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United States Department of Energy

Savannah River Site

Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan for the R-Area Acid/Caustic Basin (904-77G) (U)

WSRC-RP-2001-4188

Revision 1

December 2001

Prepared by:
Westinghouse Savannah River Company LLC
Savannah River Site
Aiken, SC 29808

Prepared for the U.S. Department of Energy under Contract No. DE-AC09-96SR18500

CERTIFICATION

STATEMENT OF BASIS/PROPOSED PLAN
for the
R-AREA ACID/CAUSTIC BASIN (904-77G) (U)
WSRC-RP-2001-4188, REV.1
December, 2001

"I certify under the penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fines and imprisonment for knowing violations."

Date: 12/17/01 Signature: Michael A. Sabbe

Michael A. Sabbe
Vice President and General Manager
Environmental Restoration Division
Westinghouse Savannah River Company
Co-operator for the U.S. Department of
Energy Savannah River Operations Office

Date: 12/18/01 Signature: Greg Rudy

Greg Rudy
Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Savannah River Operations Office
Owner and Co-Operator

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ARAR	applicable or relevant and appropriate requirement
bgs	below ground surface
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
CMS	corrective measures study
COC	constituent of concern
FFA	Federal Facility Agreement
FS	feasibility study
ft	foot
km	kilometer
LLC	Limited Liability Company
m	meter
MCL	maximum contaminant level
mi	mile
OU	operable unit
PTSM	principal threat source material
RAACB	R-Area Acid/Caustic Basin
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RFI	RCRA Facility Investigation
RI	Remedial Investigation
ROD	Record of Decision
SB/PP	Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan
SCDHEC	South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
SCHWMR	South Carolina Hazardous Waste Management Regulations
SRS	Savannah River Site
TSCA	Toxic Substance Control Act
USC	United States Code
USDOE	United States Department of Energy
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
WPA	Work Plan Addendum
WSRC	Westinghouse Savannah River Company LLC

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Introduction

This Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan (SB/PP) is being issued by the United States Department of Energy (USDOE), which functions as the lead agency for Savannah River Site (SRS) remedial activities, with concurrence by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). The purpose of this SB/PP is to describe the preferred remedial alternative for the R-Area Acid/Caustic Basin (RAACB) Operable Unit (OU) and to provide for public involvement in the decision-making process. The RAACB is located at SRS in Barnwell County, South Carolina (see Figures 1 and 2).

Generally, the SB/PP is developed after the Corrective Measures Study/Feasibility Study (CMS/FS) report is approved by the regulatory agencies. However, the RAACB OU Work Plan Addendum (WPA) with Risk Evaluation did not identify any refined contaminants of concern (COCs). Thus, a CMS/FS was not required to evaluate remedial alternatives for the RAACB OU. Therefore, the USEPA, USDOE, and SCDHEC agreed that SRS could proceed directly to production of the SB/PP.

SRS manages certain waste materials that are regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), a comprehensive law requiring responsible management of hazardous waste. The RAACB is a solid waste management unit under RCRA Section 3004(u). SRS received a RCRA hazardous waste permit from SCDHEC, which was most recently renewed on September 5, 1995 (SC1 890 008 989). Module IV of the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments portion of the RCRA permit mandates that SRS establish and implement a RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) Program to fulfill the requirements specified in RCRA Section 3004(u).

On December 21, 1989, SRS was included on the National Priorities List. The inclusion created a need to integrate the established RFI program with Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) requirements to provide for a focused environmental program. In accordance with Section 120 of CERCLA 42 United States Code (USC) Section 9620, USDOE has negotiated a Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) (Westinghouse Savannah River Company Limited Liability Company [LLC] [WSRC] 1993) with the USEPA and SCDHEC to coordinate remedial activities at SRS into one comprehensive strategy, which fulfills these dual regulatory requirements.

The FFA lists the RAACB OU as a RCRA/CERCLA unit requiring further evaluation using an investigation/assessment process that integrates and combines the RFI process with the CERCLA Remedial Investigation (RI) process to

