

1 However, SRS is believed to be the primary source of the radionuclides, with VEGP contributing  
2 up to 10 percent of the tritium detected in the Savannah River (GDNR 2004).

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4 Pursuant to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (also known as the Clean Water Act  
5 [CWA]), VEGP effluent discharges are regulated by a NPDES permit. The current permit,  
6 Number GA0026786, was issued by the GDNR on June 30, 1999. The current permit expiration  
7 date was May 31, 2004, and was extended indefinitely by GDNR on that date. Sample  
8 collection to demonstrate compliance with this NPDES permit is the only requirement of the  
9 non-radiological Annual Environmental Operating Report required by NRC (SNC 2007h).

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11 The quantitative effluent limitations regulated under the VEGP NPDES permit are shown in  
12 Table 2-5. There are eleven separate outfalls regulated under this permit. Of these, Outfall 001  
13 is designated as the Final Plant Discharge into the Savannah River, through the underground  
14 discharge pipe. Most of the other Outfalls (002 through 011) consist of discharges of various  
15 water systems into Outfall 001. The only exceptions are:

- 16  
17 • Outfalls 002A and 003A, which are emergency overflows to storm drains;  
18 • Outfall 006, which is the emergency overflow from the Sewage Treatment Plant to the  
19 Savannah River; and  
20 • Outfall 011, which is the backwash from the Intake Screens directly into the Savannah River  
21 at the intake screen location (SNC 2007a).

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23 The effluent limitations for each outfall are provided in Table 2-5.

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25 The NPDES permit does not regulate the discharge of radionuclides from the facility, and does  
26 not require routine monitoring of the temperature of the discharge to the Savannah River (SNC  
27 2007a).

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29 A review of the quarterly NPDES Discharge Monitoring Reports since 2002 identified a total of  
30 six exceedances, or possible exceedances, of permit standards (SNC 2007i). These included  
31 two sample results that exceeded permit standards for oil and grease (O&G), two that exceeded  
32 standards for Total Suspended Solids (TSS), one that may have exceeded a standard for Total  
33 Residual Chlorine, and one event in which influent flow exceeded the capacity of the Waste  
34 Water Retention Basins, resulting in a discharge of water that bypassed the required outfall  
35 (SNC 2007i). In all cases, these exceedances were relatively minor, did not result in impacts to  
36 the Savannah River, and did not result in enforcement action. Also, each event was  
37 immediately reported to GDNR, investigated, and corrective actions taken (SNC 2007i).