

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**DOE Response to Recommendation 97-1 of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, Safe Storage of Uranium-233**

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board published Recommendation 97-1, concerning the safe storage of uranium-233, on March 11, 1997 (62 FR 11160). Under section 315(e) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2286d(e), the Department of Energy must transmit an implementation plan on Recommendation 97-1 to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board by August 11, 1997, or submit a notification of extension for an additional 45 days. The Secretary's notification of extension for an additional 45 days follows.

ADDRESSES: Send comments, data, views, or arguments concerning the Secretary's notification to: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert Stallman, Deputy Assistant Manager for Facility Operations, Department of Energy, Idaho Operations Office, 850 Energy Drive, Idaho Falls, Idaho, 83401-1563.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on August 22, 1997.

Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.,

Departmental Representative to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

August 11, 1997.

The Honorable John T. Conway,
Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20004.

Dear Mr. Chairman: This is to notify you, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2286d(e), that the Department of Energy will require an additional 45 days to transmit the implementation plan for addressing the issues raised in the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's Recommendation 97-1 concerning the safe storage of uranium-233 material. A draft implementation plan was prepared by a Task Team (reporting to the Assistant Secretaries for Defense Programs and Environmental Management, in coordination with other affected Headquarters and Field offices) but requires more detail.

Working with your staff, we have planned a workshop later this month to develop the next level of details for an integrated program to safely manage uranium-233. Together, we can then determine the appropriate commitments for incorporation into the implementation plan for Recommendation

97-1. The implementation plan will be provided to the Board by September 25, 1997.

Sincerely,

Federico Peña.

[FR Doc. 97-22782 Filed 8-26-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Notice of Floodplain Involvement for the St. Louis Airport Site, St. Louis, Missouri**

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

ACTION: Notice of floodplain involvement.

SUMMARY: DOE proposes to remove soil containing elevated levels of uranium-238, radium-226, and thorium-230 from a floodplain in St. Louis County, Missouri. In accordance with 10 CFR 1022, DOE will prepare 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 resource.

DATES: Comments are due to the address below no later than September 11, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS PROPOSED ACTION OR TO COMMENT ON THE ACTION, CONTACT: Mr. Steve McCracken, St. Louis Site Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, 9170 Latty Avenue, Berkeley, MO 63134, Phone: (314) 524-4083, FAX: (314) 524-6044.

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: From 1942-1967, the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS) was used to store process by-products from the Mallinckrodt Chemical Plant in downtown St. Louis. These radioactive by-products were created during uranium and thorium extraction processes performed from 1942 to 1957 for the Manhattan Engineer District (MED) and Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). DOE has authority at the site for the remediation of media containing elevated levels of radionuclides associated with MED/AEC activities; however, activities are being coordinated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region VII and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The proposed removal action will serve to

provide a clean buffer zone adjacent to Coldwater Creek and to protect the creek by further controlling surface water migration of contaminants. Coldwater Creek flows approximately 0.6 miles along the western boundary of SLAPS and flows into the Missouri River approximately 20 miles downstream.

The removal actions would involve activity in the Coldwater Creek 100-year floodplain at SLAPS. In accordance with DOE regulations for compliance with floodplain and wetlands environmental review requirements (10 CFR 1022), DOE will prepare a floodplain and wetlands assessment for this proposed DOE action. Remedial actions may include: no action, or removal of soil at SLAPS between McDonnell Boulevard and Banshee Road, behind the gabion wall which extends along that portion of Coldwater Creek. This excavation would extend approximately 70 feet to the east and approximately one foot below original grade (approximately 2-4 ft. below the existing land surface). The excavated area would be backfilled with clean soil and a berm would be constructed on the eastern edge of the excavation to minimize runoff into the excavated area. Sediments in the ditch between the SLAPS fence and McDonnell Boulevard would be removed from the confluence with the creek to 70 feet east of the confluence in order to provide a clean buffer zone between SLAPS runoff and the creek. Drainage on the northern end of SLAPS would be rerouted through an engineered channel to prevent mobilizing sediment in the ditches during storm events prior to discharge into Coldwater Creek. DOE would temporarily store excavated material near the southeast corner of SLAPS prior to transport to an off-site, licensed waste disposal facility. A floodplain and wetlands assessment that incorporates the values of the National Environmental Policy Act will be included in the final engineering evaluation and cost analysis (EE/CA) 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 that DOE would implement to prevent environmental damage to floodplain resources at SLAPS.

Issued in Oak Ridge, Tennessee on August 17, 1997.

James L. Elmore,

Alternate NEPA Compliance Officer.

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