



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

October 11, 2024

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE &

Ms. Avery G. Hammett, SRS Remedial Project Manager
Remediation and Deactivation & Decommissioning Division
U.S. Department of Energy
Savannah River Operations Office
P.O. Box A
Aiken, South Carolina 29802

OCT 11 2024

AREA COMPLETION PROJECTS

**EPA Comments: GROUNDWATER MIXING ZONE SAMPLING SUMMARY REPORT FOR
THE R-AREA REACTOR SEEPAGE BASINS/108-4R OVERFLOW BASIN OU 25, 2023, JUNE
24, 2024, SAVANNAH RIVER SITE AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA**

Dear Ms. Hammett,

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4 (EPA), has reviewed the GW Mixing Zone Sampling Summary Report for the R-Area Seepage and Overflow Basins, Operable Unit 25, 2023, dated June 24, 2024. EPA's comments are attached.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (404) 562-8648.

Sincerely,

JON
RICHARDS

Digitally signed by
JON RICHARDS
Date: 2024.10.11
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Jon Richards
FFA Remedial Project Manager
Superfund & Emergency
Management Division

ec: C.L. Bergren, SRNS-ACP
Susan Fulmer, SCDHEC

1. The fourth quarter 2023 (4Q23) Strontium-90 (Sr-90) sampling result at well RSE 1A is 167 picocuries per liter (pCi/L); however, there is no discussion about the historical Sr-90 results or trends, or the suspected cause of the 4Q23 high concentration at this well. *Please revise the text to include a discussion about the Sr-90 concentration history, and suspected cause of high 4Q23 Sr-90, at well RSE 1A.*

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

1. **Water Elevations, Page 2 of 10, Figure 2, 4Q23 Water Elevation of the A/AA Horizon in the UAZ, Page 7 and Figure 3, 4Q23 Water Elevation of the TZ in the UAZ, Page 8:**
The text states that since the potentiometric heads in the A/AA horizon are generally about 2 feet to 8 feet higher than corresponding heads in the transmissive zone (TZ) no groundwater flow direction is drawn; however, while the groundwater elevations indicate that downward vertical gradient exists between A/AA and TZ, flow direction arrows should be drawn on the potentiometric surface contours of the A/AA in Figure 2 and the TZ, in Table 3. *Please revise the Report to include this information.*
2. **RRSB OU Strontium-90, Page 3:** The text states that since no concentrations exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) in the TZ wells a concentration map was not drawn; however, since there were J qualified detections and the estimated quantitation limit (EQL) varied between sample results, a figure showing the Sr-90 concentrations detected in the TZ should be presented. *Please revise the Report to present a figure showing Sr-90 concentrations in the TZ.*