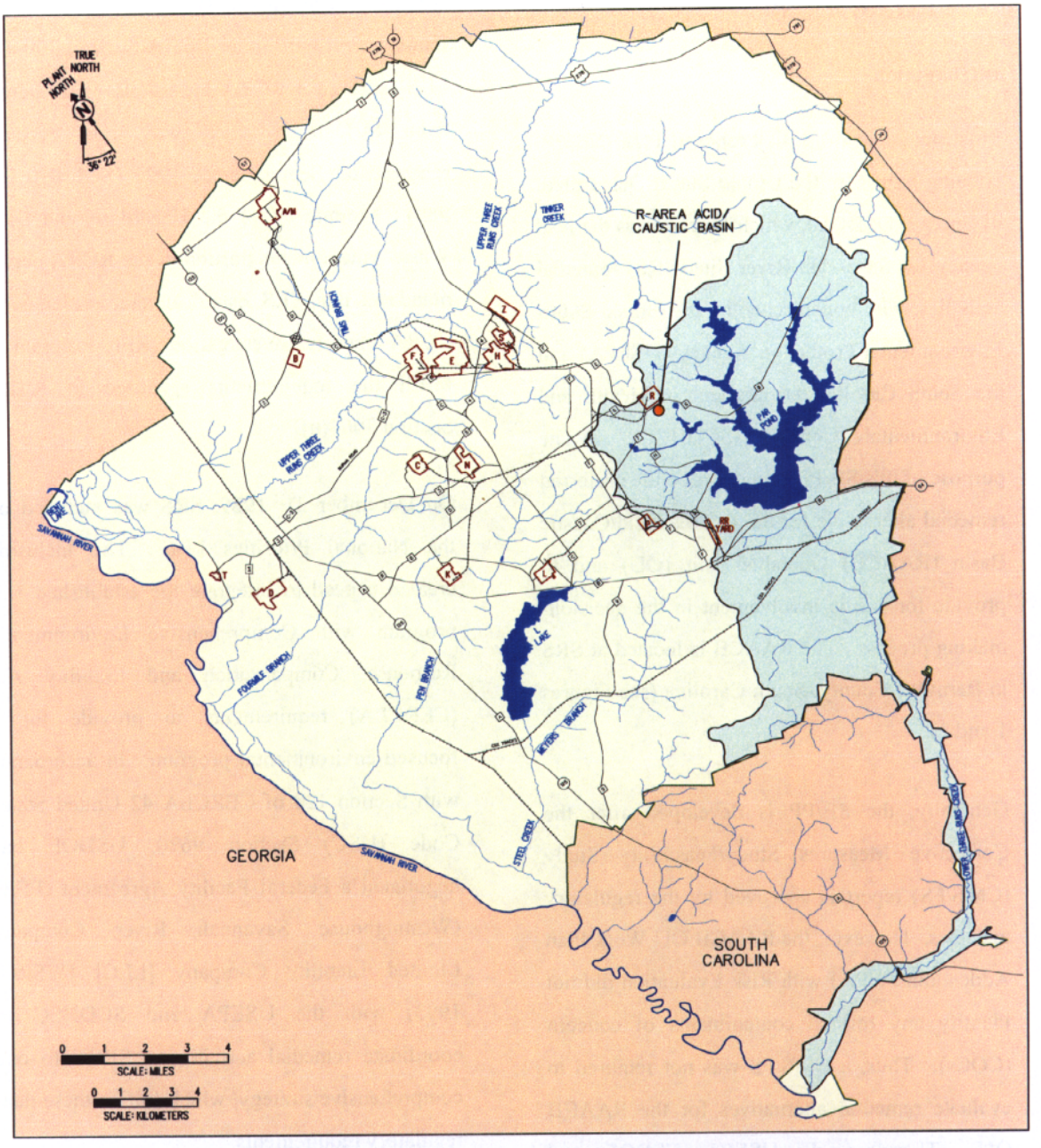

Figure 1. Location of the RAACB OU in the Lower Three Runs Watershed at SRS

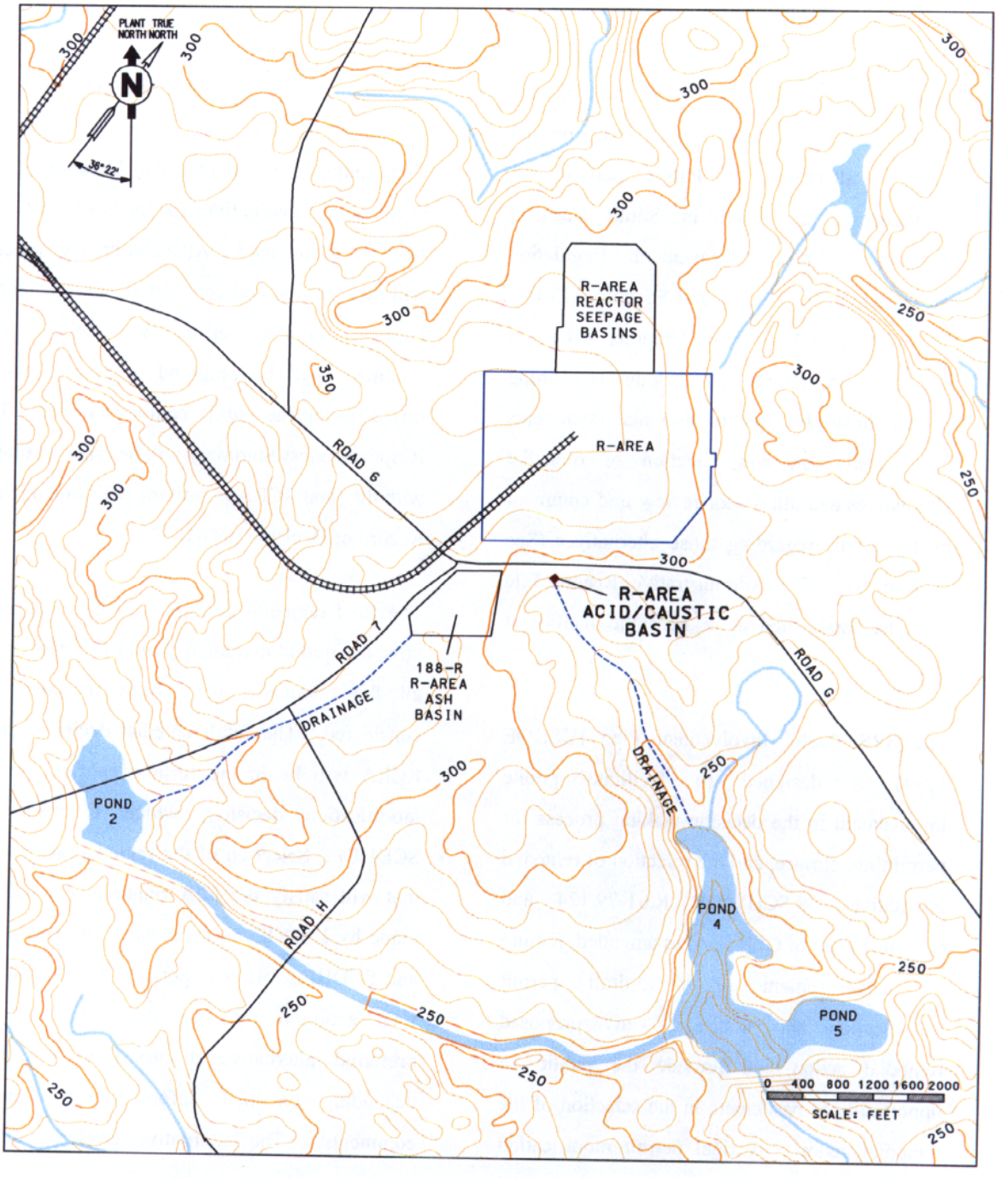

Figure 2. Map of R Area and the RAACB OU

determine the actual or potential impact to human health and the environment of releases of hazardous substances to the environment.

Both RCRA and CERCLA require the public to be given an opportunity to review and comment on the draft permit modification and proposed remedial alternatives. Public participation requirements are listed in South Carolina Hazardous Waste Management Regulation (SCHWMR) R.61-79.124 and Sections 113 and 117 of CERCLA 42 USC Sections 9613 and 9617. These requirements include establishing an Administrative Record File that documents the investigation and selection of remedial alternatives and allows for review and comment by the public regarding those alternatives (See Section II). The Administrative Record File must be established at or near the facility at issue.

The SRS Public Involvement Plan (USDOE 1994) is designed to facilitate public involvement in the decision-making process for permitting, closure, and the selection of remedial alternatives. SCHWMR R.61-79.124 and Section 117(a) of CERCLA, as amended, require the advertisement of the draft permit modification and notice of any proposed remedial action and provide the public an opportunity to participate in the selection of the remedial action. A final permit modification will (1) include the final selection of remedial alternatives under RCRA, (2) be sought for the entire RAACB OU, and (3) include the necessary public involvement and regulatory approvals.

SCHWMR R.61-79.124 requires that a brief description and response to all significant comments be made available to the public as part of the RCRA Administrative Record. Community involvement in consideration of this evaluation of alternatives for the RAACB OU is strongly encouraged. All submitted comments will be reviewed and considered. Following the public comment period, a Responsiveness Summary will be prepared to address issues raised during the public comment period. The Responsiveness Summary will be made available with the final RCRA permit modification and the Record of Decision (ROD).

The final remedial decision will be made only after the public comment period has ended and all the comments have been received and considered. The final remedial decision under RCRA will be in the form of a final permit modification decision, which is made by SCDHEC. Selection of the remedial alternative that will satisfy the FFA requirements will be made by USDOE, in consultation with USEPA and SCDHEC. It is important to note that the final action(s) may be different from the preferred alternative discussed in this plan depending on new information or public comments. The alternative chosen will be protective of human health and the environment, and comply with all federal and state laws.

Background

SRS occupies approximately 800 square km (310 square mi) of land adjacent to the Savannah River, principally in Aiken and Barnwell counties of South Carolina. SRS is located approximately 40 km (25 mi) southeast of Augusta, Georgia, and 32 km (20 mi) south of Aiken, South Carolina.

