

VII. RELATIONSHIP OF PROPOSED ACTION TO LAND USE PLANS, POLICIES, AND CONTROLS

There are no known conflicts with national, state, or local plans and programs in the continued operation of the SRP waste management facilities. The plantsite was set aside by the U.S. Government in 1950 as a controlled area for the production of materials needed for national defense. It is not open to the public except for guided tours, controlled deer hunts, controlled through-traffic along S. C. Highway 125 (SRP Road A), and the Seaboard Coastline Railroad, and open traffic along U.S. Highway 278 at the north edge of the site, and authorized environmental studies.

The plant map (Figure II-2) shows four relatively small areas that have been removed from ERDA control during the last few years. One of these was deeded to Barnwell County and is the location of the Barnwell Nuclear Fuel Plant. The other three were turned over to the U.S. Forest Service.

The Forest Service has provided a program of forest management since 1951, and has reforested much of the site with productive stands of slash, loblolly, and longleaf pine.

In 1951, the University of South Carolina and the University of Georgia began studying changes in the site characteristics, and in 1961 the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory of the University of Georgia initiated studies of the effects of thermal and radioactive effluents on the site's ecology. In 1972, the plant was declared the Nation's first National Environmental Research Park and provides a large controlled area for environmental research by scientists from universities or other organizations.

Continued operation of SRP's waste management facilities does not conflict with the 1972 Report to the Governor and General Assembly of South Carolina by the Committee to Study the Establishment of Plants or Facilities for the Recovery of Nuclear Fuel and the Storage of Waste Nuclear Materials.¹ The committee did recommend against ultimate permanent storage of high-level radioactive waste in South Carolina because there appeared to be more-suitable locations for such storage.

The Savannah River is a valuable natural resource. The continuing waste management operations will have no major effect on the use of this resource because normal thermal and radioactive releases are small, and accidental releases are extremely unlikely.

REFERENCE

1. *Report of the Committee to Study the Establishment of Plants or Facilities for the Recovery of Nuclear Fuel and the Storage of Waste Nuclear Materials.* Committee Established by the South Carolina Legislature (1972).