Department of Energy

Oak Ridge Operations
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831— 8218

LANL TA-70

July 25, 1997

Dear Stakeholder:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PUBLIC SCOPING

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recently announced its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed construction and operation of the National Spallation Neutron Source (NSNS) facility. This facility will provide the United States with a state-of-the-art, accelerator-based neutron source and a neutron science research laboratory for investigating the structure of advanced materials and for biomedical research.

The Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare this EIS, published in the *Federal Register* on July 25, 1997 (62FR143, Pgs 40062-40065), solicits public input on the scope of the document during a comment period which runs through September 12, 1997. The DOE will hold public meetings at the four candidate sites, Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois, Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, and Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York (please refer to the enclosed copy of the NOI for specific dates, times, and locations). I invite you to submit your comments either orally or in writing at one of the scoping meetings or, if you cannot attend the meetings, they may be mailed directly to me or relayed via toll-free telephone (1-800-927-9964), facsimile (423-576-4542), or electronic mail (nsnseis@ornl.gov).

Enclosed for your information are copies of the NOI, a fact sheet about the NSNS project, a brief description of the process for preparing an EIS, and a copy of a notice announcing the public scoping meetings that will be printed in newspapers near each meeting site.

We welcome your interest in the NSNS and look forward to your participation in the public scoping process.

Sincerely,

David K. Wilfert
Acting Project Manager,
National Spallation Neutron Source

Enclosures
as stated

National Spallation Neutron Source

FACT SHEET

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY • ENERGY RESEARCH PROGRAM • JULY 1997

The National Spallation Neutron Source (NSNS), proposed by DOE, would provide a world-class research facility for scientific investigation of materials using neutrons. Neutrons are one of two major particles (protons being the other) comprising the nucleus of atoms, and because they have no electric charge, they can penetrate deeply into the molecules of test materials to give scientists new insights into the structure and properties of the material.

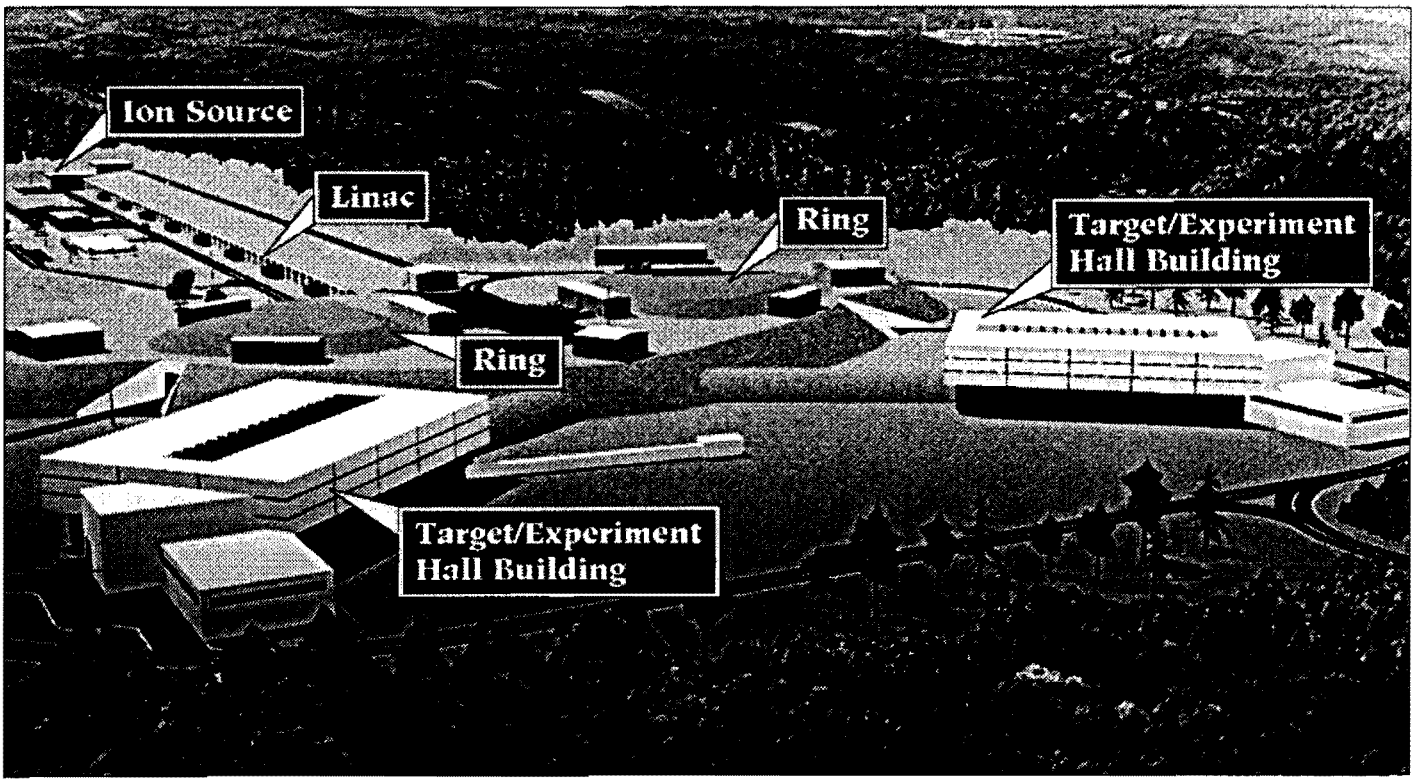
The NSNS would rely on the process known as "spallation" to extract neutrons from natural elements, in this case, mercury. In the spallation process, a target composed of an element containing large numbers of neutrons (typically heavy metals such as lead, mercury, tungsten, etc.) are struck with high energy (fast moving) particles to eject some of the neutrons. Pulses of neutrons released by the spallation process are then guided to samples of materials being studied. The interactions of the neutrons and the material being studied will be analyzed, revealing information on the structure, properties, and behavior of the material.

