

DOE to take no action, it would not be in a position to comply with some regulatory requirements and compliance agreements.

#### Environmentally Preferable Alternative

In DOE's judgment the extensive treatment alternative is environmentally preferable because it would minimize potential long-term environmental impacts as a result of achieving more stable, migration-resistant waste forms. DOE recognizes, however, that this treatment alternative would result in greater short-term impacts to workers.

#### Decision

##### *Determination*

DOE announces its intention to configure its waste management system according to the moderate treatment alternative. Pursuant to 10 CFR 1021.315, DOE may revise this ROD at any time, so long as the revised decision is adequately supported by existing reviews prepared in accordance with NEPA. Upon issuance of a ROD for the DOE Waste Management Programmatic EIS (DOE/EIS-0200, draft issued for public review September 22, 1995), this ROD will be reviewed to evaluate whether there is consistency with decisions reached on broader programmatic issues or whether a revised ROD or supplemental EIS for SRS waste management is needed to maintain consistency. Accordingly, DOE has decided to initiate the following actions and activities included in the moderate treatment configuration alternative.

- \* Continue activities to manage waste at SRS, including construction of additional storage capacity for mixed transuranic, and low-level radioactive alpha wastes.

#### High-Level Waste

- \* Continue to store liquid high-level waste in storage tanks.

- \* Operate the newly constructed New Waste Transfer Facility, continue to construct and operate the Replacement High-Level Waste Evaporator, and operate waste removal equipment. These facilities will transfer waste from the high-level waste storage tanks to the Defense Waste Processing Facility for treatment (vitrification) when the facility becomes operational.

#### Hazardous Waste

- \* Continue to treat and dispose of hazardous waste offsite until the CIF is operational, then treat wastes, including filters, paint waste, organic and aqueous liquids, organics and inorganic sludges,

and up to 50% of organic and inorganic heterogeneous debris, in the CIF.

- \* Continue offsite treatment and disposal for wastes such as polychlorinated biphenyls, organic debris, inorganic debris, heterogeneous debris, metal debris, bulk equipment, glass debris, soils, and lead.

- \* Continue to treat some aqueous liquids in the M-Area air stripper.

- \* Continue to recycle some hazardous wastes, including solvents, fluorocarbons, lead, silver (from spent photographic fixatives), and sell excess chemicals and lead/acid batteries.

#### Low-Level Radioactive Waste

- \* Operate the CIF for volume reduction of some low-activity job-control waste and some tritiated job-control waste.

- \* Treat some low-activity job-control wastes and some low-activity equipment offsite (about 40% of the low-level radioactive waste in the expected waste forecast). About 60% of the waste sent offsite would be supercompacted, and the remainder reduced in size by sorting, shredding, or melting, and repackaged. The treated waste would be returned to SRS for further treatment in the CIF or for disposal in the low-activity waste vaults or in shallow land disposal trenches. About 10% of the waste treated offsite would be incinerated when CIF is not operating, and the treatment residuals would be returned to SRS. (Paragraph 2.6.3.1, Low-Level Waste—Expected Waste Forecast, of the WMEIS)

- \* Send uncompacted low-level waste (currently stored in the low-activity waste vaults) to an offsite incinerator until CIF is operable.

- \* Dispose of stabilized ash and blowdown from incineration in the low activity waste disposal vaults or shallow land disposal trenches.

- \* Operate a mobile low-level waste soil sort facility for treatment of low-activity soils and suspect soils. (Paragraph 2.6.1.1, Pollution Prevention/Waste Minimization—Expected Waste Forecast, of the WMEIS)

- \* Decontaminate and recycle some low-activity equipment waste (metal) in an offsite smelter. Treatment residuals would be returned to SRS for shallow land disposal. (Paragraph 2.2.1.4, Waste Minimization Practices and Initiatives, and 2.6.1.1, Pollution Prevention/Waste Minimization—Expected Waste Forecast, of the WMEIS)

- \* Continue vault disposal of offsite job-control waste, tritiated soils, some tritiated job-control waste, tritiated equipment, and intermediate-activity job-control waste.

- \* Continue disposal of naval hardware in shallow land disposal trenches.

#### Mixed Wastes

- \* Treat small quantities of mixed polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) wastes offsite. Return treatment residuals to SRS for disposal.

- \* Operate the CIF for mixed heterogeneous debris, inorganic debris, organic debris, DWPF benzene, organic liquid, radioactive oil, PUREX solvent, paint waste, and aqueous liquids.

- \* Store tritiated oil to allow time for radioactive decay.

- \* Recycle mixed waste, including radioactively contaminated lead and cadmium-coated HEPA filter frames, in an offsite facility. Return treatment residuals to SRS for shallow land disposal.

#### Transuranic and Alpha Low-Level Radioactive Waste

- \* Return Rocky Flats Incinerator ash to the Rocky Flats Site for consolidation and treatment with similar wastes at that facility.

- \* Dispose of alpha low-level waste in low-activity waste vaults.

#### *Reasons for Determination*

DOE selected the moderate treatment configuration for SRS because the Department believes that alternative will provide more than adequate protection of human health and the environment, and will be consistent with expected budgetary limitations. Specifically, DOE bases its choice of the moderate treatment configuration alternative for SRS on factors listed below, including potential environmental impacts and regulatory commitments.

- \* In the moderate treatment configuration alternative, the CIF would treat hazardous, mixed, and low-level waste for its entire project life (approximately 30 years), which is the most cost-effective use of the facility. CIF also provides the "regulatory specified treatment" for certain waste streams and is the Best Demonstrated Available Technology (BDAT) for other waste streams. In contrast, under the limited treatment configuration alternative, the CIF would treat hazardous and mixed waste only, which would not be cost-effective. Similarly, under the extensive treatment configuration alternative, operation of the CIF would be discontinued after approximately 10 years when the non-alpha vitrification facility became operational. The potential environmental impacts from operating the CIF under the moderate treatment configuration alternative would be very small.