



State Regulatory Oversight

May 16, 2023

Susan Fulmer, FFA Manager

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.



ESOP

Environmental Surveillance
and Oversight Program

2021 DATA REPORT

CR-004111 12/22



Aiken Environmental Affairs Office
206 Beaufort Street, NE
Aiken, SC 29801

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

- Section 3116 of 2005 National Defense Authorization Act
- Certain radioactive waste resulting from reprocessing of spent nuclear fuels is not HLW
- Residuals remaining must be under "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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