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Savannah River Site

Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board
Facility Disposition and Site Remediation Committee

P Area Operable Unit (PAOU) Update

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A M E R I C A N R E C O V E R Y A N D R E I N V E S T M E N T A C T



Agenda

- **P Area Operable Unit (PAOU) Background**
- **Current Status**
- **Explanation of Significant Difference**
- **Path Forward**





Acronyms

- **CERCLA** **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act**
- **DOE-SR** **Department of Energy-Savannah River**
- **EA ROD** **Early Action Record of Decision**
- **EPA-4** **Environmental Protection Agency - Region IV**
- **ESD** **Explanation of Significant Difference**
- **FD&SR** **Facility Disposition and Site Remediation Committee**
- **PSA** **Potential Source Area**
- **PAOU** **P Area Operable Unit**
- **ROD** **Record of Decision**
- **SCDHEC** **South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control**





PAOU Background

- **P Area was in operation from 1954 and placed in shutdown status in 1991.**
- **Operable unit comprises approximately 100 acres and include 17 waste units and, at one time, 42 buildings and ancillary structures.**
- **Facilities in the area included the reactor building, maintenance buildings, administrative building, cooling water basin, pump house, and a coal fired power house.**
- **Reactor was the operational centerpiece of the area and its purpose was to produce tritium, plutonium and other special nuclear materials for national defense.**



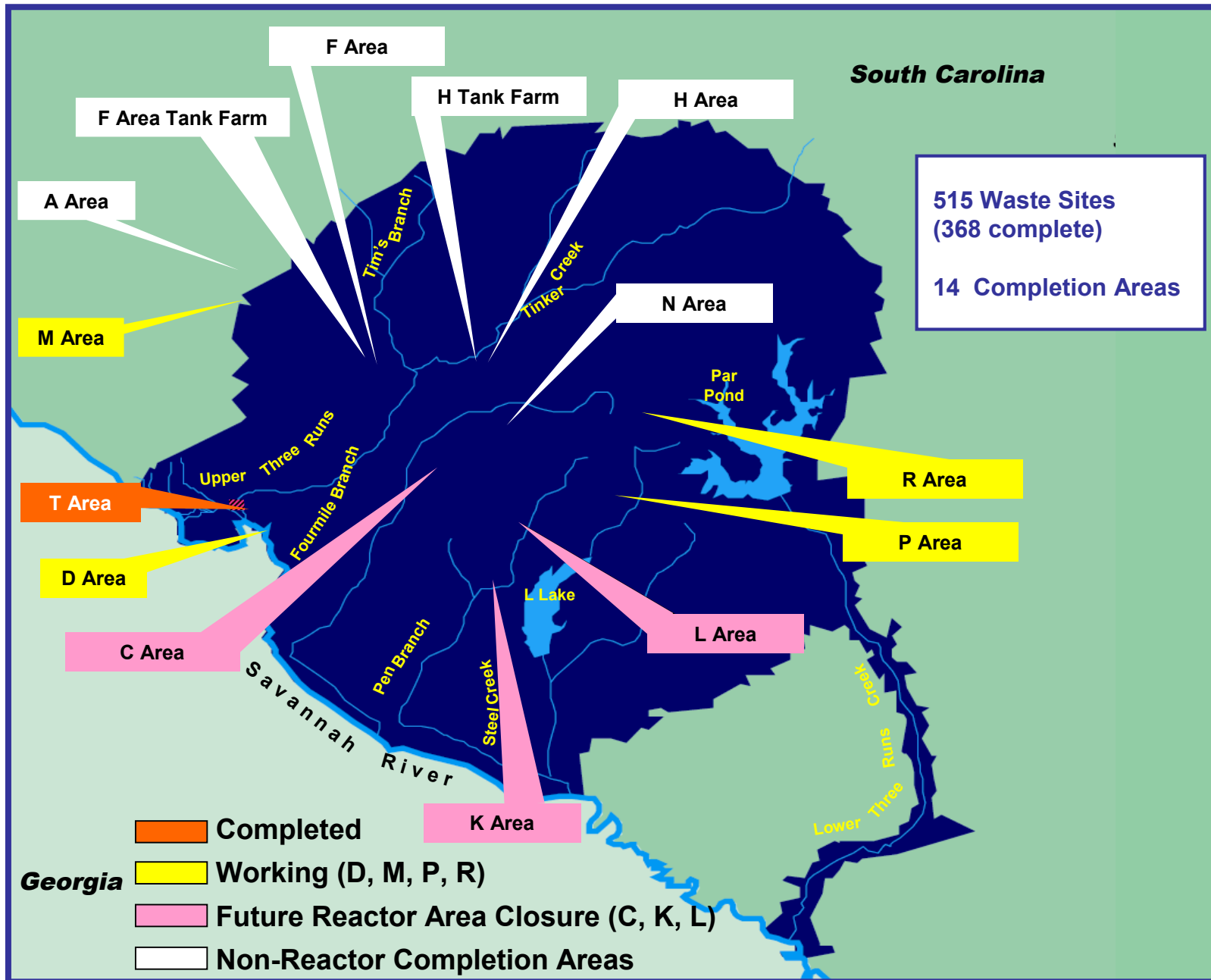


PAOU Background

- Chemical and radioactive waste were generated as a result of operations in the area.
- Site forces have had a continuous presence in the area since 2005 decommissioning buildings, characterizing waste units, and deactivating the reactor building complex.
- The PAOU is the first reactor area to be addressed under the area completion process.
- Last update to the FD&SR committee was July 2008.



