

a unique PR/Award number for your application.

• *Application Deadline Date Extension in Case of Technical Issues with the Grants.gov System:* If you experience problems with *Grants.gov* while submitting your application, please contact the *Grants.gov* Support Desk immediately, toll-free, at 1-800-518-4726. The *Grants.gov* Support Center will provide you with a Support Desk Case Number documenting your communication. You must retain your Support Desk Case Number for future reference as proof of your communication with the Support Center. Please subsequently contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section in the competition NIA and provide an explanation of the technical problem you experienced with *Grants.gov*, along with the *Grants.gov* Support Desk Case Number.

If you are prevented from electronically submitting your application on the application deadline date because of technical problems within the *Grants.gov* system, the Department will grant you an extension until 11:59:59 p.m., Eastern Time, the following business day to enable you to transmit your application electronically, provided the Department can verify the technical issues that affected your ability to submit your application on time via your *Grants.gov* Support Desk Case Number.

Note: The extensions to which the Department refers in this section apply only to technical problems with the *Grants.gov* system. The Department will not grant you an extension if you failed to fully register in order to submit your application to *Grants.gov* (including with the required UEI number and TIN currently registered in SAM) before the application deadline date and time or if the technical problem you experienced is unrelated to the *Grants.gov* system.

b. Submission of Paper Applications.

The Department discourages paper applications, but if electronic submission is not possible (e.g., you do not have access to the internet), (1) you must provide a prior written notification that you intend to submit a paper application and (2) your paper application must be postmarked by the application deadline date.

The prior written notification may be submitted by email or by mail to the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of the competition NIA. If you submit your notification by email, it must be received by the Department no later than 14 calendar days before the application deadline date. If you mail

your notification to the Department, it must be postmarked no later than 14 calendar days before the application deadline date.

If you submit a paper application, you must have, and include on your application, a UEI number and mail the original and two copies of your application, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address:

U.S. Department of Education, OFO/G5 Functional Application Team, Mail Stop 2C124, Attention: (Assistance Listing Number + Suffix Letter), 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202

You must show proof of mailing consisting of one of the following:

- (1) A legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark.
- (2) A legible mail receipt with the date of mailing stamped by the U.S. Postal Service.
- (3) A dated shipping label, invoice, or receipt from a commercial carrier.
- (4) Any other proof of mailing acceptable to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

If you mail your application through the U.S. Postal Service, the Department does not accept either of the following as proof of mailing:

- (1) A private metered postmark.
- (2) A mail receipt that is not dated by the U.S. Postal Service.

Note: The U.S. Postal Service does not uniformly provide a dated postmark. Before relying on this method, you should check with your local post office.

The Department will not consider applications postmarked after the application deadline date.

Note for Mail Delivery of Paper Applications:

If you mail your application to the Department—

- (1) You must indicate on the envelope and in Item 11 of the SF 424 the ALN, including suffix letter, if any, of the competition under which you are submitting your application; and
- (2) The G5 Functional Application Team will notify you of the Department's receipt of your grant application. If you do not receive this notification within 15 business days from the application deadline date, you should contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of the competition NIA.

Accommodations; Accessible Format: Individuals with disabilities who need an accommodation or auxiliary aid in connection with the application process should contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section in the competition NIA. If the

Department provides an accommodation or auxiliary aid to an individual with a disability in connection with the application process, the individual's application remains subject to all other requirements and limitations in the competition NIA.

On request to the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, individuals with disabilities can obtain this document and a copy of the application package in an accessible format. The Department will provide the requestor with an accessible format that may include Rich Text Format (RTF) or text format (txt), a thumb drive, an MP3 file, braille, large print, audiotape, compact disc, or other accessible format.

Electronic Access to This Document: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. You may access the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations at www.govinfo.gov. At this site you can view this document, as well as all other Department documents published in the **Federal Register**, in text or PDF. To use PDF, you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site.

You may also access Department documents published in the **Federal Register** by using the article search feature at www.federalregister.gov. Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.

Roberto Rodriguez,

Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Record of Decision for DOE/EIS-0082-S-SA-01 Supplement Analysis for Defense Waste Processing Facility Failed Melter Aboveground Storage

AGENCY: Office of Environmental Management, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Record of decision (ROD).

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces its decision to construct an interim aboveground storage facility for storage of two Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) failed melters (Melter Nos. 1 and 2) in lieu of underground storage units. Moving Melter Nos. 1 and 2 from the Failed Equipment Storage Vaults (FESVs) to aboveground storage will allow space for storage of two melters

with a higher radiological nature to be stored in the FESVs. The potential environmental impacts of this decision were analyzed in DOE/EIS-0082-S-SA-01, "Supplement Analysis for Defense Waste Processing Facility Failed Melter Aboveground Storage" (the SA). The SA found that the proposed change and information discussed in this SA are not significant and therefore do not require a supplement to the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Final SEIS) Defense Waste Processing Facility (DOE/EIS-0082-S).

