



SAVANNAH RIVER SITE

Aiken, Aiken County, South Carolina

Office: Savannah River Operations Office

Size: Approximately 198,400 acres (310 square miles)

NPL Status: Placed on the NPL on November 21, 1989.

Mission: The Savannah River Site (SRS) is located in south-central South Carolina, approximately 25 miles southeast of Augusta, Georgia and 20 miles south of Aiken, South Carolina. The site encompasses 310 square miles and is bordered by the Savannah River on the southwest. Although SRS' primary mission over the past 40 years focused on the production of nuclear materials (primarily tritium and plutonium) for national defense, the site's nuclear production reactors have not operated since 1988. R Reactor was shut down permanently in 1964, and C Reactor was placed in cold standby in 1987. K, P, and L reactors were shut down in 1988 for maintenance and safety upgrades and have never been restarted. As a result, much of the site's mission has turned to environmental restoration and waste management activities. The current program consists of 477 inactive waste and groundwater sites and an estimated 600 facilities that are candidates for decommissioning.

(continued)

Progress in Reaching Interagency Agreement

DOE, EPA Region IV, and the State of South Carolina negotiated an IAG for SRS during calendar years 1990 through 1992. The IAG was executed on January 15, 1993, and became effective on August 16, 1993.

Specific Cost Estimates and Budgetary Proposals Involved in Each Interagency Agreement

Funds budgeted for environmental restoration under the IAG total \$90.5 million of appropriated funding for FY 99 and \$96.3 million for FY 00 according to the request in the President's Budget.

Public Comments Regarding Interagency Agreements

The IAG Notice of Intent was signed on December 2, 1991. The document was released for a 60-day public review on December 17, 1991; the public comment period ended on February 14, 1992. A public meeting was held on January 23, 1992. Significant public comments focused on the specific roles and jurisdictions of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and EPA Region IV in maintaining and enforcing DOE SRS cleanup actions.

The public comments also included concerns that the IAG should not limit SCDHEC's RCRA authority. The IAG was revised to better clarify dispute resolution procedures and authorities of the two regulators for oversight of RCRA and CERCLA cleanup activities.

Additionally, public comments showed the need to revise SRS' system of prioritizing waste units. The IAG was revised to include a priority system

Overview of Environmental

Conditions: Onsite soil, groundwater and air emissions associated with chemical and radioactive releases.

CERCLA/RCRA Remediation

Funding in FY 98: \$75,120,000

recommended by EPA, and a responsiveness summary addressing public comments was issued in 1993.

Comments requesting a site advisory board consisting of members of the public were addressed in a revised public involvement plan. SRS developed a site-specific advisory board, called the Citizen's Advisory Board, which began functioning in 1994 and has made 36 Environmental Restoration related recommendations to DOE since its inception.

Progress in Conducting Remedial Investigations/Feasibility Study

An RCRA 3004(u) permit was issued by EPA Region IV and the State of South Carolina on September 29, 1987. A program plan, which outlines the requirements for the preparation of unit-specific investigation plans and proposed plans, was revised on August 20, 1993. The following activities were accomplished during FY 98:

- Submitted eight RFI/RI Work Plans on 11 waste units;
- Submitted one Interim Action PP;
- Submitted five RFI/RI and Baseline Risk Assessment Reports on ten waste units;
- Submitted 20 Site Evaluation Reports covering 58 areas with 54 No Further Action recommendations;
- Performed three Removal Actions;
- Submitted five Statement of Basis (SB)/PP documents for 12 waste units;
- Initiated two field starts on eight waste units;
- Issued three Rev.0 RODs for four waste units;
- Issued nine signed RODs for eleven waste units;
- Submitted four Corrective Measures Study/Feasibility Study (CMS/FS) Reports for ten units; and submitted three combined documents (CMS/FS/SB/PP) on five waste units.

Progress in Conducting Remedial Actions

The following activities were accomplished in FY 98:

- Over half (244 of 477) of the waste sites are completed or in the remediation phase.
- Completed removal of underground radioactive storage tank for safe disposal;

- Completed remediation of 19 acres of radioactive burial ground;
- Removed approximately thirteen hundred zinc-mercury and lead-acid batteries from the L-Area Burning/Rubble Pit (131-L);
- Installed a second GeoSiphon cell for additional solvent removal; and
- Achieved 111 of 111 required Regulatory Enforceable Agreement milestones.

Progress in Conducting Removal and Interim Actions

Interim remedial action (soil cover) was completed for 76-acre Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground. There were three removal actions performed involving rubble and gas cylinders at the L-Area Burning/Rubble Pit and Gas Cylinder Disposal Facility, tank removal at the Ford Building Seepage Basin and removal of batteries from the L-Area Burning/Rubble Pit.

This Page Intentionally Left Blank