CONTENTS

1.0 Summary 1

2.0 Purpose of and Need for Action 9

3.0 Alternatives Including Proposed Action 11

3.1 SRP Waste Management Operations 11

3.2 Preferred Alternative - Construction and Utilization of Type III Tanks as Currently Designed 14

3.2.1 Design Features 14

3.2.2 Tank Design Improvements and Engineered Safety Features 18

3.2.2.1 Single Roof Support Column 21
3.2.2.2 Full-Height Secondary Liner 21
3.2.2.3 Secondary Containment 21
3.2.2.4 Leak Detection Systems 22
3.2.2.5 Secondary Liner Leak Detection. . . 22
3.2.2.6 Improved Primary Liner Steel Specifications 23
3.2.2.7 Fixed Distributed Cooling Coils . . 23
3.2.2.8 Air Cooling Under Primary Tank . . 24
3.2.2.9 Permanently Installed Annulus Jets 25
3.2.2.10 Ventilation Systems 25
3.2.2.11 Hydrogen and Radioactivity Monitors 25
3.2.2.12 Radiation Monitors 26
3.2.2.13 Wire Mesh Separator 26
3.2.2.14 Automatic Air Blow of Gang Valves 26
3.2.2.15 Emergency Power 27
3.2.2.16 Earthquake Protection 27
3.2.2.17 Tornado and Hurricane Protection 27
3.2.2.18 Closed Loop Waste Tank Cooling System 28
3.2.2.19 Storm Water Diversion System . . . 29
3.2.2.20 Monitoring Wells 30

3.2.3 Reasonably Foreseeable Environmental Effects. 30

3.2.4 Effect on Tank Durability 30

3.2.5 Effect on Ease of Waste Retrieval from the Tanks 31

3.2.6 Relationship to Long-Term Management Program 31

3.2.7 Waste Tank Utilization Plans 31

3.3 Other Alternatives 33

3.3.1 Thicker and More Chemically Resistant Tank Steel 33

3.3.1.1 Reasonably Foreseeable Environmental Effects. 35
3.3.1.2 Effect on Tank Durability 35
3.3.1.3 Effect on Ease of Waste Retrieval from the Tanks 35
3.3.1.4 Effect on Choice of Technology and Timing for Long-Term Radioactive Waste Storage and Final Disposal. 35
E | 3.3.1.5 Advantages and Disadvantages . . . 35

3.3.2 Cathodic Protection 36

3.3.2.1 Reasonably Foreseeable Environmental Effects 37
3.3.2.2 Effect on Tank Durability 38
3.3.2.3 Effect on Ease of Waste Retrieval from the Tanks 38
3.3.2.4 Effect on Choice of Technology and Timing for Long-Term Radioactive Waste Storage and Final Disposal. 38
E | 3.3.2.5 Advantages and Disadvantages . . . 38

3.3.3 Better Waste Retrieval Equipment and Enlarged Tank Openings 39

3.3.3.1 Reasonably Foreseeable Environmental Effects 39
3.3.3.2 Effect on Tank Durability 40
3.3.3.3 Effect on Ease of Waste Retrieval from the Tanks 40
3.3.3.4 Effect on Choice of Technology and Timing for Long-Term Radioactive Waste Storage and Final Disposal. 40
E | 3.3.3.5 Advantages and Disadvantages . . . 40

3.4 No Action Alternatives 41

4.0 Affected Environment 43

4.1 General Description of Site and Surroundings 43

4.1.1 General Site Description 43

4.1.2 Site Characteristics 46

4.1.2.1 Introduction 46
4.1.2.2 Geology 46
4.1.2.3 Hydrology 48
4.1.2.4 Local Climate and Meteorology . . . 49
4.1.2.5 Storms 49

4.1.2.5.1 Hurricanes 49
4.1.2.5.2 Tornadoes 49

4.1.2.6 Seismicity 50
4.1.2.7 Habitats-Vegetation 50
4.1.2.8 Wildlife 51

4.1.2.8.1 Mammals 51
4.1.2.8.2 Birds 52
4.1.2.8.3 Reptiles and Amphibians 52
4.1.2.8.4 Fish 53

4.1.2.9 Environmental Park 53
4.1.2.10 Background Radiation 53

4.2 Tank Locations 54

5.0 Environmental Impacts 59

5.1 Preferred Alternative 59

5.1.1 Construction 60

5.1.2 Releases and Radiation Dose from Normal Operation 60

5.1.2.1 Tritium to Air and Water 61
5.1.2.2 Releases from Tank Ventilation . . 63
5.1.2.3 Exposure to Operating Personnel . . 63

5.1.3 Releases from Abnormal Operations or Accidents 63

5.1.3.1 Risks to Offsite Population 65
C | 5.1.3.2 Emergency Planning 68

5.1.4 Decommissioning 70

5.2 Other Alternatives 70

5.2.1 Thicker and More Chemically Resistant Tank Steel 71

5.2.1.1 Reasonably Foreseeable Environmental Effects 71
5.2.1.2 Effect on Tank Durability 71
5.2.1.3 Effect on Ease of Waste Retrieval from the Tanks 71
5.2.1.4 Effect of Choice of Technology and Timing for Long-Term Radioactive Waste Storage and Final Disposal. 71

5.2.2 Cathodic Protection 72

5.2.2.1 Reasonably Foreseeable Environmental Effects 72
5.2.2.2 Effect on Tank Durability 72
5.2.2.3 Effect on Ease of Waste Retrieval from the Tanks 72
5.2.2.4 Effect of Choice of Technology and Timing for Long-Term Radioactive Waste Storage and Final Disposal. 73

5.2.3 Better Waste Retrieval Equipment and Enlarged Openings 73

5.2.3.1 Reasonably Foreseeable Environmental Effects 73
5.2.3.2 Effect on Tank Durability 73
5.2.3.3 Effect on Ease of Waste Retrieval from the Tanks 73
5.2.3.4 Effect of Choice of Technology and Timing for Long-Term Radioactive Waste Storage and Final Disposal. 74

5.3 No Action Alternatives 74

5.4 Socioeconomic Effects 74

5.4.1 Operating Effects 74

5.4.2 Decommissioning 75

5.4.3 Effect on Alternatives 75

5.4.3.1 Preferred Alternative 75
5.4.3.2 Thicker and More Chemically Resistant Tank Steel 75
5.4.3.3 Cathodic Protection and Better Waste Retrieval Equipment and Enlarged Openings 75

5.5 Relationship of Proposed Action to Land Use Plans, Policies, and Controls 75

5.6 Unavoidable Adverse Effects 76

5.7 Relationship Between Short-Term Use and Long-Term Productivity 77

5.8 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources 77

5.8.1 Thicker and More Chemically Resistant Tank Steel 78

5.8.2 Cathodic Protection System. 78

E

5.8.3 Better Waste Retrieval Equipment and Enlarged Openings 79

E | 6.0 List of Preparers and Reviewers of Draft and Final Suppplement EIS 81

7.0 Glossary 95

C | 8.0 Distribution List for DOE/EIS-0062 (Savannah River Double-Shell Tanks) 101

APPENDICES

A Design of Type III Tanks A-1

B Selection of Materials B-1

C Waste Removal and Decommissioning C-1

D Chronology of Tank Construction D-1

E Major Differences Between SRP and Hanford Tanks E-1

F Waste Tank Utilization Forecast F-1

C | G Comment Letters and DOE Responses G-1