ADDRESSES: This ROD and related information are available at the University of South Carolina—Aiken, Public Reading Room. The documents are posted on the DOE NEPA website at www.energy.gov/nepa.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tracy Williams, NEPA Document Manager/NEPA Compliance Officer, U.S. Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office, ATTN: Tracy Williams, P.O. Box A, Building 730-B, Aiken, SC 29802-0151, Tracy.Williams@srs.gov, (803) 952-8278.

For general information on the DOE Office of Environmental Management NEPA process, contact: Bill Ostrum, EM NEPA Compliance Officer, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585; or email: william.ostrum@hq.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On June 1, 1982, DOE decided that failed equipment that could not be repaired was to be decontaminated, packaged, and transferred to the SRS burial facilities. However, DOE was concerned that melters, and possibly other equipment, potentially could not be decontaminated to levels that would allow them to be handled or even repaired without resulting in unacceptable radiation doses to workers. Therefore, DOE constructed two underground vaults in S-Area near the DWPF to provide safe interim storage of this equipment until a permanent disposal facility can be identified. Failed equipment is first placed into containers (e.g., Melter Storage Box) before being put into interim storage facilities.

Currently, two DWPF failed melters (Melter Nos. 1 and 2) are stored underground in two operational FESVs. For analysis, DOE assumed that a total of approximately 14 vaults would be required for underground storage of failed melters and other large equipment

due to their highly radiological nature. The life expectancy of the DWPF melters has been extended based on current performance. The current "Liquid Waste System Plan", SRMC-LWP-2023-0001, Revision 23-P, March 2023 assumes one melter changeout, which would be Melter No. 3 replaced by Melter No. 4. As such, storage for up to four melters is projected to be required for the life of DWPF, not fourteen. Storage for fourteen melters is no longer required. Construction of the aboveground storage facility should provide the required additional failed melter storage space for the life expectancy of DWPF. Actual radiation dose calculations for Melter Nos. 1 and 2 have been determined to be far lower than what was analyzed in the Final SEIS. Consequently, the low radiological nature of Melter Nos. 1 and 2 allow for properly constructed aboveground storage. Moving Melter Nos. 1 and 2 from the FESVs to aboveground storage will allow space for storage of two melters with a higher radiological nature to be stored in the FESVs.

The same design criteria outlined in the existing analysis has been applied to the design of the aboveground storage facility, and the size of the aboveground facilities will be like that of the underground facilities.

In accordance with DOE's NEPA implementing regulations, and consistent with the NEPA Recommendations for the Supplement Analysis Process, 2nd Edition, DOE prepared the DOE/EIS-0082-S-SA-01, "Supplement Analysis for Defense Waste Processing Facility Failed Melter Aboveground Storage", July 2024, to evaluate whether the aboveground storage of failed melters require supplementing the existing EIS or preparing a new EIS.

In the SA, DOE evaluated the impacts of this proposed change and new information since publication of the Final SEIS. This included potential change to impacts to geologic resources, groundwater, surface water, air resources, cultural resources, aesthetics and scenic resources, traffic and transportation, radiological health effects from normal operations, nonradiological health effects from normal operations, worker radiological and nonradiological health, accidents, chemical hazards, waste generation, decontamination and decommissioning, unavoidable adverse impacts, DWPF Organic Waste Treatment options, greenhouse gasses, noise, land use, biological resources, floodplains and wetlands, socioeconomic resources and

existing facilities, and cumulative impacts. In all cases, DOE identified no or negligible differences in potential impacts. DOE concluded that the proposed change and information discussed in the SA are not significant and therefore do not require a supplement to Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Defense Waste Processing Facility (DOE/EIS-0082-S). No further NEPA documentation is required.

Decision

The DOE announces its decision to construct an interim aboveground storage facility for storage of two DWPF failed melters (Melter Nos. 1 and 2) in lieu of underground storage units, as described in the SA. In the SA, DOE concluded that the proposed change and information discussed in the SA are not significant and therefore do not require a supplement to Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Defense Waste Processing Facility (DOE/EIS-0082-S). No further NEPA documentation is required.

Mitigation

Because the proposed activity circumstances are similar in nature to the existing potential impacts based on this analysis, DOE determined, consistent with the FEIS, that no additional mitigation measures are anticipated.

Signing Authority

This document of the Department of Energy was signed on December 2, 2024, by Candice Trummell, Senior Advisor for Environmental Management, pursuant to delegated authority from the Secretary of Energy. That document with the original signature and date is maintained by DOE. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, the undersigned DOE Federal Register Liaison Officer has been authorized to sign and submit the document in electronic format for publication, as an official document of the Department of Energy. This administrative process in no way alters the legal effect of this document upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

Signed in Washington, DC, on December 18, 2024.

Jennifer Hartzell,

*Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer,
U.S. Department of Energy.*

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