

Final

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

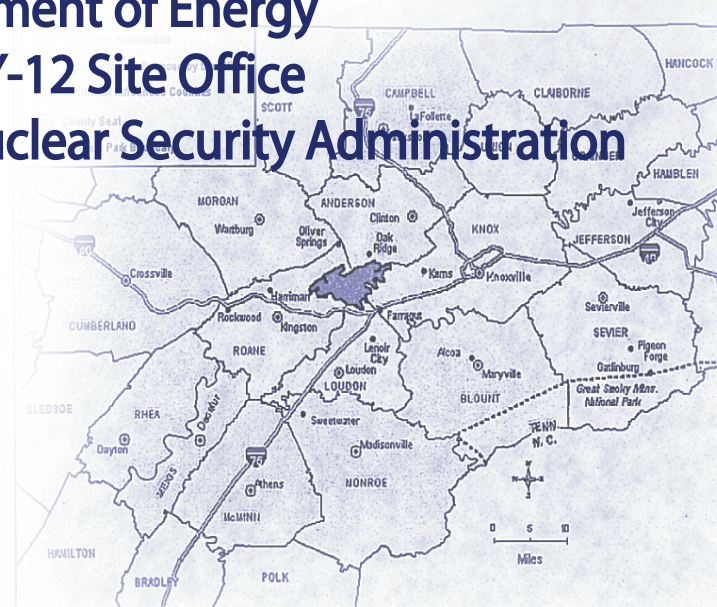
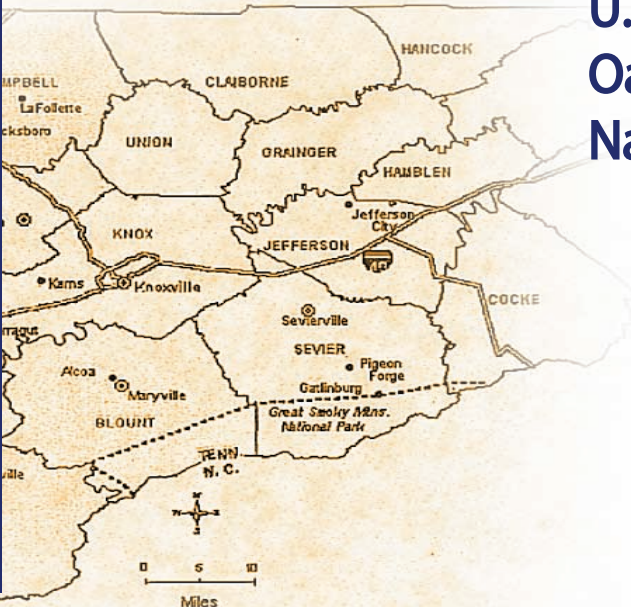
for the Alternate Financed Facility Modernization EA



January 2005



U.S. Department of Energy
Oak Ridge Y-12 Site Office
National Nuclear Security Administration



**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE
ALTERNATE FINANCED FACILITY MODERNIZATION
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

AGENCY: Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Y-12 National Security Complex

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact

SUMMARY: The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has identified a need for additional facilities to replace existing facilities at the Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12) in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Many existing facilities are more than 50 years old, outdated, noncompliant with safety, health, and security standards, and energy inefficient. As part of the NNSA modernization initiative, NNSA is proposing to implement the Alternate Financed Development (AFD) Project at Y-12. The AFD Project would be accomplished through a collaboration with private entities. The goal of this collaboration is to construct technical, administrative, and light laboratory facilities; enhance worker health and safety; and reduce operating costs. The NNSA has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) (DOE/EA-1510) to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action. The Y-12 Site Manager has determined that the Proposed Action is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). Therefore, the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required.

ADDRESSES: The EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) have been prepared and are available to the general public. For copies and general information on the NNSA NEPA process at Y-12, please contact: Mr. Robert Hamby, NNSA Y-12 NEPA Compliance Officer, NNSA/OR, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831; or telephone (865) 576-9281. For general information on the DOE NEPA process, please contact: Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA

Policy and Compliance (EH-42), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585, telephone 202-586-4600, or leave a message at 1-800-472-2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As described in Section 1.1 of the EA, the purpose of the Proposed Action is to transfer two parcels of real estate at Y-12, under Section 161(g) of the *Atomic Energy Act* (AEA), to a private development corporation. The private development corporation would finance and construct technical, administrative, and light laboratory facilities, in an integrated commercial office park approach, on the transferred property in support of the NNSA. These replacement facilities include an Administrative Center, Engineering Office, Cafeteria, Visitor Center/Security Office, Human Resource Office, Conference and Training Center, and Laboratory and Prototyping Center. When constructed, the buildings would then be leased to NNSA's Management and Operating (M&O) Contractor for use in support of the NNSA's AEA missions.

In addition to the Proposed Action, the EA evaluates acquiring the new facilities by requesting a Federal appropriation from Congress to cover all construction costs. The EA also includes the No Action alternative, under which DOE would continue modernizing Y-12 facilities in accordance with existing management approaches.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: The environmental consequences of the Proposed Action would be well within existing state and Federal standards, and are not expected to result in any appreciable risks to members of the public, workers, or the environment. Under all alternatives, impacts would be minor and insignificant for all resource areas assessed. Impacts to land use would range from "no change to continued operations" (No Action alternative) to the legal transfer of less than 20 acres and the associated construction of two new office complexes (Proposed Action). This would involve significantly less than 1 percent of the available land at Y-12. Renovations to existing facilities or construction of new facilities at the two proposed sites would not cause a significant impact to geology and soils because of the stability of soils at Y-12 and all facilities would comply with regulatory requirements. Air quality at Y-12 is generally good. With the exception of the 8-hour O₃ and PM_{2.5}, the greater Knoxville and Oak Ridge areas are in attainment with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for all other

criteria pollutants for which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has made attainment designations. The EPA designated six Tennessee counties, including Anderson, as non-attainment areas for PM_{2.5} in December 2004 due to new lower standards. The alternatives encompassed by this EA would improve the overall efficiency of operations at Y-12 and would not have an adverse impact on air quality.

Because of the availability of ample surface water, none of the alternatives would be a burden on the existing water supply. Since there are no critical habitats for threatened or endangered species, and there is an absence of any significant ecological resources at any of the locations potentially affected by the alternatives, no significant impacts to ecological resources are expected. This conclusion also applies for cultural resources. Socioeconomics would be relatively unchanged by any of the alternatives because the alternatives would not create a significant number of jobs, and would not exceed housing demands, community services, or transportation capabilities. With respect to human health, the alternatives would not significantly change the existing risks or health effects to workers or the public but would improve worker conditions. Waste management activities would be unaffected by the alternatives. All wastes generated would be managed in accordance with all regulatory requirements.

DETERMINATION: Based on the analysis in the EA, I conclude that the Proposed Action does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of NEPA. Therefore, an EIS for the Proposed Action is not required.

Issued in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, this ___ day of January 2005.

Manager, Y-12 Site Office
National Nuclear Security Administration
Department of Energy