

Town of Oyster Bay, Nassau County, New York. Currently, the property is developed with manufacturing, light industrial, and administrative land uses. In December 1998, Nassau County, through the Grumman Master Planning Council, identified a Preferred Reuse Plan for NWIRP Bethpage, described in Navy/Grumman Site Reuse Plan-Alternative Report. This plan is presented as the preferred reuse alternative that, along with its alternatives, is analyzed in the DEIS.

The DEIS evaluates three reuse alternatives. The Reuse Plan Alternative (preferred alternative) proposes a mix of light industry and office, with some warehousing on the 105-acre parcel and commercial use on the 4.5-acre parcel. The Preferred Reuse Plan would result in an estimated 5,410 full-time jobs. "Reuse Alternative A" comprises a mix of light industry and warehousing with limited office use. "Reuse Alternative B" would develop the properties entirely for office use. A "No Action Alternative" was also evaluated that assumes no disposal, and therefore, retention of the property by the U.S. Navy in caretaker status.

Potential impacts evaluated in the DEIS include, but are not limited to: Land use, socioeconomic, community facilities, transportation, air quality, noise, infrastructure, cultural resources, natural resources, hazardous wastes and soils contamination. Analysis includes the evaluation of direct, indirect, short-term, and cumulative impacts; and irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources associated with the proposed action. No decision on the proposed action will be made until the NEPA process has been completed and a Record of Decision is signed.

The DEIS has been distributed to various federal, state, and local agencies, elected officials, and special interest groups and public libraries. The DEIS is also available for public review at the Bethpage Public Library located at 47 Powell Avenue, Bethpage, New York 11714.

Navy will conduct a public hearing to receive oral and written comments concerning the DEIS. A brief presentation will precede a request for public information and comments. Navy representatives will be available at the hearing to receive information and comments from agencies and the public regarding issues of concern. Federal, state, and local agencies, and interested parties are invited and urged to be present or represented at the hearing. Those who intend to speak will be asked to submit a speaker card (available at the door). Oral comments

will be heard and transcribed by a stenographer. To ensure accuracy of the record, all statements should also be submitted in writing. All statements, both oral and written, will become part of the public record in the study. Equal weight will be given to both oral and written comments. In the interest of available time, each speaker will be asked to limit oral comments to three minutes. Longer comments should be summarized at the public hearing and submitted in writing either at the hearing or mailed to: Commanding Officer, Northern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Code 202, 10 Industrial Highway, Lester, Pennsylvania 19113, (Attn. Mr. Robert Ostermueller, telephone (610) 595-0759, facsimile (610) 595-0778). Written comments must be received not later than Monday, December 13, 1999.

Dated: October 26, 1999.

C.G. Carlson,

Major, U.S. Marine Corps, Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-28403 Filed 10-28-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Meeting of the Board of Visitors of Marine Corps University

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DOD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Board of Visitors of the Marine Corps University (BOV MCU) will meet to review, develop and provide recommendations on all aspects of the academic and administrative policies of the University; examine all aspects of professional military education operations; and provide such oversight and advice as is necessary to facilitate high educational standards and cost effective operations. The Board will be reviewing the fiscal plan for next year and the status of the University's accreditation process with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. All sessions of the meeting will be open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Monday and Tuesday, November 15-16, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Marine Corps University Research Center, 2040 Broadway Street, Room 164, Quantico, Virginia 22134.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Garry Smith, Executive Secretary, Marine Corps University Board of Visitors, 2076 South Street, Quantico, Virginia 22134, (703) 784-4037.

Dated: October 19, 1999.

J.L. Roth,

Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate General's Corps, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-28286 Filed 10-28-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

DOE Response to Recommendation 99-1 of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, Safe Storage of Fissionable Material called "Pits".

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board published Recommendation 99-1, concerning the safe storage of fissionable material called "pits," on August 27, 1999 (64 FR 46894). Under section 315(e) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2286d(e), the Department of Energy was required to transmit a response to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board by October 12, 1999. The Secretary's response follows.

DATES: Comments, data, views, or arguments concerning the Secretary's response are due on or before November 29, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send comments, data, views, or arguments concerning the Secretary's response to: Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20585.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David E. Beck, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Application and Stockpile Operations, Defense Programs, Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC, 20585.

Issued in Washington, DC, on October 25, 1999.

Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.,

Departmental Representative to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

The Honorable John T. Conway, *Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20004.*

Dear Mr. Chairman: The Department of Energy acknowledges receipt of Recommendation 99-1, issued on August 11, 1999, and published in the **Federal Register** on August 27, 1999, and accepts the Board's recommendations.

The Department has initiated activities to develop and implement improved pit storage programs and to develop a shipping container for transporting pits to the plutonium disposition facility. We also implemented a pit repackaging program to ensure that pits are stored in accordance with applicable specifications.

In support of nuclear material disposition activities, departmental program offices have been working together to ensure that timely actions are completed to accomplish defined programmatic end states. Actions include a systems analysis study to generate programmatic requirements for a pit shipping container, a review of pit surveillance data to characterize pit integrity in current environments, and increasing the pit repackaging rate to 200 pits per month. The Department will continue these efforts to ensure the adequacy of complex-wide pit management.

