an upgradient drainage ditch. The D-Area Ash Basin Wetlands ash depositional area has an estimated area of 90 acres with an estimated volume of 739,000 cubic yards of ash. Remedial action is needed at this unit because arsenic and coal-related radionuclides (potassium-40, thorium-232, and uranium-238) are present in surface ash/soils that may pose a threat to human health and the environment. Groundwater will be addressed as part of the D-Area Groundwater OU characterization and cleanup decisions.

The proposed remedy for the OU is Land Use Controls (LUCs) to prevent human exposure to arsenic and coal-related radionuclides present in surface ash/soils that pose an unacceptable risk to the onsite worker. LUCs include posting and maintenance of warning signs and the establishment of administrative and worker access controls to effectively reduce exposure of contaminated media to human receptors. General public access to the site is limited to site workers. This remedy does not support unrestricted land use and will require five-year remedy reviews.

Comments on the SB/PP and the draft RCRA permit are requested by October 31, 2026. 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 SB/PP, a SB/PP Fact Sheet for the OU was prepared.

For additional information, contact: Barbara Smoak, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, Savannah River Site, Building 703-43A, Aiken, SC 29808 / (803) 952-8060 / barbara.smoak@srs.gov

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Copies of the SB/PP and the Fact Sheet are available in the Administrative Record. The Administrative Record is available in the information repositories listed below:

US Department of Energy Public Reading Room
Gregg-Graniteville Library
University of South Carolina - Aiken
471 University Parkway
Aiken, South Carolina 29801
(803) 641-3456

Thomas Cooper Library
Government Information and Maps Department
University of South Carolina
1322 Greene Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29208
(803) 777-4841

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

Reese Library, Government Information Department
Augusta University
2500 Walton Way
Augusta, Georgia 30904
(706) 737-1744

Asa H. Gordon Library
Savannah State University
2200 Tompkins Road
Savannah, Georgia 31404
(912) 358-4324

The SB/PP and Fact Sheet are available electronically at the following address:
https://public.srs.gov/missions-and-programs/environmental-stewardship/public-involvement-2/

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

SCDES
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: (803) 898-3432

If there is interest in discussing the recommended remedial approach, a public hearing may be requested. Comments on the SB/PP should be sent to Barbara Smoak. Comments on the draft RCRA permit modification or requests for a public hearing should be sent to Kent Krieg. For additional information or to request a public meeting contact:

Barbara Smoak
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC
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SCDES
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