



# State Regulatory Oversight

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South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control  
Healthy People. Healthy Communities.

## 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
- 401 Certification (Wetlands)
- Stormwater
- 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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