Area Completion Approach





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PAOU Area View





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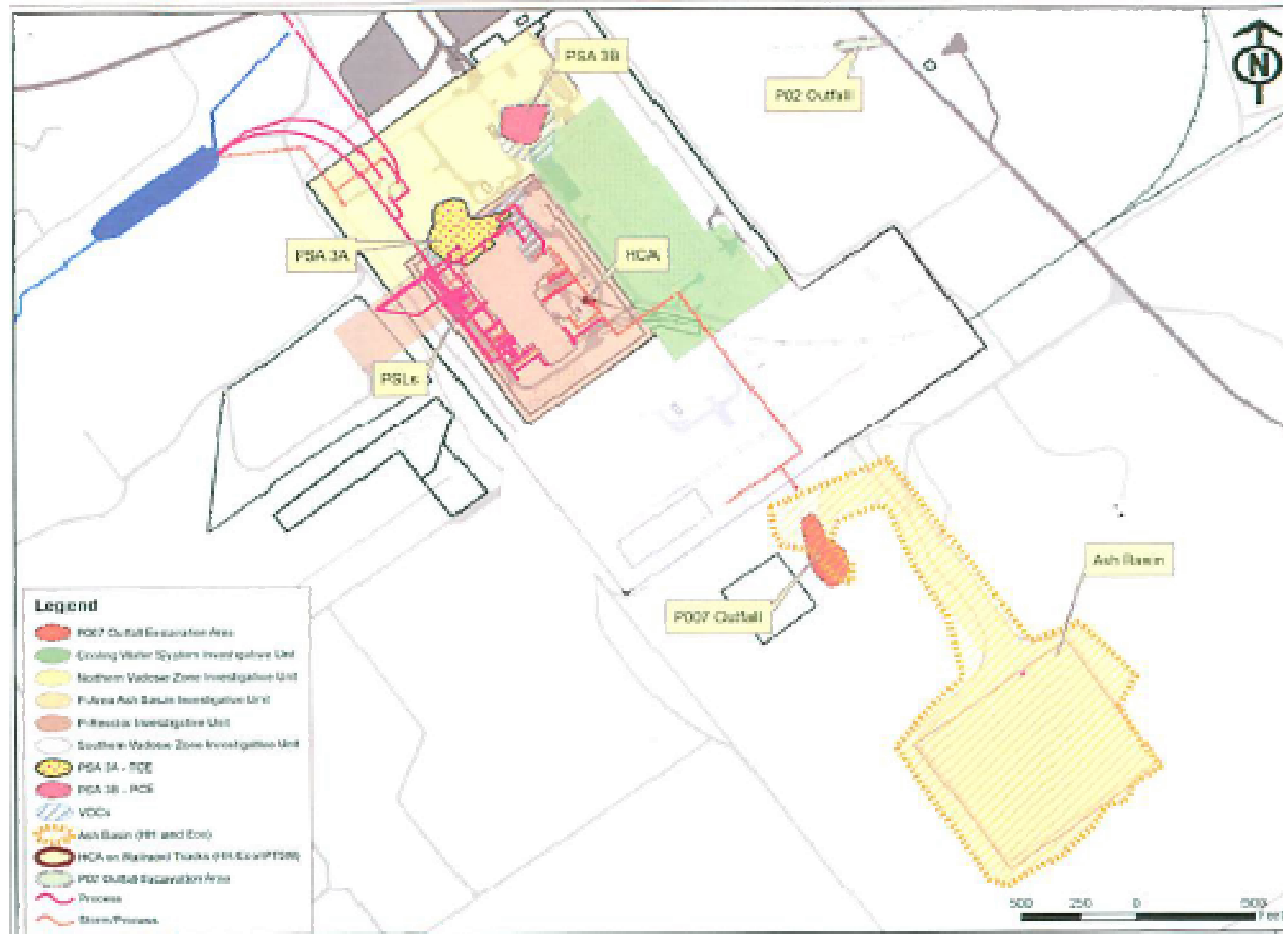
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P-Reactor





PAOU Waste Units





Current Status

- **Early Action Record of Decision (EA ROD) issued January 2009 selecting in situ decommissioning as the preferred alternative for P Reactor Complex.**
- **Project is now executed under the Recovery Act and has been accelerated.**
- **Reactor deactivation is complete.**
- **Preparing for reactor decommissioning and disassembly basin water removal.**





Current Status

- **Subcontracting progress:**
 - ash basin vegetation removal contract issued
 - cask car railroad track contamination removal contract issued
 - Potential Source Area (PSA) 3A chemical oxidation Request for Proposal underway
 - Request for Proposal for soil vapor extraction units at PSA 3A and PSA 3B Request for Proposal underway
- **Other subcontracts under development:**
 - Gantry crane removal
 - Stack removal and grout placement
 - Seal building and roof modifications
- **Several of the subcontracts will be bundled for both P and R Operable Units.**





Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD)

- **ESD to the Early Action Record of Decision (EA ROD) developed to announce and provide rationale on the specific in situ decommissioning alternative**
 - **Preferred Alternative: In situ decommissioning with reactor vessel grouted in place**
 - Meets the remedial action objectives and provides the best balance among the nine CERCLA criteria
- **ESD enables decommissioning to commence in Fall of 2009 with project completion by September 2011.**
- **Anticipate ESD will be issued for public notice in late September 2009.**





Path Forward

- **Gain approval by DOE-SR, EPA-4, and SCDHEC for the ESD.**
- **Issue ESD to the Early Action ROD for Public Notice late September 2009.**
- **Execute decommissioning phase at P Reactor.**
- **Issue Final ROD September 2010.**
- **Complete PAOU field work by end of September 2011.**





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- **Questions, Comments, Input?**

