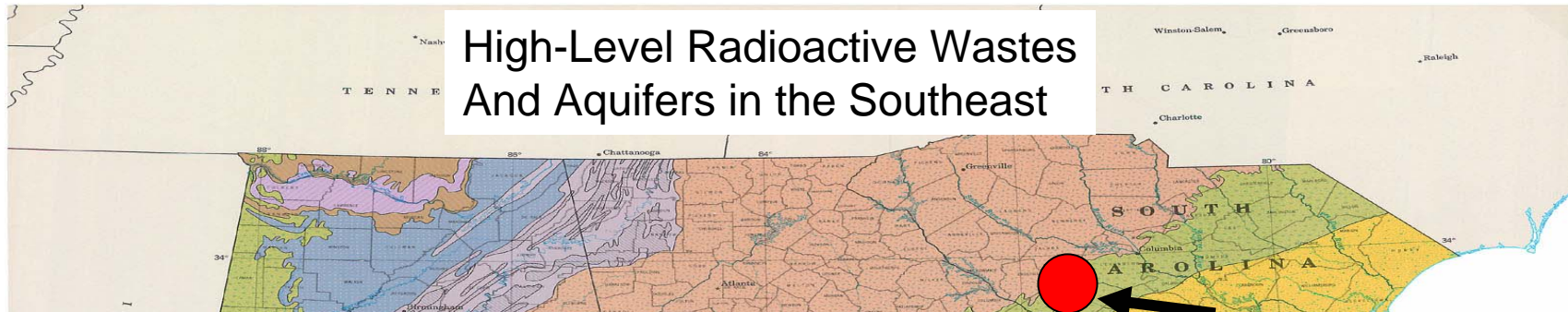


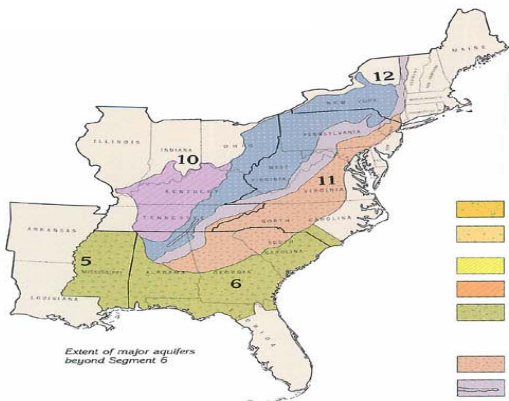
High-Level Radioactive Wastes And Aquifers in the Southeast



Savannah River Site

The Department of Energy's Savannah River Site stores about 70 percent of the total radioactivity of all the nation's defense high-level radioactive wastes.

According to the National Academy of Sciences, high-level radioactive wastes remain dangerous, "for centuries...millennia...or essentially forever."



- EXPLANATION**
- Surficial aquifer system
 - Sand and gravel aquifer—Referred to as the Coastal lowlands aquifer system in Segment 5 to the west
 - Biscayne aquifer
 - Floridan aquifer system
 - Southeastern Coastal Plain aquifer system—Referred to as the Northern Atlantic Coastal Plain aquifer system in Segment 11 to the northeast, part of system referred to as the Mississippi embayment aquifer system in Segment 5 to the west
 - Piedmont and Blue Ridge aquifers
 - Valley and Ridge aquifers—Carbonate-rock aquifers are patterned
 - Appalachian Plateaus aquifers
 - Interior Low Plateaus aquifers
 - Confining unit
 - 6** Segment number
- Not differentiated in text, see Segment 10 for detailed discussion

Figure 3. The numerous aquifers in Segment 6 can be grouped into nine major aquifers or aquifer systems. The extent of eight of these major aquifers or aquifer systems at the land surface is mapped here. One aquifer, the intermediate aquifer system, is not exposed at the land surface.