APPENDIX D

FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE AND STATEMENT OF FINDINGS FOR SITE INVESTIGATION ACTIVITIES AT THE OAK RIDGE Y-12 PLANT AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

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Notices

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE)

Notice of Floodplain/Wetlands Involvement for Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Activities at the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Reservation; Oak Ridge, TN

58 FR 51624

DATE: Monday, October 4, 1993

ACTION: Notice of floodplain and wetlands involvement.

SUMMARY: DOE proposes to perform environmental monitoring and site characterization, as well as extensive remedial action activities at the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Some areas of the approximately 50,000-acre reservation, as well as areas where baseline information is sought, are within floodplains or include wetlands, and some proposed environmental monitoring and environmental restoration and waste management activities would take place in floodplains or wetlands. Site characterization and remedial actions would be undertaken pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Some of the proposed actions could affect wetlands on or around the site or be located in the floodplains of Poplar Creek, East Fork Poplar Creek, Bear Creek, Scarboro Creek, White Oak Creek and its tributaries, and the Clinch River and its tributaries. In accordance with 10 CFR part 1022, DOE will prepare a floodplain and wetlands assessment and will perform the proposed actions in a manner so as to avoid or minimize potential harm to or within the affected foodplains and wetlands. Maps and further information on the proposed actions are available from DOE at the address below.

DATES: Comments on the proposed action are due to the address below no later than October 18, 1993.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to: Ms. Nancy K. Hendrix-Ward, National Environmental Policy Act, Program Manager, Environmental Restoration Division, U.S. Department of Energy, Information Resource Center, Post Office Box 2001, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831-8541. FAX comments to: (615) 576-6074.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Information on general DOE floodplain/wetlands environmental review requirements is available from: Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Oversight (EH-25), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585 (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DOE proposes to carry out site characterization, as well as remedial/corrective activities at the ORR, some of which would be located with floodplains or wetlands. The proposed actions include:

1. Collection of Samples-Collection of samples for environmental monitoring, site characterization, and treatability studies will be conducted to better understand the nature of the environment around the ORR and to identify possible releases of contaminants or movement of contaminants already released to the environment. Environmental monitoring would occur throughout the site and would continue for the continue for the foreseeable future. Site characterization is tied chiefly to Remedial Investigations/RCRA Facility Investigations (RI/RFI) under CERCLA and RCRA and would be performed for each of the operable units (OUs).

The following types of activities could occur in a floodplain or wetland: (a) Sampling of air, surface water, ground water, sediments, surface and deeper soils; sampling, assessment, and evaluation of terrestrial and aquatic biota, and measurement of meteorological characteristics; (b) drilling of boreholes to obtain soil/geological samples (some of the boreholes would be completed as ground-water monitoring wells); (c) digging soil test pits by hand or backhoe; (d) taking a variety of noninvasive surveys (such as radiological surveys); (e) taking invasive surveys (such as with soil

penetrometers and similar devices); and (f) conducting underground tests (such as aquifer pump, tracer geophysical log, vertical seismic profile, and seismic tests). The majority of the remaining RI/RFI field work to be done at ORR is in OUs that are comprised of predominantly upland areas. Only a few sampling locations, such as those needed for surface waste, sediment, and a very few boreholes or wells and soil test pits, are expected to be in floodplains or wetlands.

2. Drilling or abandonment of boreholes and monitoring wells-Drilling new boreholes and monitoring wells involves driving a drilling rig to the designated site and drilling a hole, usually within a 1-day time-frame. It is possible that ome of the wells be drilled in wetlands. Drilling sites would be located outside of wetlands whenever possible.

When relocation is not possible, measures will be taken to minimize disturbance of wetlands, as appropriate. Travel within floodplains will be restricted to established roads and tracks where available; if unavailable, measures will be taken to minimize the disturbance to the floodplain, as appropriate.