SRS is owned by the USDOE. Management and operating services are provided by WSRC. SRS has historically produced tritium, plutonium, and other special nuclear materials for national defense. Chemical and radioactive wastes are byproducts of nuclear material production processes. Hazardous substances, as defined by CERCLA, are currently present in the environment at SRS.

The RAACB OU is located near the center of the SRS, approximately 8 km (5 mi) from the nearest site boundary (Figure 1). The unit is south of the R-Area Reactor and approximately 30.5 m (100 ft) south of SRS Road G.

The RAACB OU consists of the following four subunits: (1) acid/caustic basin; (2) inactive process pipeline soils; (3) overflow drainage ditch (downslope of the RAACB discharge pipe); and (4) groundwater. Based on the findings of the RFI/RI WPA with Risk Evaluation for the R-Area Acid/Caustic Basin OU (U), Revision 1, report (WSRC 2001), none of the four subunits require any remedial action, and no remedial alternatives have been developed.

II. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The FFA Administrative Record File, which contains the information pertaining to the selection of the response action, is available at the following locations:

US Department of Energy
Public Reading Room
Gregg-Graniteville Library
University of South Carolina – Aiken
171 University Parkway
Aiken, South Carolina 29801
(803) 641-3465

Thomas Cooper Library
Government Documents Department
University of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina 29208
(803) 777-4866

Hard copies of the SB/PP are available at the following locations:

Reese Library
Augusta State University
2500 Walton Way
Augusta, Georgia 30910
(706) 737-1744

Asa H. Gordon Library
Savannah State University
Tompkins Road
Savannah, Georgia 31404
(912) 356-2183

The RCRA Administrative Record File for SCDHEC is available for review by the public at the following locations:

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
8901 Farrow Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29203
(803) 896-4000

Lower Savannah District Environmental Quality Control Office
206 Beaufort Street, Northeast
Aiken, South Carolina 29801
(803) 641-7670

The public will be notified of the public comment period through mailings of the *SRS Environmental Bulletin*, a newsletter sent to citizens in South Carolina and Georgia, and through notices in the *Aiken Standard*, the *Allendale Citizen Leader*, the *Augusta Chronicle*, the *Barnwell People-Sentinel*, and *The State* newspapers. The public comment period will also be announced on local radio stations.

USDOE will provide an opportunity for a public meeting during the public comment period if significant interest is expressed. The public will be notified of the date, time, and location. At the meeting, the proposed action will be discussed, and questions about the action will be answered.

To request a public meeting during the public comment period, to obtain more information concerning this document, or to submit written comments, contact one of the following:

Jim Moore
Westinghouse Savannah River Company
Public Involvement
Savannah River Site
Building 742-A
Aiken, South Carolina 29808
1-800-249-8155
jim02moore@srs.gov

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
Attn: J. T. Litton, P. E., Director
Division of Waste Management
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
(803) 896-4000

Following the public comment period, a ROD will be signed, and a final decision for the SRS RCRA permit will be issued. The ROD and RCRA permit will detail the remedial alternative chosen for this OU and include responses to oral and written comments received during the public comment period in the Responsiveness Summary.

III. OPERABLE UNIT BACKGROUND

Operable Unit History

The RAACB is the last of the six original acid/caustic basins operated at SRS. In 1964, R Reactor was the first reactor to shut down, giving the RAACB the shortest operating history (10 years) of the six basins. The F-, H-, K-, and P-Area Acid/Caustic Basins operated for 28 years, while the L-Area Acid/Caustic Basin operated for 14 years. The six basins received similar waste streams, predominantly spent dilute sulfuric acid and sodium hydroxide (caustic) solutions from the regeneration of ion-

exchange units in the water treatment facilities that supported reactor operations. Site characterization data indicate that the nature and concentrations of constituents detected in all six basins were similar.

Four of the basins (F, H, K, and P) were approved for RCRA Clean Closure and closed in accordance with RCRA regulations. The L-Area Acid/Caustic Basin has been closed under CERCLA as a "No Action" remedy.

The RFI/RI Work Plan (WSRC 1999) and the RFI/RI WPA with Risk Evaluation (WSRC 2001) for the RAACB OU contain the detailed information and analytical data for the investigations conducted in the OU. These documents are available in the Administrative Record File (see Section II of this document).

For the purpose of the RFI/RI WPA with Risk Evaluation, the RAACB OU consists of the following four subunits:

- R-Area Acid/Caustic Basin,
- Inactive Process Pipeline,
- Overflow Drainage Ditch, and
- Groundwater.

History of Site Investigations

Previous investigations conducted at the RAACB OU include soil sampling and analysis, installing four groundwater monitor wells, and analyzing groundwater samples collected from the wells. There have been no previous site remediation actions performed in the OU. Figures 3 and 4 are ground-level photographs of the basin. Figure 5 is a map showing the basin, inactive process pipeline, and the overflow drainage ditch. The results of site investigations conducted in each of the four subunits are described below.

R-Area Acid/Caustic Basin

The RAACB is an unlined earthen basin approximately 15.2 m (50 ft) wide, 15.2 m (50 ft) long, and 2.1 m (7 ft) deep. The RAACB was excavated in 1952 and operated from 1954 until it was deactivated in 1964. The basin received spent dilute sulfuric acid and sodium hydroxide solutions used to regenerate ion-exchange units in reactor water treatment facilities. Spent acid and caustic solutions were discharged to the acid/caustic basin via the process pipeline. Based on the process history and data from other acid/caustic basins, the potential basin contaminants are arsenic, barium, chromium, lead, and mercury.

Soil sampling was conducted at the RAACB in 1985 as part of a program to define the extent of potential chemical contamination in the acid/caustic basins at SRS. In 1999, additional sampling was conducted at the basin. Soil samples were collected within, and adjacent to, the basin. The analytes include inorganics, organics, and radionuclides, and some samples were tested for pH and leaching potential. No analytes were detected at concentrations exceeding RCRA/CERCLA, or Toxic Substance

Figure 3. Photograph of RAACB Looking West

Photograph taken in Fall 1998. The basin is located beyond the orange marker and fenceline.