The Department accepts the recommendations contained in Recommendation 99-1 and will develop an implementation plan to accomplish the following:

1. Expediently resolve the compatibility issues that have the potential to impact the long-term safe storage of pits. Through a container surveillance program, the Department will monitor the AL-R8 Sealed Insert container to ensure its continued quality and reliability.
2. Ensure that repackaging takes place at an accelerated rate so that pits are expeditiously placed into containers suited to safe storage. The actions undertaken in the implementation plan will focus on ensuring a safe and timely repackaging program. A process to develop a resource-loaded repackaging schedule will be established with an initial baseline repackaging rate of 200 per month.
3. Develop a system of statistical sampling for the AL-R8 Sealed Insert containers to assess container integrity and to provide horizons for future repackaging and repackaging rate requirements.
4. Assign a single individual the responsibility and accountability, along with the necessary resources and authority for accomplishment of the above.

Mr. David E. Beck, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Application and Stockpile Operations, Defense Programs, (202) 586-4879, is appointed the manager responsible for preparation of the implementation plan in accordance with sub-recommendation 4 of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board letter. He will work with you to develop a plan that meets our mutual expectations.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Richardson

[FR Doc. 99-28318 Filed 10-28-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Floodplain Statement of Findings for Fire Protection Systems Upgrade at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory

AGENCY: Office of Science, DOE.

ACTION: Floodplain statement of findings.

SUMMARY: This is a Floodplain Statement of Findings for upgrading the fire suppression and life safety systems

in selected facilities at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), Roane and Anderson Counties, Tennessee, in accordance with 10 CFR part 1022, Compliance with Floodplain/Wetlands Environmental Review Requirements. Fire suppression and life safety systems in many ORNL facilities are over 30 years old, obsolete, and do not provide adequate fire protection for personnel, equipment, and research activities. The installation of below ground waterlines would include disturbances of the 100-year floodplain of White Oak Creek (WOC). DOE has prepared a floodplain assessment describing the possible effects, alternatives, and measures designed to avoid or minimize potential harm to floodplains or their flood storage potential. DOE will allow 15 days of public review after publication of the Statement of Findings before implementation of the proposed action.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stanley D. Frey, U.S. Department of Energy, Post Office Box 2008, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-6269, (423) 576-0136.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A Notice of Floodplain Involvement was published in the **Federal Register** on September 16, 1999 (64 FR 50277), and subsequently a floodplain assessment was prepared. The floodplain assessment covers the installation of approximately 7,200 ft of underground water mains (16-in-diameter piping installed in a loop configuration) in the 6000 Area of ORNL and would include (as detailed in the September 16, 1999, notice), but is not limited to: (1) Constructing coffer dams or similar structures in WOC and its tributaries; (2) routing the stream water around the disturbed channel areas by constructing a bypass using a culvert or similar device; (3) removing stream bed rock in preparation for the under-creek, reinforced-concrete pipe trench; (4) pouring the concrete; (5) embedding the pipeline in the concrete structure; (6) covering the structure to the level of the original stream bed; and (7) routing the stream water back into the stream bed. Activities outside the creek/stream channel but within the floodplain area would include (1) excavating a trench approximately 5 ft wide and 4 ft deep, (2) installing the pipeline, and (3) covering the pipe with excavated fill.

No aboveground structures (i.e., fire hydrants, valves, etc.) would be located in the floodplain area.

Alternatives considered in the assessment were (1) no action, (2) installing water mains above the floodplain, (3) installing water mains below ground by tunneling beneath the floodplain and creeks, and (4) installing water mains below ground to provide water in a dependable looped system. The no-action alternative would result in noncompliance with DOE Order 420.1 (Facility Safety) and the potential failure of fire suppression systems in the 6000 Area of ORNL. Installing water mains above the floodplain would require additional equipment and material (e.g., force main, insulation, etc.), and the increased number of 90-degree turns will increase the possibility of pipe stress-failure. Tunneling beneath the floodplain, creeks, and wetlands was not considered practicable because of the shallow elevation of bed rock and the difficulties associated with tunneling when compared to the preferred alternative. Therefore, after considering the various alternatives and the area to install the water mains, no other practicable routes were available that would avoid the floodplain area of WOC. The activities addressed by the floodplain assessment will result in no measurable impact on floodplain cross-section or flood stage, and thus do not increase the risk of flooding.

Water quality within WOC and its tributaries will be protected during excavation to the extent practicable by several measures. Administrative controls will be used to stop work during major storm events. When excavations would remain exposed overnight, erosion controls will be installed to prevent the transport of silt downstream by stormwater flows. Additionally, silt dams will be constructed in areas where the existing drainage right-of-way route deviates significantly from the defined drainage channel. Restoration of excavated areas will include grading to avoid steep or vertical slopes, and to minimize ponding and backfilling. Areas of exposed soil outside the stream channels will be mulched and reseeded with an annual grass to minimize erosion and allow the natural seedbank to reestablish vegetative cover.

Equipment and personnel in the floodplain area will be limited in accordance with an approved Best Management Practices (BMP) plan, and excavated hydric soils will be placed next to the site and reused as fill material. In addition, silt fences will be installed to minimize runoff into the floodplain in accordance with the BMP.