A particle accelerator is a major component of the NSNS, needed to produce and deliver the high energy particles (in this case protons) onto the target material. The accelerator system is comprised of three major components:

1. ***A proton source.*** Hydrogen atoms are comprised of a single proton in the nucleus and one orbiting electron. A second electron is added, creating an electrically charge particle (ion) that can be accelerated using magnetic fields and electromagnetic energy. This part of the facility is relatively small; only a few meters in length.

2. ***A Linear Accelerator (Linac).*** The linac accelerates proton ions by increasing their energy level. This is done primarily with a series of electromagnet pulses. The linac forms a beam of high energy protons, traveling at nearly 90 percent of the speed of light. The linac structure is approximately 550 meters (about 1/3 mile) long.

3. ***Storage ring.*** The storage ring is a rectangular shaped structure approximately 80 meters across. The high-



This artist's rendering depicts DOE's proposed National Spallation Neutron Source.

energy ions are stripped of electrons creating a beam of protons which is accumulated in the storage ring. The protons are then released from the storage ring in a single pulse onto the target.

The target material in the NSNS will be liquid mercury circulated in a stainless steel vessel. Mercury, being a heavy metal, is an excellent source of neutrons. Being a liquid, mercury can be continuously circulated in a closed system allowing repetitive pulses of protons and subsequent release pulses of neutrons. The mercury will be circulated through a cooling system to remove the heat generated by the impact of the protons. Approximately 1 cubic meter of mercury will be used in the NSNS. The mercury target is expected to last for the facility's design life of 40 years.

Neutrons released by the spallation process are moving very fast and must be slowed down to be useful for research. In the NSNS, moderators would consist of water, to slow the neutrons to approximately 2200 meters per second, and liquid hydrogen to slow the neutrons to approximately 500 meters per second. Beam guides will be used to direct the slowed neutrons to experiment stations where the scientific research is conducted. The building housing the target, moderators, beam guides, and research instruments will be approximately 50 by 75 meters in size.

The initial design of the NSNS linac will deposit approximately 1 MW of power (equivalent to approximately 1,340 horsepower) onto the target from the series of proton pulses. As time and technology permits, the NSNS may undergo a series of upgrades in future years to raise the beam power on target.