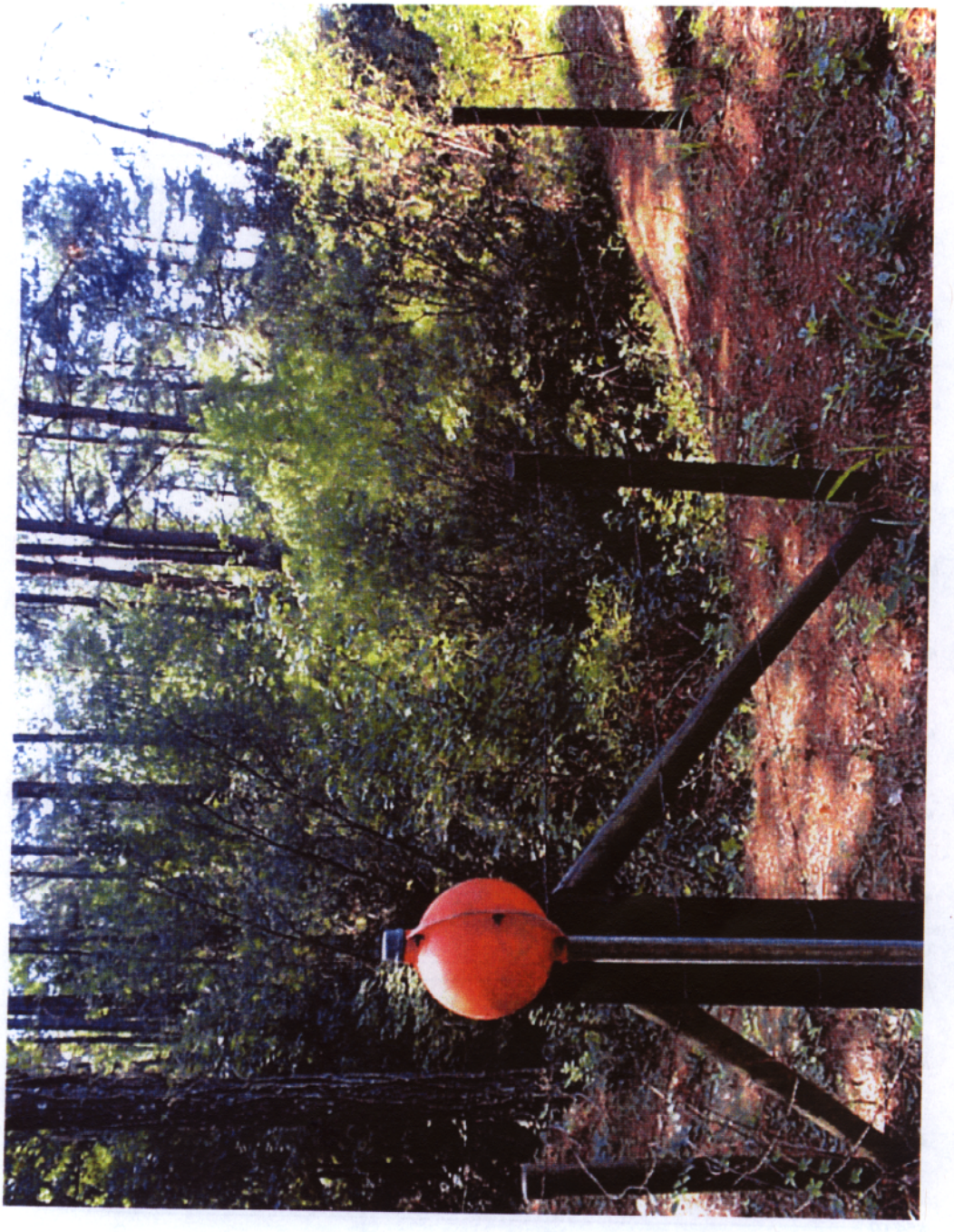

Figure 4. Close-up Photograph of RAACB Looking West-Northwest

Photograph taken in Fall 1998.

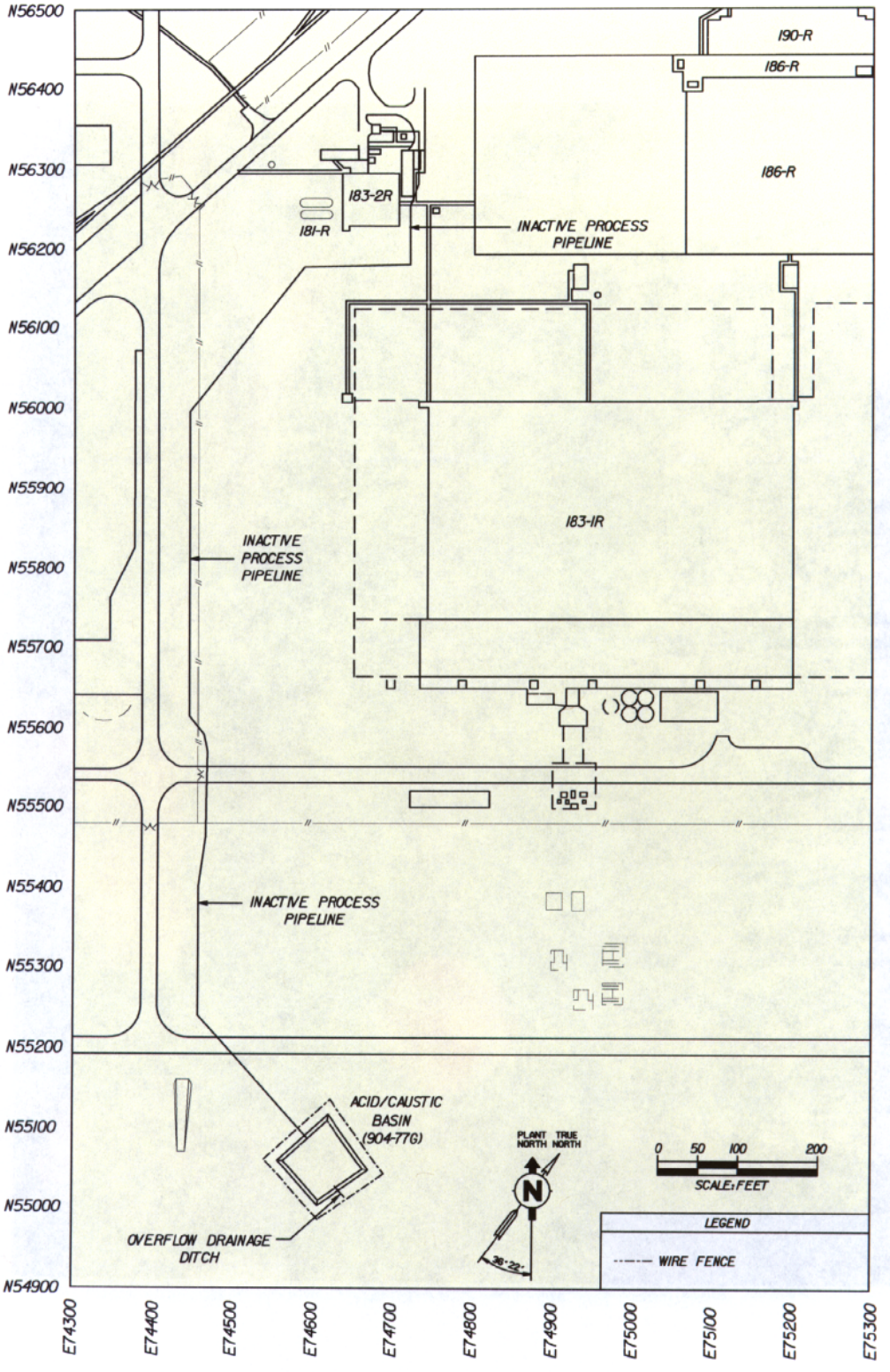

Figure 5. Map Showing the Inactive Process Pipeline, RAACB, and Overflow Drainage Ditch

Control Act (TSCA) screening values or guidelines.

