

Alternative II: Removal, On-Premises Waste Storage, and Partial Release to Allow Unrestricted Use. Alternative II is the removal of existing facilities including buried waste so there are minimal remnants of nuclear operations, with the exception of on-premises storage of high-level, low-level, and low-level mixed waste. Hazardous and industrial waste would be disposed of offsite.

Alternative III: In-Place Stabilization and On-Premises Low-Level Waste Disposal. Alternative III is the in-place stabilization of contaminated structures and buried waste. Uncontaminated structures would be removed. Low-level waste would be disposed of onsite. All other waste would be disposed of offsite.

Alternative IV: No Action: Monitoring and Maintenance. Alternative IV is the management of the site in its current configuration. There would be long-term monitoring and maintenance. Only hazardous waste would be disposed of offsite.

Alternative V: Discontinue Operations. Alternative V is the discontinuation of operations; the site would be left in its current configuration. No closure actions would be taken. All waste would be left onsite.

Alternative IV (No Action: Monitoring and Maintenance) is required by NEPA and SEQRA regulations to be considered in order to establish a baseline for comparison with the environmental effects of the "action" alternatives. Alternatives II (On-Premises Storage) and V (Discontinue Operations) were evaluated in the EIS in response to comments received during the scoping process. Although Alternative V is not considered a reasonable alternative by either DOE or NYSERDA, it provides an environmental baseline for evaluating impacts. The long-term performance assessment (an analysis of the effects that contaminated facilities would have on human health and the environment over the long term) of Alternative V gives an understanding of the long-term public hazard and contribution of natural processes, such as surface water flow or erosion, to that hazard. Table S-1 in the EIS summarizes the actions for each alternative, including the disposition of newly generated and stored waste. Neither DOE nor NYSERDA has identified a preferred alternative.

The alternatives include proposed actions that would occur in wetlands. Pursuant to 10 CFR Part 1022, the Draft EIS includes an assessment of the potential impacts to wetlands.

Invitation to Comment

The public is invited to submit written and oral comments on any or all portions of the Draft EIS. Public information sessions on the Draft EIS will be held in the Western New York area in April 1996, including sessions planned specifically to share EIS information with members of the Seneca Nation of Indians. The dates, times and locations of the public information sessions are as follows:

Tuesday, April 23, 1996, 1:00–9:00 p.m., Seneca Nation Reservation, Irving, NY

Wednesday, April 24, 1996, 1:00–9:00 p.m., McKinley Park Inn, McKinley Parkway, Hamburg, NY

Thursday, April 25, 1996, 1:00–9:00 p.m., Seneca Nation Reservation, Salamanca, NY

Friday, April 26, 1996, 1:00–9:00 p.m., Ashford Office Complex, Route 219, Ashford, NY

These sessions will also be announced through public notices in area newspapers, press releases, Internet notifications and through Seneca Nation advertising media. These sessions will be conducted as "poster presentations" with the DOE, NYSERDA, and EIS contractor personnel available to explain and discuss topics and issues related to the Draft EIS.

In addition, DOE and NYSERDA are planning to hold one public hearing, on August 6, 1996, to receive oral and written comments on the Draft EIS. Further information regarding the EIS will be available by calling (800) 633-5280 (toll free), or, for those who receive a copy of the EIS, by contacting the personnel identified in the Summary of the Draft EIS.

Written comments on the Draft EIS will be accepted until September 22, 1996, at the New York address at West Valley (provided above). DOE and NYSERDA will consider these public comments in preparing the Final EIS.

Persons who wish to speak at the public hearing are asked to register in advance by calling the following toll-free number: (800) 633-5280. Requests to speak that have not been submitted before the hearing will be handled in the order in which they are received. DOE's and NYSERDA's responses to comments received during the public hearing or in writing will be included in the Final EIS.

WVDP Public Reading Rooms

The following is a list of public reading rooms where the Draft EIS and supporting technical documents are available:

Central Library, Lafayette Square, Buffalo, NY 14203, Phone: (716) 858-7098
Concord Hulbert Library, 18 Chapel Street, Springville, NY 14141, Phone: (716) 592-7742

Olean Public Library, 134 North 2nd Street, Olean, NY 14760, Phone: (716) 372-0200
West Valley Central School Library, West Valley, NY 14171, Phone: (716) 942-3293
Ashford Office Complex, 9060 Route 219, West Valley, NY 14171 Phone: (716) 942-4555

Issued in Washington, D.C., March 18, 1996.

Stephen Cowan,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management.

[FR Doc. 96-6836 Filed 3-20-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

Notice of Floodplain and Wetland Involvement for the Ventron Site, Essex County, Massachusetts

AGENCY: Former Sites Restoration Division, Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of floodplain and wetland involvement.

SUMMARY: DOE proposes to remediate sediment and soil containing elevated levels of uranium-238 from a floodplain and wetland, a floodplain and wetland buffer zone, and from the Massachusetts coastal zone in Essex County, Massachusetts. In accordance with 10 CFR 1022, DOE has prepared a floodplain and wetlands assessment and will perform this proposed action in a manner so as to avoid or minimize potential harm to or within the affected floodplain and wetland resources.

