FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

FOR THE

AMBULATORY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER

OREGON HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY, PORTLAND, OREGON

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact

SUMMARY: DOE has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) (DOE/EA-0921) evaluating the proposed construction and operation of the Ambulatory Research and Education Center (AREC), which would be located on the top seven floors of the existing NeuroSensory Research Center (NRC) on the campus of the Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU) at Portland, Oregon. The proposed action would combine activities scattered across the campus into a central facility. Based on the analysis in the EA, DOE has determined that the proposed action does not constitute 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, an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required and the Department is issuing this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for further information on the proposed project or for copies of the EA and FONSI should be sent to:

Richard R. Stenzel, Project Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Chicago Operations Office
9800 South Cass Avenue
Argonne, Illinois 60439
Phone: (708) 252-2286

For further information on DOE's NEPA process, contact:

Carol M. Borgstrom
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of NEPA Oversight
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585
(202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Proposed Action: The proposed action is for DOE to authorize OHSU to proceed with the detailed design, construction and equipping of the AREC. House Resolutions accompanying the FY 1992 and FY 1993 Energy and Water Appropriations Acts indicated that a total of $20 million had been included in DOE's appropriations for AREC. The AREC would provide a total of 143,000 square feet of additional space. OHSU currently lacks space that integrates clinical areas with support areas for research activities and patient care, which the AREC would provide.

Alternatives: Two alternatives to the proposed action were considered: (1) no action; and (2) the construction and operation of the AREC at other on-campus sites. Both

alternatives were found to be unreasonable. Under the no action alternative, AREC would not be built and needed medical service would not be provided. No environmental advantage would be gained by locating the proposed AREC at another site. Further, an alternative site would cause additional impact resulting from ground disturbance and loss of acreage for a new structure.

Environmental Consequences: The EA analyzed the impacts of construction, equipping and operating the proposed AREC. The EA considered impacts to air and water quality, land use, biological resources, noise, traffic, and hazardous materials usage. Construction or operation would not affect any cultural or archaeological resources, threatened or endangered plant or animal species, wetlands, floodplains, prime farmland, or other sensitive environmental resource. As described in the EA, there would be no significant impacts from construction or operation of the proposed facilities at OHSU.

Air quality impacts from construction would be associated with delivery trucks and construction machinery, and would be minor and temporary. Noise levels would be those conventionally associated with standard daytime construction and are not likely to disturb residents, workers or participants in local outdoor recreation activities.

Traffic impact would not significantly affect local circulation or parking.

Operation of the AREC would not significantly affect air and water quality, worker health and safety, public health and safety, and waste management systems. Radiation exposures would be associated with the use of short-lived radioisotopes in medical studies, and would occur under the supervision of the OHSU's Radiation Safety Program pursuant to applicable Federal and State regulatory licenses. Only small quantities of radioisotopes would be on hand at any given time, far below the possession limit established by OHSU's Nuclear Regulatory Commission license and 40 CFR 61. A permit from the Oregon State Health Division would be required. Exposures, if any, to workers or the public would be small.

Domestic and sanitary wastes would be readily accommodated by existing municipal services. Hazardous wastes, mostly in form of blood products, produced from the operation of the AREC would be less than 10 percent of currently generated waste from OHSU and would not be expected to alter OHSU's small-quantity generator status. It is estimated that 64 to 77 cubic feet of biological/medical waste would be produced each day. This amount would be equal to a 1-2 percent increase over the current OHSU generation.

No cumulative or measurable long-term environmental impacts are expected from the proposed AREC facility. The contributions of waste products from construction, operation, and maintenance activities would add to waste accumulation; however, their contribution to such impacts would be negligible.

DETERMINATION: Based on the analyses in the EA, DOE has determined that the proposed construction and operation of the AREC at OHSU does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Therefore, an environmental impact is not required.

Issued this 30th day of December 1993.

for Tara O'Toole, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Secretary
Environment, Safety and Health