Inactive Process Pipeline

The inactive process pipeline was constructed in 1952, at approximately the same time the RAACB was built. The influent pipeline was comprised of 457 m (1,500 ft) of gravity-flow process line that connected the water purification facilities in R Area to the RAACB. The process pipeline is buried; the depth to the bottom of the line ranges from 1.3 m (4.3 ft) to 4.1 m (13.5 ft) below ground surface (bgs).

In 1999, soil samples were collected adjacent to manholes along the abandoned process pipeline. The analyses included inorganics, organics, radionuclides, and pH. No analytes were detected at concentrations exceeding RCRA/CERCLA or TSCA screening values or guidelines.

Overflow Drainage Ditch

An overflow weir on the rim of the basin was used to control the height of the water in the basin (a water depth of about 0.76 m [2.5 ft]). Water flowing through the weir was conveyed through the overflow drainage ditch, which is about 5.5 m (18 ft) long and 1.7 m (5.7 ft) below surrounding grade. The water subsequently flowed as runoff through surface drainage to Pond 4, located about 1.2 km (0.75 mi) southeast of the RAACB OU (Figure 2).

In 1999, sampling was conducted along the overflow drainage ditch. The analytes included inorganics, organics, radionuclides, and pH. No analytes were detected at concentrations exceeding RCRA/CERCLA, TSCA, or applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs) screening values or guidelines.

Groundwater

Four monitor wells were installed at the RAACB OU in 1983 and 1984 (RAC-1, -2, -3, and -4). Well RAC-1 is hydraulically upgradient from the basin, wells RAC-2 and -3 are cross-gradient, and well RAC-4 is downgradient. These wells are completed in an unconfined (water table) aquifer. The total depth of the wells ranges in depth from 11.1 to 12.4 m (36.5 to 40.8 ft) bgs. Figure 6 presents groundwater elevation contours based on water levels measured during June 2001. Figure 7 is a schematic cross section showing the hydrogeologic units and the relative locations of the RAACB OU subunits.

Groundwater analyses included inorganics, organics, radionuclides, and pH. Based on evaluation in the RAACB OU WPA, concentrations of analytes did not exceed Safe Drinking Water Act maximum contaminant levels (MCLs).

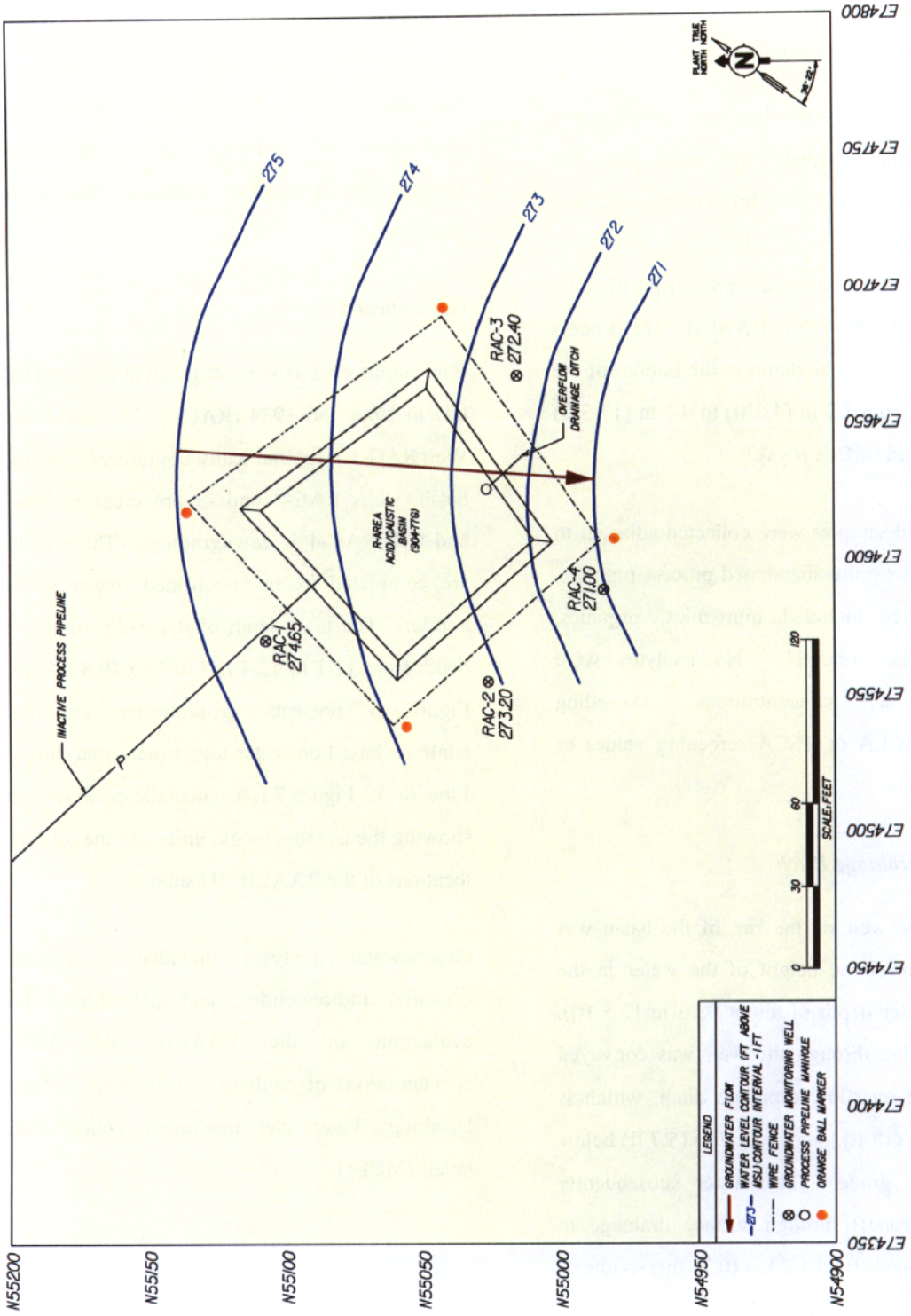

Figure 6. Potentiometric Surface Map of the Water Table Aquifer for the RAACB OU (June 2001)

