

Today I signed the *Record of Decision (ROD) for Disposition of Surplus Non-Pit Plutonium for the Final Surplus Plutonium Disposition (SPD) Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Supplemental EIS)*.

The ROD outlines the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/NNSA) path forward to prepare and process six metric tons (MT) of surplus non-pit plutonium at Savannah River Site (SRS) for disposal at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, New Mexico.

SRS and the State of South Carolina are vital to meeting national security and nonproliferation objectives. The uniquely qualified, highly trained workforce at SRS are among the foremost experts in the safe and secure disposal of nuclear material. Implementing this mission will require the installation of new equipment at the site and the hiring and training of additional technical personnel. After the material is diluted, the plutonium will be disposed of at WIPP, using a proven process that has been used in emplacing the nearly 5 metric tons of surplus plutonium currently at WIPP.

The SRS community performs an invaluable service that would not be possible anywhere else in the world.

The Department remains committed to preparing and removing plutonium from the State of South Carolina. The signing of this ROD represents the formal adoption of the path forward for final removal and disposition of 6 MT of plutonium from SRS.

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Under Secretary for Nuclear Security
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