The NSNS Environmental Impact Statement

DOE has announced its intent to prepare an environmental impact statement, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), on the siting, construction, and operation of the proposed NSNS. According to the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ), an EIS is a concise, clear document with the primary purpose of insuring that the policies and goals defined in NEPA are infused into the ongoing federal programs. The EIS shall provide full and fair discussion of significant environmental impacts and shall inform decision makers and the public of the reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. ■

FACT SHEET

National Spallation Neutron Source

Environmental Impact Statement

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY • ENERGY RESEARCH PROGRAM • JUNE 1997

DOE has announced its intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), on the siting, construction, and operation of the proposed National Spallation Neutron Source (NSNS).

Public Scoping

The public scoping period begins with the publication of the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and continues until September 12, 1997. DOE invites the public, organizations, and agencies to present oral or written comments concerning the scope of the EIS, the issues the EIS should address, and the alternatives the EIS should analyze.

Purpose and Need for the NSNS. The proposed NSNS Project would provide the U.S. with a modern, accelerator-based neutron source and facility to meet current and future neutron science research needs. The proposed facility would be available to government, academic, and industrial users, allowing for advanced research in the physical and biological sciences, and medical research. Existing facilities do not meet the existing demand for neutron research and upgrading existing facilities would not satisfy the growing future demand.

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) reviewed the situation regarding all major domestic neutron sources and research facilities and recommended the development of a plan leading to the construction of a major pulsed spallation neutron source. This recommendation was reaffirmed in 1993 by the DOE's Basic Energy Science Advisory Committee (BESAC) Panel on Neutron Sources for America's Future. According to the BESAC recommendations, there is an urgent need to build a short pulsed spallation source in the 1 MW power range dedicated to neutron scattering with sufficient design flexibility to permit modification for operation at a significantly higher power in the future.

Proposed Action and Alternatives. DOE is proposing to design, construct and operate the NSNS facility, consisting of a proton accelerator and a spallation source, to produce neutron pulses. The proposed action includes experimental areas, laboratories, offices, and support facilities to allow ongoing and expanded programs of neutron research.

The proposed site for the NSNS is at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Locating the NSNS at ORNL offers the opportunity to access several facilities that would support the proposed research facility and take advantage of the experienced staff. ORNL has many of the support facilities needed to operate an accelerator (*e.g.*, utilities, waste management, and storage facilities). Required technical resources also exist at ORNL, including researchers with capabilities in the appropriate scientific disciplines.

DOE will evaluate in the EIS reasonable alternative locations for the NSNS, alternative technologies for producing neutrons, and the no-action alternative. Alternative sites for the NSNS are three DOE-owned facilities, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois; Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York; and Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico. The no-action alternative would result in no new spallation source or research facilities (the NSNS Project). ■

Department of Energy
Scoping Meeting for the National Spallation Neutron Source Environmental Impact Statement

DOE has published a **Notice of Intent** to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), on the siting, construction, and operation of the proposed National Spallation Neutron Source (NSNS). The EIS will evaluate four candidate sites for the NSNS: Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois, Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York, and Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.

The public scoping period begins July 25 and continues to September 12, 1997. DOE invites the public, organizations, and agencies to present oral or written comments concerning the scope of the EIS, the issues the EIS should address, and the alternatives the EIS should analyze.

Public Scoping Meetings will be held on August 19, 1997 at Los Alamos Area Office, Main Conference Room (Room 100), 528 35th Street, Los Alamos, NM 87544. Meeting times will be from 1:30-4:30 p.m. and from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Interested persons should direct comments or suggestions on the scope of the EIS, requests to speak at the public meetings, and requests for special services to enable participation in the scoping meetings (*e.g.*, interpreter for the hearing-impaired or a language other than English) to Mr. David Wilfert, U.S. Department of Energy, Oak Ridge Operations Office, P.O. Box 2001, 200 Administration Rd., Oak Ridge, TN 37831. Requests will also be accepted via a toll-free telephone, 1-800-927-9964, by facsimile at (423) 576-4542, and by e-mail at nsnseis@ornl.gov. People will also be able to register at the meetings to speak.

