

United States Government

Oak Ridge Operations Office

# memorandum

DATE: September 18, 1997

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF:

SUBJECT: **FLOODPLAIN STATEMENT OF FINDINGS FOR THE ST. LOUIS AIRPORT SITE, ST. LOUIS,  
MISSOURI**

TO: File

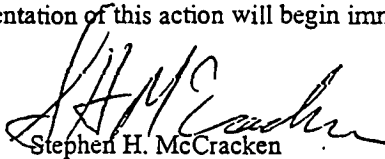
The purpose of this memo is to document compliance with the waiver provisions of 10 CFR 1022, Compliance with Floodplain/Wetlands Environmental Review Requirements.

The Department of Energy (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 prepared a Floodplain and Wetlands Assessment describing the effects, alternatives, and measures designed to avoid or minimize potential harm to or within the affected floodplain and wetlands in the vicinity of the site. The proposed action would not result in the destruction of any floodplain or wetland and would be consistent with Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, and the President's policy of "no net loss" of wetlands in the United States. There is no practicable alternative to the proposed action which would conform to applicable state and local floodplain protection standards. In accordance with 10 CFR 1022, DOE published the Notice of Involvement in the Federal Register on August 27, 1997. The public comment period ended on September 11, 1997. No comments were received. The Statement of Findings was published in the Federal Register on September 18, 1997. Additionally, a public meeting was held in Hazelwood, Missouri on August 13, 1997. The meeting was well attended by federal, state, and local regulatory agency representatives and local citizens.

In accordance with 10 CFR 1022.18 -c, "Where emergency circumstances, statutory deadlines, of overriding considerations of program or project expense or effectiveness exist, the minimum time period may be waived." A waiver of the 15-day public review period for the Statement of Findings is hereby invoked based on the following:

Due to the proximity of this activity to Coldwater Creek, the optimum construction season for the excavation is late summer and early fall when the groundwater table is at a seasonal low. If the beginning of excavation is delayed, evapotranspiration will be greatly reduced. Also, precipitation tends to increase in the fall. The combined effect will be to raise the groundwater table and create significant excavation difficulties. The cost of a wet excavation would exceed the allocated project budget and/or make the project technically infeasible.

Therefore, for the reasons outlined above, implementation of this action will begin immediately.

  
Stephen H. McCracken  
St. Louis Site Manager

[Federal Register: September 18, 1997 (Volume 62, Number 181)]  
[Notices]  
[Page 48997-48999]  
From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov]  
[DOCID:fr18se97-35]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Floodplain Statement of Findings for Removal Action at the St.  
Louis Airport Site (SLAPS), St. Louis, Missouri

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE), Oak Ridge Operations.

SUBJECT: Floodplain Statement of Findings.

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SUMMARY: This is a Floodplain Statement of Findings prepared in accordance with 10 CFR part 1022. DOE proposes to remediate soil with elevated levels of uranium-238, radium-226, and thorium-230 from areas in/near the Coldwater Creek 100-year floodplain at SLAPS. DOE prepared a Floodplain and Wetlands Assessment describing the effects, alternatives, and measures designed to avoid or minimize potential harm to or within the affected floodplain. The proposed action would not result in the destruction of any floodplain or wetland and would be consistent with Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, and the President's policy of "no net loss" of wetlands in the United States. There is no practicable alternative to the proposed action, which would conform to applicable state and local floodplain protection standards. DOE would endeavor to allow 15 days of public review after publication of the statement of findings before implementation of the proposed action.

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 AND WETLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW REQUIREMENTS, CONTACT: Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Oversight, EH-42, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20585, (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a Floodplain Statement of Findings prepared in accordance with 10 CFR part 1022. A Notice of Floodplain and Wetland Involvement was published in the Federal Register on August 27, 1997 (62 FR 45403), and a Floodplain and Wetlands Assessment was incorporated in the engineering evaluation and cost analysis (EE/CA) prepared for SLAPS. Removal actions may include: (1) No action, or (2) removal of radioactively contaminated soil at SLAPS between McDonnell Boulevard and Banshee Road, behind the gabion wall which extends along that portion of Coldwater Creek; the ditch along the south side of McDonnell Boulevard; and, the ditch on the north side of McDonnell Boulevard, or (3) removal of radioactively contaminated soil at SLAPS between McDonnell Boulevard and Banshee Road, behind the gabion wall which extends along that portion of Coldwater Creek and the ditch along the south side of McDonnell Boulevard. The contaminated soil contains elevated levels of uranium-238, radium-226, and

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thorium-230. Based on stakeholder participation, Alternative 3 was identified as the preferred alternative. This excavation (Alternative 3) would extend approximately 70 feet to the east and approximately one

foot below original grade (approximately 8-10 feet 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 (south of McDonnell Boulevard) 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. There is no practicable alternative to the proposed action. The proposed action would conform to applicable state and local floodplain protection standards.

The following steps would be taken to minimize potential harm to or within the affected floodplain:

1. The design and performance of excavation activities would incorporate standard best management practices in accordance with U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service) methods, or the equivalent, to control erosion and siltation from excavations.
2. Remediation operations would confine the areas of sediment and soil disturbance to the minimum necessary for successful completion of the project.
3. Care would be exercised to provide minimum practicable exposure of sediment and soil to erosion.
4. All erosion and sediment barriers would remain in place until the excavation is successfully stabilized by applicable measures.
5. Disturbed sediment and soil in or adjacent to the floodplain and waterways would be stabilized or otherwise protected to prevent off-site migration, as conditions warrant.
6. Remediation would not obstruct Coldwater Creek and the creek would retain its original capacity for storing floodwaters. The proposed action would not impede flow or increase flooding along Coldwater Creek.
7. Areas excavated in or adjacent to the floodplain not involved with drainage ditch modification would be restored to current grade and the proposed activities would not subject lives or property to any increased risk of flooding.
8. DOE would not use areas within the floodplain for temporary or permanent storage of excavated sediment or soil.
9. The proposed action would conform to applicable state and local floodplain and protection standards.
10. The proposed action would not result in the destruction of any floodplain or wetland and would be consistent with the President's policy of "no net loss" of wetlands in the United States and Executive Orders 11988 and 11990.

DOE will endeavor to allow 15 days of public review after publication of the statement of findings before implementation of the proposed action.

Issued in Oak Ridge, Tenn. on September 9, 1997.  
James L. Elmore,  
Alternate NEPA Compliance Officer.

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

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[GRAPHIC] [TIFF OMITTED] TN18SE97.000

[FR Doc. 97-24846 Filed 9-17-97; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 6450-01-C

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Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP)

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# ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

for the St. Louis Site, Missouri

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