



SRS Citizen's Advisory Board

Recommendation No. 19

March 26, 1996

Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground

The Department of Energy Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board commends the Department of Energy Savannah River Site, the Environmental Protection Agency and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control for the consensus Interim Action Proposed Plan for the Old Radioactive Waste Burial Ground at SRS. The Interim Action Proposed Plan was prepared to satisfy regulatory requirements (i.e., CERCLA) for an interim remedial action while a final remedy is being developed (expected by the year 2001). We understand that the proposed interim action will place a landscaped soil and grass cover over the top of the old burial ground trenches. The old burial ground trenches are where radioactive wastes were buried at SRS from 1952 to 1972. This interim action is designed to reduce rainwater infiltration into the old trenches, contaminant migration into the groundwater, and future impacts to the groundwater. We understand that subsidence will continue to be monitored and remedied when it occurs. Finally, we also understand that this interim action will not preclude a final action plan.

With this understanding in mind, the Board recommends that:

1. The preferred alternative, the placement of a soil cover over the old burial ground, be implemented as the interim action. The preferred alternative consists of the placement of a low-permeability soil cover on top of sections of the existing old burial ground surface. In these sections, topsoil will be added, the area compacted, and the soil seeded to prevent erosion. Damage to the cover, such as erosion or subsidence, will be repaired.
2. If feasible, DOE should select a final remedy that utilizes the soil cover in the interim action preferred alternative.

Agency Responses

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