Our Vision

• Healthy people living in healthy communities

Our Mission

• To improve the quality of life for all South Carolinians by protecting and promoting the health of the public and the environment.
Environmental Affairs

• Air
• Water
• Land and Waste Management
• Environmental Health Services
• OCRM
DHEC’s Environmental Role

- Protection
- Oversight
- Emergency Preparedness
- Improvement
DHEC’s Environmental Role

• Does not regulate
  • Storage of spent nuclear fuel
  • Nuclear materials
• Exempted by Congress
Protection

- Federal and State Laws/ Regulations
- EPA delegates implementation to the State
- DHEC has been delegated authority for
  - Air
  - Water
  - Waste
  - Cleanup
Protection

• Issue permits in accordance with Federal/State requirements
• Inspect for compliance
• Take enforcement action when it’s necessary
Protection Programs

- Drinking Water
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
- Navigable Waters
- Underground Injection Control
- Wastewater Treatment
- Stormwater
- 401 Certification (Wetlands)

- Air
- Asbestos
- Hazardous Waste (RCRA)
- Radioactive Waste Transportation
- Solid Waste (Landfills)
- Underground Storage Tanks
- Lab Certification
Oversight

- DHEC monitors SRS and surrounding area to determine impact of SRS activities.
  - Air, water, soil, sediment, vegetation, milk, fish, and game animals
- DHEC maintains frequent presence at SRS through our Regional Office.

Emergency Preparedness

- SC has a comprehensive emergency operations plan for disasters
  - Natural (hurricanes, earthquakes, etc.)
  - Man-made (terrorism)
- DHEC takes extra measures for SRS
  - Hold practice drills specifically geared to SRS
  - Meet quarterly
Improvement - Cleanup

• Hazardous Waste Permit
  • Requires assessment and cleanup of all waste contaminated areas at SRS
  • Covers some major areas/plumes (F, H, M, MWMF)
Improvement - Cleanup

- Federal Facility Agreement (FFA)
  - DHEC-RCRA authority (Hazardous Waste Permit)
  - EPA-CERCLA authority
- Marries process by which DHEC, EPA, and DOE conduct cleanup
Improvement - Cleanup

• Differences between Hazardous Waste Permit and FFA
  • RCRA Permit is a defined regulatory mechanism
  • FFA is an agreement
  • RCRA Permit violation → enforcement
  • FFA disagreement → dispute resolution

• Federal Facility Agreement
  • Works well
  • Well-established, efficient cleanup team
  • Yearly updates
Improvement – Legacy Waste

• Site Treatment Plan
  • Enabled by Federal Facility Compliance Act
  • Requires treatment of legacy waste by an approved schedule, enforced by order
  • Covers legacy mixed low-level, transuranic, and high-level waste

• Requires State approval for any haz/rad waste shipment proposed to SRS
High-Level Waste
High-Level Waste

• Section 3116 of 2005 National Defense Authorization Act

• Residuals remaining must be under
  • Energy Secretary determination in consultation with NRC and
  • “A State-approved closure plan or State-issued permit”
High-Level Waste Tanks

• Regulated under State Wastewater Program
  • Operation through Wastewater Permit
  • Closure through Wastewater Closure Plan
    • General Closure Plan
    • Closure Modules (Tank-Specific)
• Also covered by Hazardous Waste Permit cleanup authority
• Addressed through FFA process
Status

• Committed to maintaining
  • Permits and inspections
  • Cleanup momentum
  • Emergency preparedness
  • Oversight

• DHEC will focus on
  • HLW treatment and tank closure
  • Site cleanup
  • Waste disposition
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