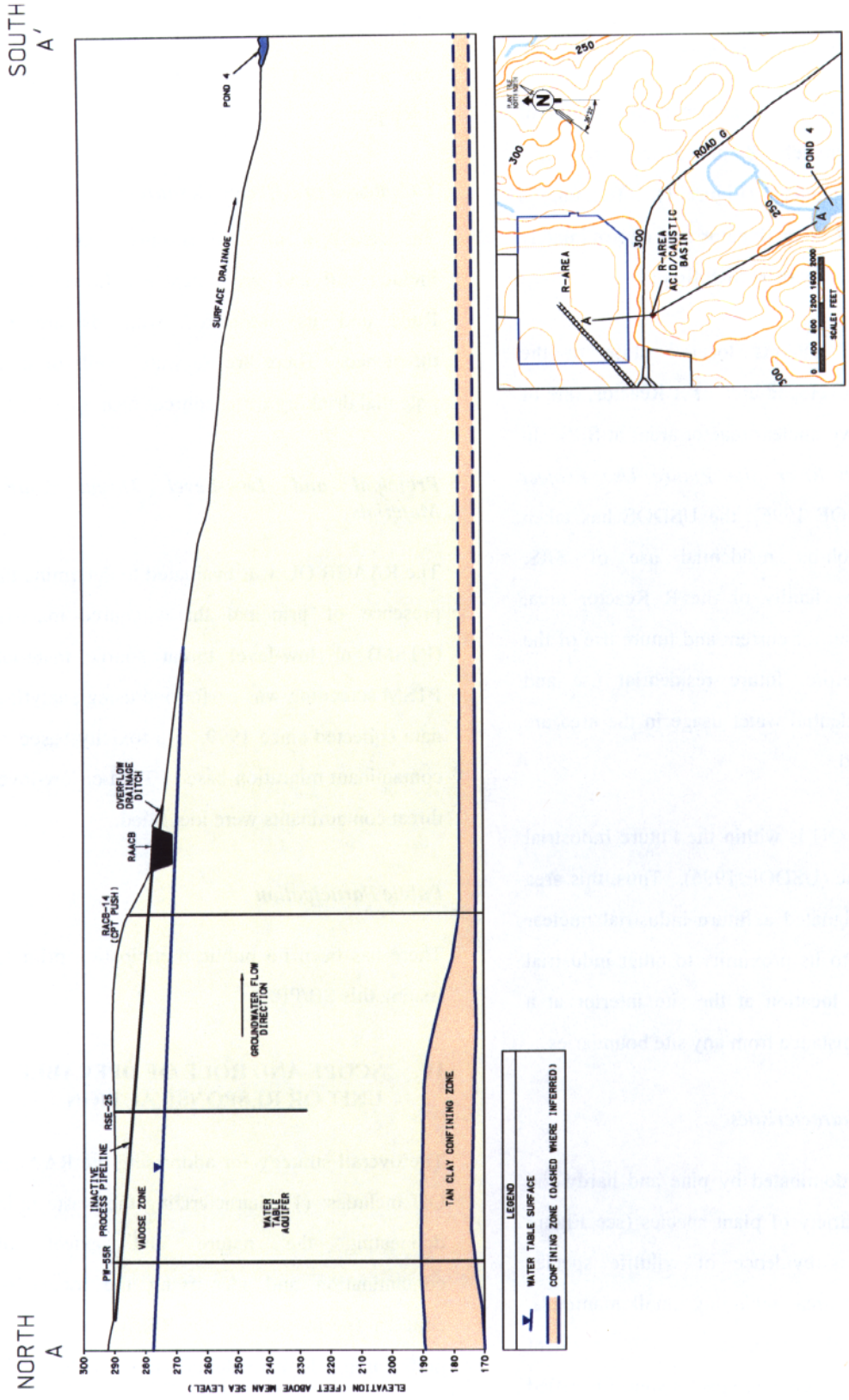

Figure 7. Schematic Cross Section of the RAACB OU

Operable Unit Characteristics

Geographical Characteristics and Land Use

The RAACB OU is located near the center of SRS, approximately 8 km (5 mi) from the nearest site boundary (Figure 1). The unit is south of the R-Area Reactor and approximately 30.5 m (100 ft) south of SRS Road G.

The RAACB OU is located close to the industrially developed area of R Reactor, one of several inactive nuclear reactor areas at SRS. In the *Savannah River Site Future Use Project Report* (USDOE 1996), the USDOE has taken steps to prohibit residential use of SRS, including the vicinity of the R Reactor area, through its plan for current and future use of the SRS. Therefore, future residential use and potential residential water usage in the area are not anticipated.

The RAACB OU is within the Future Industrial (Nuclear) zone (USDOE 1996). Thus, this area has been designated a future industrial nuclear use area due to its proximity to other industrial areas and its location at the site interior at a considerable distance from any site boundaries.

Ecological Characteristics

The basin is dominated by pine and hardwood trees and a variety of plant species (see Figure 4). There is evidence of wildlife species inhabiting the area, including small mammals, songbirds, and amphibians. No resident threatened or endangered species were identified during the ecological field survey. No wetland conditions are present in the RAACB or within the first 46 m (150 ft) of the overflow drainage ditch path.

Threatened or Affected Resources

Threatened or affected resources at the OU include soil and groundwater. Lower Three Runs and its associated wetlands are not threatened. There are no water wells or other potential drinking water sources near the OU.

Principal and Low-Level Threat Source Materials

The RAACB OU was evaluated to determine the presence of principal threat source material (PTSM) or low-level threat source material. PTSM screening was performed using analytical data collected since 1999. No toxicity-based or contaminant migration-based PTSM or low-level threat contaminants were identified.

Public Participation

There has been no public participation prior to issuing this SB/PP.

IV. SCOPE AND ROLE OF OPERABLE UNIT OR RESPONSE ACTION

The overall strategy for addressing the RAACB OU includes: (1) characterizing the waste unit, delineating the nature and extent of contamination and identifying the media of concern (performed in the RFI/RI WPA); (2) performing a Risk Evaluation to evaluate media of concern, constituents of concern (COCs),

exposure pathways, and risks (performed in the RFI/RI WPA); and (3) identifying and performing a final action to remediate media of concern, if required.

The RFI/RI WPA with Risk Evaluation report determined that there is no contamination warranting remedial action in the RAACB OU. Additionally, no PTSM or low-level threat contaminants are present at the OU. Therefore, no remedial action is proposed for the RAACB OU.

The response action proposed in this SB/PP for the RAACB OU will not impact the response actions of other OUs at SRS.

The RAACB OU, located within the Lower Three Runs watershed (Figure 1), is not a "source control" unit (i.e., the unit does not contain contaminated soil that may act as a source of future contamination to the groundwater through leaching). All the source control and groundwater OUs located within the watershed will be evaluated to determine impacts, if any, to the associated streams and wetlands. SRS will manage all OUs to mitigate impact to the watershed. Upon disposition of all OUs, a final comprehensive ROD for the watershed will be pursued with additional public involvement.

V. SUMMARY OF RISKS

A Risk Evaluation was performed to identify any risks posed by the OU to human health and the environment using data collected since 1999. The evaluation included quantitative calculations of human health risks, ecological risks, and the threat posed by future leaching to groundwater. The results of this evaluation indicated the RAACB OU poses no unacceptable current or future risk or hazard for humans or the environment and that leaching to groundwater is not a concern. The results of the Risk Evaluation are summarized as follows:

- The risk evaluation did not identify any COCs for human health risks to current or future industrial workers, or health risks under a potential future residential land use scenario.
- The results of the ecological risk evaluation indicated that there are no COCs or risk to ecological receptors.
- The fate and transport analysis did not identify any COCs related to contaminant migration.
- No groundwater samples collected from any of the wells at the RAACB OU exceeded MCLs during 1999 and 2000.

Conclusions

Based on the results of the RFI/RI Work Plan Addendum with Risk Evaluation for the RAACB OU, no refined human health COCs or final ecological constituents of potential concern have been retained for soils at the basin, inactive process pipeline, or overflow drainage ditch. Additionally, no ARAR COCs, PTSM COCs, or

contaminant migration COCs have been retained, and no groundwater contaminants exceeded their MCLs based on evaluation in the RAACB OU WPA. Thus, the risk evaluations and contaminant fate and transport analysis conclude that no PTSM exists at the RAACB OU. As such, the RAACB OU poses no current or future risk or hazard for humans or wildlife.

