

U.S. Department of Energy
Finding of No Significant Impact
Construction and Operation of an Office Building
at the
Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, CA

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA), DOE/EA-1107, analyzing the environmental effects relating to the construction and operation of an office building at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC). SLAC is a national facility operated by Stanford University, California, under contract with DOE. The center is dedicated to research in elementary particle physics and in those fields that make use of its synchrotron facilities. The objective for the construction and operation of an office building is to provide adequate office space for existing SLAC Waste Management (WM) personnel, so as to centralize WM personnel and to make WM operations more efficient and effective.

Based on the analyses 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 proposed action is to construct a 40 feet x 100 feet office building on an undeveloped, grassy area approximately 50 feet south of the Centralized Hazardous Waste Management

Facility (CHWMF). The proposed design of the building is a single story, rigid frame type metal building with a concrete slab foundation, eight foot interior ceilings, and a sloping metal roof. The proposed building would provide office space for approximately 20 Waste Management personnel. The proposed project includes parking spaces for 23 vehicles, and a 25 foot long driveway with a width that exceeds the requirements for a fire lane.

ALTERNATIVES:

Two alternatives were considered: (1) constructing two separate office facilities, and (2) no action. The scenario with two separate office facilities would have constructed one facility near the Radioactive Material Storage Yard (RAMSY) housing about five people, with the second facility near the CHWMF, which would house 10 people. This alternative was eliminated for the following reasons:

- Personnel located in the office building near the RAMSY would be too far away from their supervisors and work area because WM operations are being consolidated at the CHWMF.
- There would only be enough space for fifteen personnel, rather than twenty WM personnel.
- It would be cost prohibitive to construct two office buildings rather than one.

Under the no action alternative, WM personnel would continue to occupy office space in three different locations at SLAC.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

Air Quality: Construction activities would be a temporary source of emissions. However, potential air quality effects are short-term and will not require a Clean Air Act conformity determination.

Hazardous Materials: No PCBs, asbestos-containing, or other hazardous materials will be used in the construction of the proposed office building, parking lot, or driveway.

Public Health and Safety: The proposed office building would be constructed of essentially inflammable components. Moreover, the proposed office building would be constructed in compliance with applicable codes to minimize the spread and effects of any fires. Should a fire occur in the proposed office building, no effects on the public or the environment are expected, beyond those resulting from any other small structure fire. The proposed project would not affect police services at SLAC.

Noise: The net effect of noise from the project will be minimal and will occur only during construction. Typical construction noise would consist of bulldozers, front end loaders, and heavy trucks operating in the same area. However, the relatively small size of the project site, which is approximately one acre, reduces the amount of equipment operating simultaneously. Additionally, no noise-sensitive land uses or receptors are within 1,500 feet of the site.

Public Services and Utilities: There would be a very slight increase in water consumption at SLAC, due to water required for landscape irrigation. Measures would be taken to minimize stormwater runoff and additionally, runoff would either drain to the existing storm sewer system or be recycled for grounds irrigation. Electrical and gas usage would have a net increase of less than two-tenths percent (< 0.2%) of the current total SLAC demand. Short-term increase in local traffic would occur due to the transportation of construction materials and office furnishings. Long-term effects on transportation and traffic from the proposed action would be minimal.

Areas Not Affected: The proposed action do not affect biological or cultural resources, land use, communications, or aesthetics.

Cumulative Effects: No other actions in the foreseeable future have been planned in the same geographic area, therefore, no adverse cumulative effects would occur.

DETERMINATION:

Based on the analyses in the EA, DOE has determined that the proposed construction and operation of an office building at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center do 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-1107) are available from:

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