Abandoning a well typically involves removal of all foreign material from the well, including the existing bentonite grout, the bentonite seal, the silica-sand filter, and the well casing. The casing can be removed by one of several different methods-pulling it out of the well, destroying the casing in the hole and removing the pieces, over-drilling, or over-coring. Each of these methods involves driving a drilling rig to the well site. Once in the field, it may be determined that some casings are not removable due to well depth, casing condition, or other factors. In these situations, the well casing and possibly the protective surface casing (a larger diameter pipe surrounding the upper portion of the well casing) will be left in place. Abandonment will be accomplished in this manner only when necessary. If the casing is removed, regardless of the removal method used, the resulting hole is reamed to the original construction depth and diameter to remove any remaining annular material and debris. The borehole is then filled with bentonite grout. For wells whose casing is not removed, abandonment would be accomplished by filling the casing with bentonite grout. The well casing and protective casing would be cut off below the ground surface. A concrete pad would be poured at all well abandonment locations to provide a surface seal. A metal cap showing the well identification number and the date of abandonment would be anchored to the concrete slab. Abandonment of a well would typically take 1 to 2 days, depending on the method used and the depth of the well.

3. Construction and Operation-Construction and operation of interim and final remedial/corrective actions and the construction and operation of buildings to implement or facilitate these actions will be based on the results of the RI/RFI being conducted or planned. These proposed actions may consist of in-situ treatment, bioremediation, ground-water treatment, surface water treatment, soil treatments, and soil excavation. While remedial actions are expected to be constructed outside floodplains or wetlands, portions of such projects (particularly activities such as water collection, sampling, and installation of monitoring or similar devices) could be located [*51625] within floodplains or could affect wetlands.

4. Upgrading sanitary sewer or existing collection and transfer pipelines-This would typically involve replacement and hook-up of previously existing pipelines with improved materials; removal of old, unused and/or contaminated lines; or redirection of existing lines to improve the collection of wastes. The process would involve: (a) exposing the existing pipe by hand or backhoe or some other manual means; (b) obtaining a variety of noninvasive and invasive surveys; (c) removal or movement of existing lines, and (d) installation of new pipelines.

5. Placement of small-scale treatment units-This process normally involves the acquisition of required permits, siting and construction of buildings or renovations to existing buildings, and installation of treatment systems. Operation of such a treatment unit normally includes the transportation of stored wastes between storage facilities-and treatment areas. Decommissioning and dismantlement of the treatment system is completed at the end of its useful life or previously-defined time-frame. Handling, storage, and disposal of any residual wastes from the use and shutdown of such a facility would complete the activities surrounding the placement of small-scale treatment units.

6. Siting, construction and upgrades of waste management facilities-This process is usually done to maintain compliance with the Administrative Consent Order and Federal Facility Compliance Agreement between the particular facility, DOE, and EPA.

Various measures are normally taken during construction activities to mitigate potential impacts of all areas of the existing environment and minimize the possibility of allowing a release. Site work would consist of construction or upgrade of driveways from existing streets to the facility, and establishment or extension of utilities from existing

distribution systems. In addition, buildings would have all applicable permits; their design and operation would be in accordance with all environmental, safety and health regulations.

In accordance with DOE regulations for compliance with floodplain and wetlands environmental review requirements (10 CFR part 1022), DOE will prepare a floodplain and wetland assessment for the proposed actions. For an action involving floodplains or wetlands, a Statement of Findings, as required by 10 CFR part 1022, will be issued separately or included in a NEPA document when the floodplain and wetland assessment has been completed and prior to taking the action. The Statement would be published in the Federal Register if an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement is not prepared.

Clyde W. Frank,

Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Restoration and Waste Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Floodplain Statement of Findings for Site Investigation Activities at the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant Area of Responsibility

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: **Floodplain** statement of findings.