VI. REMEDIATION OBJECTIVES

The preferred remedial alternative is "No Action." Therefore, no remedial action objectives have been identified.

VII. SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES

According to USEPA guidance, if there is no current or potential threat to human health and the environment and no action is warranted, the CERCLA 121 requirements are not applicable. Therefore, there is no need to evaluate other cleanup alternatives or to evaluate the No Action alternative against the nine CERCLA remedy selection criteria. Only a No Action alternative is being considered.

VIII. EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES

No evaluation of remedial alternatives was performed. The No Action alternative will be the final action for the RAACB OU. This alternative will provide protection to human health and the environment at the RAACB OU.

IX. PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The regulatory agencies concur with the conclusion that a No Action remedy is the preferred alternative for the RAACB OU. No remedial action will be conducted at the RAACB OU. No OU-specific institutional controls will be implemented. The No Action alternative will be the final action for the RAACB OU.

This SB/PP provides for community involvement through a document review process and a public comment period. The preferred remedy can change in response to public comments or new information. Public input will be documented in the Responsiveness Summary section of the ROD.

X. POST-ROD SCHEDULE

No remedial action will be performed at the RAACB OU. Therefore, a schedule for post-ROD cleanup activities is not required.

Figure 8 is an implementation schedule for the RAACB OU showing the anticipated ROD date and post-ROD document submittals. The ROD will be drafted after receipt of, and response to, public and regulatory comments on this SB/PP. The Revision 0 ROD is scheduled for submittal to USEPA and SCDHEC for review in April 2002. The final ROD that responds to regulatory agency comments is scheduled for approval and issuance in July 2002.

XI. REFERENCES

USDOE, 1994. *Public Involvement, A Plan for Savannah River Site.* United States Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office, Aiken, SC.

