

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