

CHAPTER 8: SHORT-TERM USES AND LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

In accordance with the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) (42 *United States Code* §4321 et seq.) requirements, this section discusses the relationship between local short-term uses of the environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity. It also examines long-term adverse cumulative impacts, with a focus on impacts that may narrow the range of options for future use. Impacts of the alternatives at the Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12) are discussed in Chapter 5, and cumulative impacts are identified in Chapter 6.

Based on the general plans of the city of Oak Ridge and the surrounding counties, Y-12 and much of the surrounding area have been designated for industrial uses. The long-term productivity of Y-12 would be optimized by its continued use for U.S. Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/NNSA) missions. The long-term benefits of continuing to operate Y-12 include fulfilling national defense missions, together with other research and development, and also including technology transfer to academia and industry. If Y-12 were shut down and the property were to return to other uses, such as agriculture or urban development, any short-term benefits of such a transfer would be minimal compared to the long-term loss to the Nation of a major production facility which supports our Nation's nuclear weapons stockpile and contributes significantly to nuclear nonproliferation initiatives.

Environmental remediation activities currently occurring and scheduled to continue under any alternative will, in the long term, improve the options for alternative uses of Y-12. Cleanup of the site increases the options for future use of the property rather than narrowing them.