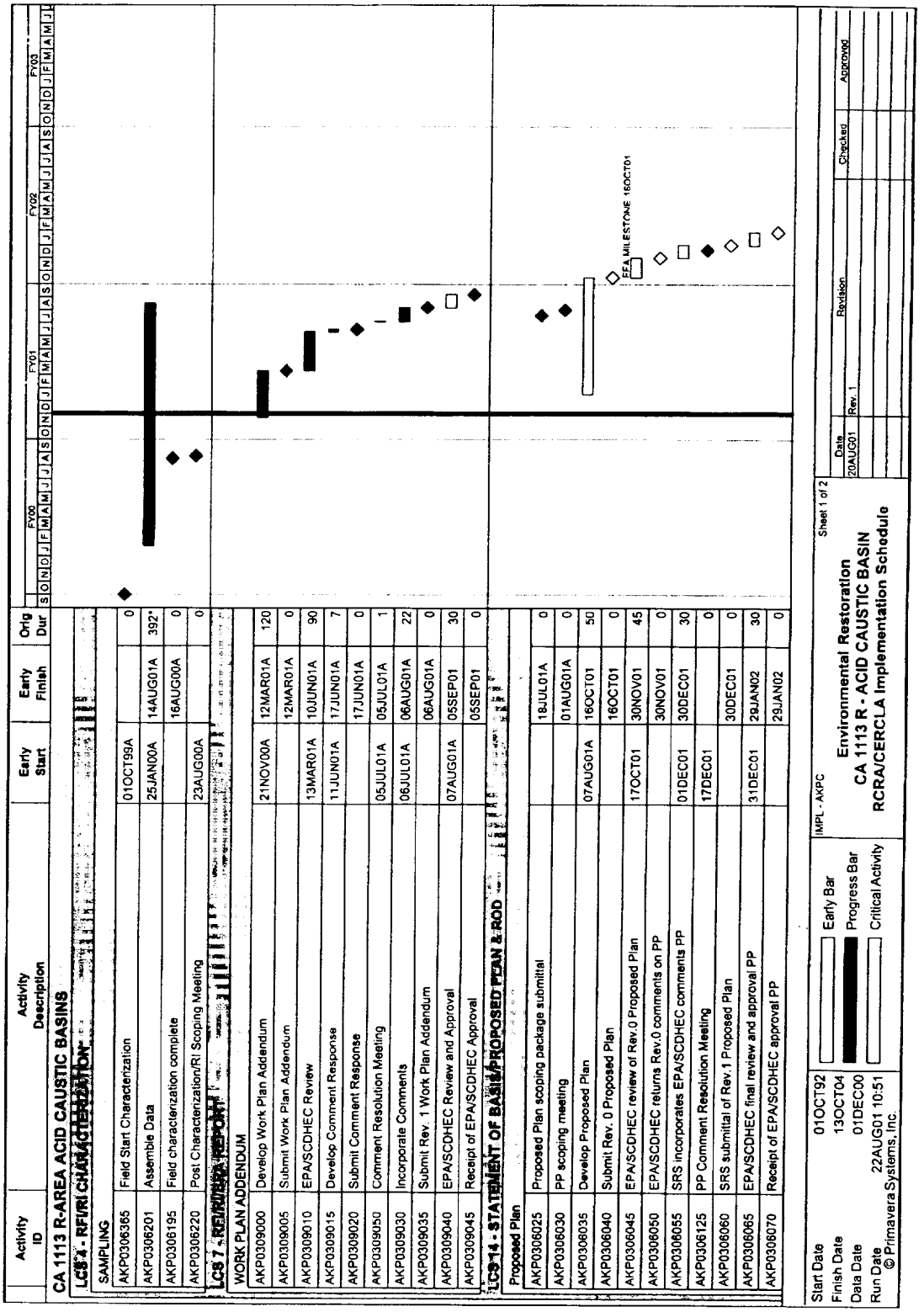

Figure 8. Implementation Schedule for the RAACB OU

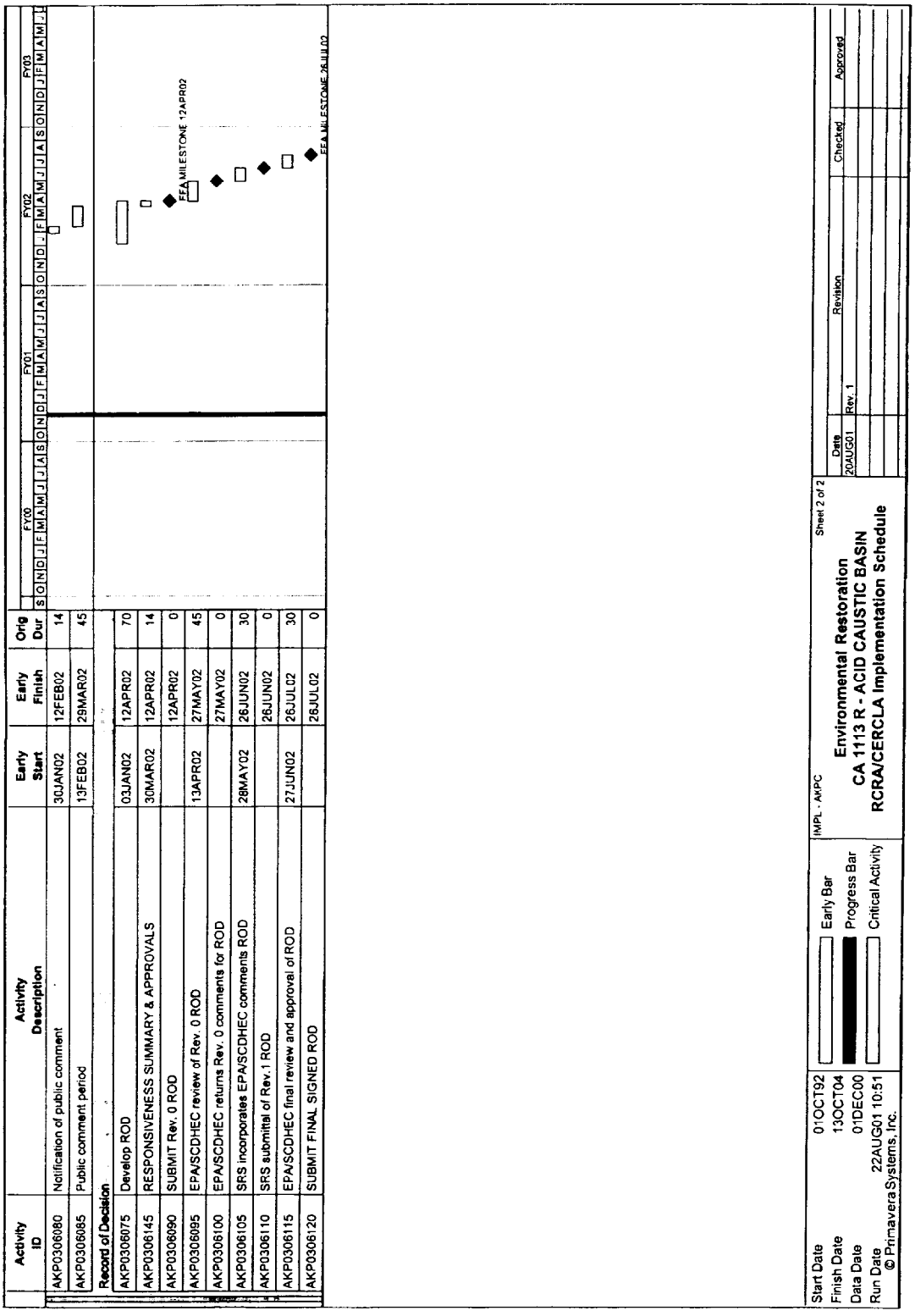

Figure 8. Implementation Schedule for the RAACB OU (continued)

USDOE, 1996. *Savannah River Site: Future Use Project Report*, Stakeholder Recommendations for SRS Land and Facilities, January 1996. Cover letter: Fiori, Mario P., "SRS Future Use Project Report." United States Department of Energy Letter EB-96-015, Savannah River Site, Aiken, SC 29808 (January 29).

WSRC, 1993. *Federal Facility Agreement for the Savannah River Site*, Administrative Docket No. 89-05-FF, WSRC-OS-94-42, Westinghouse Savannah River Company, Savannah River Site, Aiken, SC, Effective Date: August 16, 1993.

WSRC, 1999. *RFI/RI Work Plan for the R-Area Acid/Caustic Basin (904-77G) (U)*, WSRC-RP-98-4157, Revision 1.1, Westinghouse Savannah River Company, Savannah River Site, Aiken, SC (September).

WSRC, 2001. *RFI/RI Work Plan Addendum with Risk Evaluation for the R-Area Acid/Caustic Basin OU (U)*, WSRC-RP-2001-4024, Revision 1, Westinghouse Savannah River Company, Savannah River Site, Aiken, SC (August).

XII. GLOSSARY

Administrative Record File: A file that is maintained and contains all information used to make a decision on the selection of a response action under CERCLA. This file is to be available for public review, and a copy is to be established at or near the Site, usually at one of the information repositories. Also a duplicate file is held in a central location, such as a regional or state office.

ARARs: Applicable, or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements. Refers to the federal and state requirements that a selected remedy will attain. These requirements may vary from site to site.

Risk Evaluation: Analysis of the potential adverse health effects (current or future) caused by hazardous substance release from a site in the absence of any actions to control or mitigate these releases.

Characterization: The compilation of all available data about the waste units to determine the rate and extent of contaminant migration resulting from the waste site, and the concentration of any contaminants that may be present.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), 1980: A federal law passed in 1980 and modified in 1986 by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act. The Acts created a special tax that goes into a Trust Fund, commonly known as Superfund, to investigate and clean up abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites.

Corrective Action: A USEPA requirement to conduct remedial procedures under RCRA 3998(h) at a facility when there has been a release of hazardous waste or constituents into

the environment. Corrective action may be required beyond the facility boundary and can be required regardless of when the waste was placed at the facility.

Exposure: Contact of an organism with a chemical or physical agent. Exposure is quantified as the amount of the agent available at the exchange boundaries of the organism (e.g., skin, lungs, digestive tract, etc.) and available for absorption.

Federal Facility Agreement (FFA): The legally binding agreement between regulatory agencies (USEPA and SCDHEC) and regulated entities (USDOE) that sets the standards and schedules for the comprehensive remediation of the SRS.

Media: A pathway through which contaminants are transferred. Five media by which contaminants may be transferred are groundwater, soil, surface water, sediments, and air.

National Priorities List: USEPA's formal list of the nation's most serious uncontrolled or abandoned waste sites, identified for possible long-term remedial response, as established by CERCLA.

Operable Unit (OU): A discrete action taken as one part of an overall site cleanup. The term is also used in USEPA guidance documents to refer to distinct geographic areas or media-specific units within a site. A number of operable units can be used in the course of a cleanup.

Proposed Plan: A legal document that provides a brief analysis of remedial alternatives under consideration for the site/operable unit and proposes the preferred alternative. It actively solicits public review and comment on all alternatives under consideration.

Record of Decision (ROD): A legal document that explains to the public which alternative will be used at a site/operable unit. The record of decision is based on information and technical analysis generated during the remedial investigation/ feasibility study and consideration of public comments and community concerns.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), 1976: A Federal law that established a regulatory system to track hazardous substances from their generation to disposal. The law requires safe and secure procedures to be used in treating, transporting, storing, and disposing of hazardous substances. RCRA is designed to prevent the creation of new, uncontrolled hazardous waste sites.

Responsiveness Summary: A summary of oral and/or written comments received during the proposed plan comment period and includes responses to those comments. The responsiveness summary is a key part of the ROD, highlighting community concerns.

Statement of Basis: A report describing the corrective measures/remedial actions being conducted pursuant to South Carolina Hazardous Waste Management Regulations, as amended.

Superfund: The common name used for CERCLA; also referred to as the Trust Fund. The Superfund program was established to help fund cleanup of hazardous waste sites. It also allows for legal action to force those responsible for the sites to clean them up.

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