U.S. Department of Energy • 6450-01-P

Environmental Impact Statement for Siting, Construction, and Operation of the National Spallation Neutron Source

Agency:

Department of Energy

Action:

Notice of Intent (NOI)

Summary

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces its intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), on the siting, construction, and operation of the proposed National Spallation Neutron Source (NSNS). The proposed NSNS facility would consist of a proton accelerator system; a spallation target; and appropriate experimental areas, laboratories, offices, and support facilities to allow ongoing and expanded programs of neutron research. The proposed site for the NSNS is the DOE-owned Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The alternative sites under consideration are three other DOE-owned laboratories: Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois; Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico; and Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York. DOE invites the public, organizations, and agencies to present oral or written comments concerning (1) the scope of the EIS, (2) the issues the EIS should address, and (3) the alternatives the EIS should analyze.

Dates

The public scoping period begins with publication of this NOI and continues until September 12, 1997. Written comments submitted by mail should be postmarked by that date to ensure consideration. Comments mailed after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

DOE will conduct public scoping meetings to assist in defining the appropriate scope of the EIS and to identify significant environmental issues to be addressed. These meetings will be held at the following times and locations:

- August 11, 1997, American Museum of Science and Energy, 300 South Tulane Ave., Oak Ridge, TN 37830; *Times:* 1:30-4:30 p.m. and 6:30-9:30 p.m.
- August 14, 1997, Argonne National Laboratory, Bldg. 401 (Advanced Photon Source), Room A1100, 9700 Cass Ave., Argonne, IL 60439; *Times:* 1:30-4:30 p.m. and 6:30-9:30 p.m.
- August 19, 1997, Los Alamos Area Office, Main Conference Room (Room 100), 528 35th Street, Los Alamos, NM 87544; *Times:* 1:30-4:30 p.m. and 6:30-9:30 p.m.
- September 4, 1997, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Berkner Hall (Bldg. 488), Brookhaven Ave., Upton, NY 11973; *Times:* 1:30-4:30 p.m. and 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Addresses

Please direct comments or suggestions on the scope of the EIS, requests to speak at the public scoping meetings, requests for meeting special needs to enable participation at scoping meetings (*e.g.*, interpreter for the hearing-impaired) and questions concerning the project to

David Wilfert
U.S. Department of Energy, Oak Ridge Operations Office
200 Administration Rd., 146/FEDC
Oak Ridge, TN 37831
Telephone: (800) 927-9964
Facsimile: (423) 576-4542 or
E-mail: NSNSEIS@ornl.gov

For Further Information

For general information associated with the research aspects of the NSNS, please contact

Iran Thomas
Deputy Associate Director, Office of Basic Energy Research
Office of Energy Research
U.S. Department of Energy, ER-10
Germantown, MD 20874
Telephone: (301) 903-3427

For general information on the DOE NEPA process, please contact:

Carol M. Borgstrom
Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance
EH-42, U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585-0119
Telephone: (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756

Supplementary Information

Background. Over the past 40 years, the use of neutrons for research purposes, a use pioneered in the United States, has played a valuable role in advancements in the fields of fundamental physical and biological sciences, material technology, and medicine. However, in the last two decades, the United States has fallen behind the European scientific community in the availability of state-of-the-art neutron sources and instrumentation because of the age of its existing facilities. Existing United States reactor-based neutron sources were built in the 1960s, and existing accelerator-based sources were built in the early 1980s. These facilities have had minimal upgrading and modernization, and are not well suited for the specific areas of research to which scientific investigation has evolved. In 1994, a proposal to build a new reactor-based

neutron source, the Advanced Neutron Source (ANS), was not supported by Congress because of high costs (approximately $3 billion) and potential nuclear proliferation issues. Now, DOE is proposing to construct and operate the NSNS Project to provide the United States with a modern accelerator-based neutron source and neutron science research facility at a cost of approximately $1 billion to meet current and future research needs.

