

FOREWORD

EC | The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare this environmental impact statement (EIS) on December 31, 1996 (61 FR 69085). As described in the NOI, DOE's proposal in general terms is to implement appropriate actions to manage safely and efficiently spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and targets that are currently located or expected to be received at the Savannah River Site (SRS), including placing these materials in forms suitable for disposition. This EIS assesses the potential environmental impacts associated with storing, treating, and packaging these materials, including onsite transportation activities.

EC | The NOI requested public comments and suggestions for DOE to consider in its determination of the scope of the EIS, and announced a public scoping period that ended on March 3, 1997. DOE held a scoping meeting in North Augusta, South Carolina on January 30, 1997. During the scoping period, individuals, organizations, and government agencies submitted 118 comments that DOE considered applicable to the management of SNF at the SRS.

Transcripts of public testimony, copies of scoping letters, scoping comments and DOE responses to those comments, and reference materials cited in the EIS are available for review in the DOE Public Reading Room, University of South Carolina at Aiken, Gregg-Graniteville Library, University Parkway, Aiken, South Carolina.

TC | A Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS appeared in the *Federal Register* on December 24, 1998. Public meetings to discuss and receive comments on the Draft EIS were held on Thursday, January 28, 1999 in Columbia, S.C. and on Tuesday, February 2, 1999 in North Augusta, S.C. The public comment period ended on February 8, 1999. Comments and DOE responses to comments are in Appendix G.

Changes from the Draft EIS are indicated in this Final EIS by vertical change bars in the margin. In cases where changes were made in response to comments, the comment number (as listed in Appendix G) is listed next to the vertical change bar. Many of the technical changes are the result of the availability of updated information since publication of the Draft EIS.

DOE has prepared this EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1500-1508) and DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures (10 CFR 1021). This EIS identifies the methods used for analyses and the scientific and other sources of information consulted. In addition, it incorporates, directly or by reference, available results of ongoing studies. The organization of the EIS is as follows:

- Chapter 1 describes the purpose and need for SNF management at the SRS (i.e., to develop and implement a safe and efficient management strategy that includes preparing SNF for ultimate disposition), and describes the types of SNF to which the EIS applies.
- Chapter 2 identifies the alternatives that DOE is considering for management of SNF at the SRS.
- Chapter 3 describes the SRS environment as it relates to the alternatives described in Chapter 2.
- Chapter 4 assesses the potential environmental impacts of the alternatives for construction activities, normal operations, and accidents.
- Chapter 5 discusses the cumulative impacts of SNF management actions in relation to

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- impacts of other past, present, and foreseeable future activities at the SRS.
- Chapter 6 identifies irreversible or irretrievable resource commitments.
- Chapter 7 discusses regulatory requirements, including applicable statutes, DOE Orders, and state and Federal regulations.
- Appendix A describes the technologies that DOE considered for implementing the SNF management alternatives described in Chapter 2.
- Appendix B describes previously identified facility vulnerabilities specific to SRS SNF management, their recommended corrective actions, and the current status of those corrective actions.
- Appendix C describes the SNF assigned to SRS for management and the categories into which DOE has grouped these fuels.
- Appendix D provides detailed descriptions of accidents that could occur at SRS facilities during the management of SNF.
- Appendix E describes assumed durations for each SNF management activity necessary to implement the alternatives described in Chapter 2.
- Appendix F lists estimated incremental non-radiological air concentrations attributable to SNF management activities.
- Appendix G describes public comments received on the Draft EIS and DOE responses.

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Change Bars

Changes from the Draft EIS are indicated in this Final EIS by vertical change bars in the margin. The bars are marked TC for technical changes, EC for editorial changes, or if the change was made in response to a public comment, the designated comment number is as listed in Appendix G of the EIS.

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