



National Nuclear Security Administration Y-12 Site Office News Release

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NNSA TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS ON Y-12 SITE-WIDE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Two meetings scheduled for December 15 in Oak Ridge

Oak Ridge, Tenn. – The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) will hold public scoping meetings Thursday, December 15, in Oak Ridge on NNSA's plans to prepare a Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS) for the Y-12 National Security Complex.

The meetings will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the U.S. Department of Energy Information Center, located at 475 Oak Ridge Turnpike in Oak Ridge. The public scoping meetings will provide the public with an opportunity to present comments, ask questions and discuss issues with NNSA officials regarding the SWEIS.

NNSA officials have determined that one or more of the proposals under consideration for long-term modernization of Y-12 constitute a major Federal action, thus requiring the preparation of a new SWEIS. The new SWEIS will evaluate new proposals, as well as update the analyses presented in the original SWEIS issued in November 2001.

NNSA has identified four alternatives for consideration:

- No Action, which means projects currently in progress or approved would continue but no new projects or major modernization would occur;
- Complete modernization, which would add to the No Action Alternative construction of a modern uranium processing facility;

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- Partial modernization, which would add to the No Action Alternative extension of the service life of current facilities but construct no new facilities; and

- Reduced Operations, which would modify the No Action Alternative by deactivating facilities when continued safe operation required major upgrades.

These alternatives will be discussed in more detail at the public meeting. NNSA may alter or further define these alternatives in response to public input and other information developed during the scoping process and subsequent analysis. NNSA's final decision may be a combination of elements selected from each of these alternatives. Further details are available in the Notice of Intent (NOI) published in the Federal Register on November 28, 2005. Electronic copies of the notice are available via email request to Comments@y-12sweis.com. The NOI also can be reviewed at the DOE Information Center located at 475 Oak Ridge Turnpike in Oak Ridge.

The public scoping period for the Y-12 SWEIS will continue through January 9, 2006. After the close of the public scoping period, NNSA will begin preparing the draft SWEIS. NNSA expects to issue the draft SWEIS for public review by next summer, with a public meeting to be scheduled. The final SWEIS is scheduled for completion by late 2006.

For information concerning the SWEIS, please contact Pam Gorman, Y-12 SWEIS Document Manager, at (865) 576-9903 or e-mail at gormanpl@yso.doe.gov. Written comments on the scope of the SWEIS or requests to be placed on the document distribution list can be sent to: Y-12 SWEIS Document Manager, 800 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Suite A-500 Oak Ridge, TN 37830; by facsimile to: (865) 482-6052; or by e-mail to: comments@y-12sweis.com.

The mission of the NNSA's Y-12 Site Office is to ensure the safe, secure and cost-effective operation of the Y-12 National Security Complex -- a unique manufacturing facility that plays a key role in the United States Nuclear Weapons Complex. YSO employees perform program oversight, contract management and evaluation to meet national security missions, while ensuring the health and safety of employees and the public.

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