



Savannah River Site Watch

**More nuclear waste coming in to the Savannah River Site with no exit strategy:  
Why consider U.S. Navy reactor disposal at SRS given the wet climate and  
permeable soils and that SRS is a clean-up site?**

In the SRS status report for June 2016 of the preparation of environmental documents, SRS affirmed that the site will be considered for the dumping of contaminated naval reactors:

The Department of the Navy is proposing to prepare a new Environmental Impact Statement to consider reasonable alternatives for the disposal of decommissioned, defueled USS Enterprise and NIMITZ class aircraft carrier reactor plants. DOE has been invited by the Navy to participate as a Cooperating Agency as the EIS will consider SRS as a potential destination for the large reactor vessels. The Navy had tentatively scheduled for June 2016 to publish a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register which will include a schedule for public scoping meetings. The Navy had delayed publishing the NOI as well as scheduling any public meetings indefinitely.

In 2012, the Navy – with DOE as a “cooperating agency - conducted an Environmental Assessment and then issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for reactor disposal of the USS Enterprise (but not Nimitz Class). That EA considered the alternative of disposal at the DOE’s Hanford site, with the no-action alternative of leaving the reactors at Bremerton, WA.

**“FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ON THE DISPOSAL OF DECOMMISSIONED, DEFUELED NAVAL REACTOR PLANTS FROM USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65) - AUGUST 2012”**

<http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/EA-1889-FEAandFONSI-2012.pdf>

Oregon’s Department of Energy has an informative 2-page summary of the Navy reactor vessel disposal at Hanford: **“Naval Nuclear Reactor Compartment Shipments on the Columbia River”**

[https://www.oregon.gov/energy/NUCSAF/docs/ODOE\\_Fact\\_Sheet-Navy.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/energy/NUCSAF/docs/ODOE_Fact_Sheet-Navy.pdf)

It is the initial assessment of SRS Watch that there is no justification for review of disposal of naval reactors at SRS, a site unsuited for this mission given the wet climate and sandy, permeable soils. Additionally, SRS is not a disposal site but rather a clean-up site. Assessing SRS as a disposal site for naval reactors underscores legitimate public concern about expanded use of SRS as a disposal site for nuclear waste and plutonium generated in the US or abroad. As DOE seems to continue to search for nuclear waste to bring to the site, the public and SRS Citizens Advisory Board (SRS CAB) must be vigilant in its oversight of SRS activities.