

**DOE/EA-2014**

**Finding of No Significant Impact for the  
Emergency Operations Center Project  
Y-12 National Security Complex  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee**

**U.S. Department of Energy  
National Nuclear Security Administration**

**October 2015**

This page intentionally left blank.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE  
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER PROJECT  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration

**ACTION:** Finding of No Significant Impact

**SUMMARY:** Both the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) have facilities around the country that store, handle, and process hazardous materials; this includes the Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12) located on the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR). The potential for any release of hazardous materials during a natural phenomenon or operational accident could pose risks to the workers, the public, or the environment and could create emergency conditions that require a coordinated response. These emergencies need to be monitored from a central location that is accessible to all emergency responders and management at any time. The emergency facilities must be capable of orchestrating and providing a response to any and all types of operational emergencies. The Y-12 Emergency Operations Center (EOC) project seeks to build a facility designed to allow Y-12 to fulfill its emergency response functions and responsibilities.

The NNSA Production Office (NPO) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) (DOE/EA-2014) to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action and reasonable alternatives. A Public Notice announcing the availability of the draft EA, the length of the comment period, and where copies could be obtained was placed in regional newspapers to provide the opportunity for public review and comment. Comments received were evaluated and appropriately addressed in the final EA. The NPO Manager has determined that the proposed action is not a major Federal action that significantly affects the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.). Therefore, the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required.

**ADDRESSES:** The Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) have been prepared and are available to the general public. For copies and general information on the NNSA NEPA process, please contact: Mr. James P. Donnelly, NEPA Compliance Officer, NPO Environment, Safety, Health & Quality, PO Box 2009, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831-8009; or telephone at: (865) 574-6260, or email: [James.Donnelly@npo.doe.gov](mailto:James.Donnelly@npo.doe.gov). For general information on the DOE NEPA process, please contact: Ms. Carol Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (EH 42), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585, telephone: (202) 586-4600, or email: [Carol.Borgstrom@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Carol.Borgstrom@hq.doe.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** As described in Section 1.1 of the EA, the purpose and need of the proposed action is to construct a new emergency response facility that will more effectively and efficiently support Y-12 missions by consolidating the Plant Shift Superintendent (PSS), the Technical Support Center (TSC), Emergency Control Center (ECC) and the Fire Department Alarm Room (FDAR) from their present locations into a habitable, survivable facility.



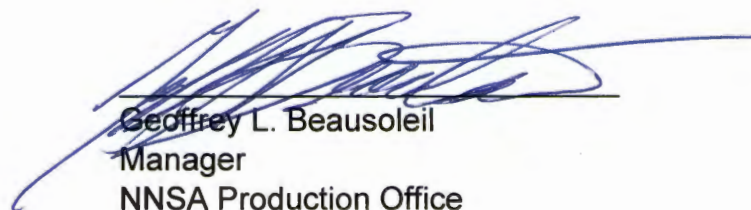
To fulfill the Y-12 mission throughout any emergency, the proposed EOC has incorporated guidelines from the National Incident Management System, DOE Order 420.1C, Chapter IV Natural Phenomena Hazards Mitigation and specific requirements for Emergency Operations Response Capabilities from DOE Order 151.1C, Comprehensive Emergency Management System.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:** Impacts to land use would not extend beyond those of the New Facility Alternative for the construction of the EOC. This would involve less than one percent of the land on the Y-12 Complex. The building of a new EOC facility would have no cumulative impact to geology and soils because of the stability of the soils at the Y-12 Complex. Air quality at Y-12 is usually at or above acceptable limits, and the alternatives analyzed in this EA would not have an adverse cumulative impact on air quality or regional climatic conditions.

All of the alternatives analyzed, except for the No Action Alternative, would have a beneficial effect for the Y-12 Complex, the ORR and the Region of Influence (ROI). There would be no negative effects on groundwater and surface water resources. Due to there being no known critical habitats for threatened or endangered species at Y-12, no cumulative impacts to ecological resources are expected. With the consideration of cultural and historic resources, the EOC would be in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act and all established agreements. Socioeconomics would benefit from additional revenue to the ROI due to the small number of temporary jobs created during the construction of the EOC, and the jobs would not exceed housing demand, community services, or transportation capabilities. With respect to human health, the proposed action would not introduce any hazardous material, with the exception of a diesel fuel generator, which is designed to keep the EOC power independent for 72 hours. This above ground storage tank would be stored in accordance with local, state and federal regulations and located outside the building, separate from occupied spaces. All waste generated in connection with the construction and operation of a new EOC facility would be managed and disposed of in accordance with the project-specific waste management plan and in compliance with all regulatory requirements. The overall visual classification of the Y-12 Complex would not change.

**DETERMINATION:** Based on the analysis of the EA, I conclude that the proposed action does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of NEPA. Therefore, an EIS for the Proposed Action is not required.

Issued in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of October 2015.

  
Geoffrey L. Beausoleil  
Manager  
NNSA Production Office