SUMMARY: This is a **Floodplain** Statement of Findings for Site Investigation Activities at the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant, Anderson County, Tennessee, in accordance with 10 CFR part 1022, Compliance with **Floodplain**/Wetlands Environmental Review Requirements. DOE proposes to conduct site investigations and preliminary engineering activities within the boundaries of the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant as required under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), underground storage tank (UST) regulations or other regulations and directives. Some site investigation activities may occur

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within 100-year or 500-year **floodplain** of streams at the plant. 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: Mr. Robert C. Sleeman, Director, Environmental Restoration Division (EW-91), DOE Oak Ridge Operations Office, Post Office Box 2001, Oak Ridge, TN 37831, Telephone: (423) 576-3534, Facsimile: (423) 576-6074

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, D.C. 20585, Telephone: (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A Notice of **Floodplain** Involvement was published in the Federal Register on October 4, 1993, (58 FR 51624) and subsequently a **floodplain** assessment was prepared. The **floodplain** assessment covers a variety of intrusive and nonintrusive preliminary engineering and site investigation methods and techniques that may be used at one or more sites at the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant Site. These activities include (as detailed in the October 4, 1993, notice), but are not limited to: ``(a) sampling of air, surface water, groundwater, sediments, surface and deeper soils; sampling of terrestrial and aquatic biota; and measurement of meteorological characteristics; (b) drilling of boreholes to obtain soil/geological samples (some of the boreholes would be completed as groundwater monitoring wells); digging soil test pits by hand or backhoe; (d) taking a variety of nonintrusive

surveys (such as radiological surveys); (e) taking intrusive surveys (such as with soil penetrometers and similar devices); and (f) conducting underground tests (such as aquifer pump, tracer geophysical log, vertical seismic profile, and seismic tests).''

Alternatives considered in the assessment were (1) no action, (2) prohibition of site investigation activities in floodplains, and (3) restricting site investigation activities to outside the **floodplain** when practicable alternatives exist, i.e., data quality would not be compromised. Only a few sampling locations, such as those needed for surface and sediment samples, and a minimal number of boreholes or wells and soil test pits are expected to be in floodplains. Most of the activities addressed by the **floodplain** assessment will result in no measurable impact on **floodplain** cross-sections or flood stage, and thus do not increase the risk of flooding. Those activities that are identified from site-specific data as possibly impacting negatively upon the **floodplain** (e.g., installation of flumes and construction of access roads) may require separate **floodplain** assessments and the implementation of mitigative measures, e.g., construction during low precipitation periods, prompt stabilization and restoration of affected areas, minimizing vegetation removal, and the use of mats and wide-tracked vehicles. Alternatively, DOE may opt to omit the activity or relocate the activity to an alternate site. Site investigation activities addressed in the **floodplain** assessment conform to applicable **floodplain** protection standards.

Issued in Oak Ridge, TN on February 11, 1997.
James L. Elmore,
Alternate National Environmental Policy Act
Compliance Officer.
[FR Doc. 97-5122 Filed 2-28-97; 8:45 am]
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4. SUMMARY

If carefully planned and executed, field sampling and measurement activities associated with site investigation and preliminary engineering efforts for the ERWM program at Y-12 would not result in the loss of floodplains or significant floodplain functions and values, would not significantly diminish the cross-sectional area of the floodplain or alter its profile, and would not have an appreciable impact on floodplain capacity, erosional or depositional regimes, and biota. Sampling and measurement activities that may negatively impact upon floodplains include the construction and installation of meteorological stations. Floodplains may be negatively impacted by the movement of heavy equipment associated with activities such as deep soil borings and well construction, the installation of lysimeters, and the construction of meteorological stations. Measures that would be implemented to mitigate the possible effects of these activities are discussed in the appropriate sections.

Implementation of best management practices, engineering controls, mitigative measures, and restoration efforts would ensure that the cross-sectional area or profile of the floodplain is not significantly diminished within the limits of measurement error and that temporary loss/disturbance of floodplains functions and values would be restored. If practicable alternatives exist to the location of these actions in floodplains, they will be utilized. Based on these considerations and the requirements under CERCLA, RCRA, or other laws or directives to investigate and remediate environmental contamination, Alternative 3 has been identified as the best alternative.