DATES: Comments are due to the address below no later than April 5, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS PROPOSED ACTION OR TO COMMENT ON THE ACTION, CONTACT: Mr. Jim Kopotic, Ventron Site Manager, Former Sites Restoration Division, U.S. Department of Energy, P.O. Box 2001, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-8541, Phone: (423) 576-9441, FAX: (423) 576-0956.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON GENERAL DOE FLOODPLAIN/WETLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW REQUIREMENTS, CONTACT: Carol Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Oversight, EH-42, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Ventron is a privately-owned site that processed natural uranium oxide, salts, and metal between 1942 and 1948 for the Manhattan Engineer District (MED) and later for the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). No enriched or depleted uranium was used at the site. Prior to and subsequent to MED- and AEC-related activities at the site, other radioactive elements including thorium compounds and hazardous chemicals were processed at the Ventron site in work unrelated to MED, AEC, or DOE contracts. DOE has authority at the site for remediation of media containing elevated levels of natural uranium (uranium-238). DOE is remediating the

Ventron site in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The Ventron site is currently an inactive facility and is being cleaned up by the current owner, Morton International, in a separate but related action.

Risks from exposure to radioactive materials at the Ventron site for future workers and residents at the site exceed DOE's public dose limit (100 mrem/yr), thereby meeting DOE's criteria for conducting removal actions to prevent potential future exposures to nearby humans under the no-action alternative. Although sediment and soil with elevated levels of uranium-238 at the Ventron site pose no immediate threats to human or ecological health, the remediation of the site could proceed to prevent radiation exposure to workers involved in Morton's remedial activities.

The implementation of the remedial action alternatives at the Ventron site would involve activity in a floodplain and a tidal wetland, a floodplain and wetland buffer zone, and the Massachusetts coastal zone. In accordance with DOE regulations for compliance with floodplain and wetlands environmental review requirements (10 CFR 1022), DOE will prepare a floodplain and wetland assessment for this proposed DOE action. DOE will evaluate remedial options affecting two media at the site: harbor sediment and on-site soil and furnace ash. Remedial action for the affected harbor sediment may include: no action, or complete removal of sediment containing uranium levels above DOE guidelines. Remedial action for on-site soil and furnace ash may include: no action or, complete removal of soil and furnace ash containing uranium levels above DOE guidelines. Access to affected sediment and soil may require decontamination and demolition of structures in the floodplain and wetland buffer zone and Massachusetts coastal zone. DOE would temporarily store excavated material onsite before transport offsite to an approved, licensed waste disposal facility. A floodplain and wetlands assessment that incorporates the values of the National Environmental Policy Act will be included in the engineering evaluation and cost analysis being prepared for the proposed project. Upon completion and approval of the assessment DOE will publish a floodplain Statement of Findings in the Federal Register that describes the proposed action and measures DOE would implement to prevent

environmental damage to floodplain resources at the Ventron site.

Issued in Oak Ridge, Tennessee on March 8, 1996.

James L. Elmore,

Alternate NEPA Compliance Officer.

[FR Doc. 96-6838 Filed 3-20-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

Floodplain Statement of Findings For West Tributary Surface Water Monitoring Improvements

AGENCY: Office of Environmental Management, Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Floodplain statement of findings.

SUMMARY: This Floodplain Statement of Findings for the West Tributary Surface Water Monitoring Improvements Project has been prepared in accordance with 10 CFR Part 1022. DOE proposes to replace an existing V-notched, contracted, weir that is located within the 100-year floodplain of White Oak Creek in Roane County, Tennessee with a complex-shaped critical flow flume. A Floodplain Assessment (available from the Oak Ridge address below) describing the potential effects of the action and alternatives to avoid or minimize potential harm to or within the affected floodplain was prepared. DOE will allow 15 days of public review after publication of this Statement of Findings before implementing the proposed action.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bryan Westich, Waste Management Technology Development Division, U.S. Department of Energy, 3 Main Street, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830, Telephone (615) 241-2160, FAX (615) 576-5333.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON GENERAL DOE FLOODPLAIN/WETLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

CONTACT: Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, EH-42, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585, (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a Floodplain Statement of Findings for the West Tributary Surface Water Monitoring Improvements Project prepared in accordance with 10 CFR Part 1022. A Notice of Involvement for the proposed action was published in the Federal Register on October 4, 1993. This action is part of the Surface Water Monitoring Program at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) to enhance the accuracy of flow measurement and contaminant mass flux monitoring by

upgrading or replacing existing flow measurement structures or devices. One such flow measurement structure is located in a tributary (West Tributary) to White Oak Lake. The structure is also located within the 100-year floodplain of White Oak Creek. The site is located in an area that is not accessible to the general public.

DOE is proposing to replace an existing V-notched, contracted, weir with a complex-shaped critical flow flume which will facilitate a larger range of flow measurement. As part of this action it would be necessary to demolish the existing V-notched weir structure and recontour the streams side slopes and bed to accommodate the installation of the new flume. Stream flow would be diverted during demolition and construction activities.

Three alternatives were considered in addition to the proposed action. The first was the no-action alternative. This alternative would not meet the program objective for enhanced accuracy of stream flow measurement and contaminant mass flux monitoring. The second alternative would be the restoration or upgrading of the existing weir structure. This action would not result in a significant increase in measurable flow range and would not meet the program objectives. The third alternative would be to replace the weir with a commercially available H-flume in lieu of the critical flow flume. The use of an H-flume would result in a greater upstream water depth to accommodate the desired flow range. Additional topographic contouring would be required in the area of the H-flume. Therefore the use of the H-flume would be less practical than the use of the critical flow flume. There is no practicable alternative to the location of this action in the floodplain.

The Floodplain Assessment concluded that the replacement of the V-notched weir with the critical flow flume would have no significant effect on the 100-year floodplains of White Oak Creek, White Oak Lake, or the West Tributary. Risks to individuals, property, or the environment will not be increased as a result of this action. DOE will allow 15 days of public review after publication of the Statement of Findings before implementing the proposed action.

Issued in Oak Ridge, Tennessee on March 11, 1996.

James L. Elmore,

Alternate NEPA Compliance Officer.

[FR Doc. 96-6839 Filed 3-20-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P