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U.S. Department of Energy
Finding of No Significant Impact
Cancer Research Center

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) DOE/EA-0965, evaluating the construction and equipping of the proposed Cancer Research Center (CRC), which would be located on the Indianapolis campus of the Indiana University School of Medicine. The proposed site is currently a paved campus parking lot. The objective of the proposed project is to combine the activities of three existing hematology-oncology basic research programs into a new four-story facility that would be both cost- and time-effective in operations. The unifying object of all three programs is to contribute to the understanding of processes of normal and abnormal cell growth and differentiation, an important part of the effort to gather information about cancer.

Based on the analysis in the EA, the 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 of 1969 (NEPA). Therefore, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:

The Department of Energy proposes to authorize the Indiana School of Medicine to proceed with the detailed design, construction and equipping of the proposed CRC. House Conference Report 102-177, accompanying the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, indicated that \$10 million had been included in DOE's fiscal year 1992 appropriation to assist the University with the construction of the proposed CRC. The proposed CRC will contain a total of approximately 65,000 gross square feet. It will consist of a proposed multi-story building with basement containing research labs and offices dedicated to conduct cancer research programs.

ALTERNATIVES:

Under the no action alternative, DOE would not authorize the University to proceed with proposed construction or with any other action on the project that would affect the environment. However, the University is committed to implementing the project without the DOE grant and thus, the environmental impacts of the no action alternative would be consistent with those of the proposed action.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

The EA analyzes the impacts of constructing, equipping and operating the proposed CRC. Areas of potential impact evaluated in the EA included those associated with both the construction and operation of the proposed facility.

Construction impacts evaluated included the effects of erosion, waste disposal, air pollutant emissions, noise, traffic and parking.

Operations impacts evaluated included the effects of waste generation (domestic, sanitary, hazardous, medical/biological, radioactive and mixed wastes), radiation, air emissions (radioactive, criteria, and air toxic), noise, socioeconomic impacts, and accidents.

No significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed construction or operations are anticipated. This finding of no significant impact for the proposed action is based on the following factors which are supported by information and analysis in the EA.

Impacts of Construction/Installation

No sensitive resources (historical/archeological, protected species/critical habitats, wetlands/floodplain, national forests/parks/trails, prime farmland and special sources of water), cited above would be affected by the proposed project as they do not occur on or near the proposed site. Routine construction waste would be managed according to appropriate state and local regulations. Air quality impacts associated with delivery trucks and on-site construction machinery would be low level and transient. Noise levels would be those associated with standard daytime conventional construction and are not likely to disturb residences, workers or outdoor recreation. Construction traffic would not significantly affect local circulation or parking.

Impacts of Operations

Waste Generation: Domestic and sanitary wastes would meet local requirements and can be readily accommodated by existing municipal services. Hazardous wastes would total approximately 7% of current generation University-wide and most of these wastes would be associated with blood work performed at the proposed CRC. These would be managed in accordance with the University's existing hazardous waste management program under a current interim RCRA permit.

Radiation Exposure: Potential radiation exposures may be associated with the use of short-lived radioisotopes in medical studies, and would be handled under the supervision of the University's Radiation Safety Program pursuant to applicable Federal and state regulatory licenses. Exposures of personnel and the public would be within safe limits, as prescribed by Federal and state regulations.

Air Quality: The proposed CRC is not likely to have a significant impact on air quality due to minimal radioactive and toxic emissions.

Other Effects: Noise generated indoors or outdoors would be insignificant. Socioeconomic impacts would be small in the scale of overall university economic activity. Accident risk would be very small as evidenced by the University's record of no reportable cases relating to illness and injury reporting is defined in the U.S. Department of Labor over the past ten years. Overall, the incremental impacts of the proposed project are small in relation to the ongoing impact of the University, and do not constitute significant cumulative impacts.

DETERMINATION:

Based on the analysis in the EA, the DOE has determined that the proposed Cancer Research Center at Indiana University 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 Statement on the Proposed Action is not required.

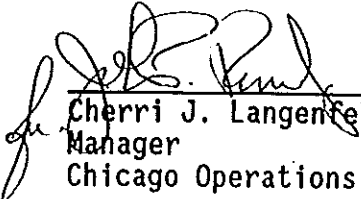
PUBLIC AVAILABILITY: Copies of this EA (DOE/EA-0965) are available from:

Karen Tenke-White, P.E.
Project Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Chicago Field Office
9800 South Cass Avenue
Argonne, Illinois 60439
(708) 252-9659

For further information regarding the DOE NEPA process contact:

W. Sedgefield White, NEPA Compliance Officer
Environment, Safety, and Health Division
Chicago Operations Office
U.S. Department of Energy
9800 South Cass Avenue
Argonne, Illinois 60439
(708) 252-2101

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Cherri J. Langenfeld
Manager
Chicago Operations Office