The proposed NSNS would produce short pulses of neutrons for use in materials research. This would be accomplished through the "spallation" process wherein (1) subatomic particles, called protons, are accelerated to very high energies; (2) the high energy protons are "bunched" into a compact group; (3) the bunched, high energy protons are directed onto a target made of a high atomic number material, in this case mercury; and (4) the collision of the protons with the target produces a pulse of neutrons from the target material. Once the spallation process is completed and the neutron pulse is produced, the neutrons would be slowed to useful energy levels, and would be guided onto samples of the materials being studied. The interactions of the neutrons and the specimens would be measured and analyzed, thus revealing information on the structure, properties, and behavior of the test material.

Purpose and Need for the NSNS. The purpose of the proposed NSNS Project is to provide the United States with its only modern, high performance pulsed neutron research facility. Since the 1970s, numerous assessments have firmly established the need for new neutron sources and instrumentation in the United States. The proposed facility would allow for advanced research in the United States in the physical and biological sciences, for industrial application, and medical research. Current facilities are inadequate to meet the existing demand for neutron research and, even if upgraded, would not be able to satisfy the growing future demand.

The need for new neutron sources has been recognized by national panels investigating the status of neutron sources and science in the United States since a National Academy of Sciences (NAS) study in 1984. After reviewing all major domestic facilities for materials research, a NAS panel recommended: (1) construction of a steady-state, high-flux neutron source; and (2) development of a plan leading to the construction of a major pulsed spallation neutron source.

These recommendations were reaffirmed in 1993 by DOE's Basic Energy Science Advisory Committee (BESAC) Panel on "Neutron Sources for America's Future." Although a reactor-based Advanced Neutron Source (ANS) Project was proposed in each of fiscal years 1994 and 1995, the proposal was not continued in the fiscal year 1996 budget process, primarily due to the high cost (approximately $3 billion) of the total project. As a result, emphasis shifted to the lower cost proposed accelerator-based NSNS facility. According to the most recent BESAC recommendations (1996), there is an urgent need to build a short pulsed spallation source in the 1 MW power range, dedicated to neutron scattering, with sufficient design flexibility to permit future modification for operation at higher power. EIS will analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of the facility in its fully upgraded condition (4-5 MW).

Proposed Action and Alternatives. The proposed NSNS facility would consist of a proton accelerator system, a spallation source to produce neutron pulses, and appropriate experimental areas, laboratories, offices, and support facilities to allow ongoing and expanded programs of neutron research. The NSNS Project would provide key capabilities to support multiple elements of DOE strategic planning, such as:

- constructing leading-edge facilities for use by industries, universities, and government laboratories;
- providing new insights into the nature of matter and energy;
- maintaining core competencies and partnering with the private sector and other agencies; and
- accelerating the use of emerging technologies.

DOE proposes to construct and operate the NSNS at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in Oak Ridge, TN. Locating the NSNS at ORNL would offer access to existing facilities which could support the proposed NSNS facility and would take advantage of experienced staff at those facilities, including researchers with expertise in the appropriate scientific disciplines. Supporting facilities, including utilities, waste management and storage facilities, also exist at ORNL.

DOE will evaluate reasonable alternative locations, the no-action alternative, and technology alternatives. In addition to ORNL, the proposed site of the NSNS, the EIS will also analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with constructing and operation the NSNS at three other reasonable sites: Argonne National Laboratory (ANL), Argonne, IL; Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), Los Alamos, NM; and Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), Upton, NY. DOE identified these sites as reasonable through the application of four screening criteria to a total of thirty-nine candidate sites. The four criteria were: (1) the availability of 110 acres of land; (2) the existence of a one mile buffer zone separating the proposed NSNS from populated areas; (3) the ready availability of 50 to 60 MW of electric power; and (4) existence of the infrastructure and trained personnel associated with an ongoing neutron science program.

Technology alternatives include reactor-based neutron sources and variations in the accelerator-based system. The no action alternative would be not to build or operate the NSNS.

Conceptual Design. Neutrons are one of two major particles (protons being the other) comprising the nucleus of atoms, and because they have no electric charge, they can penetrate deeply into the

molecules of test materials to give scientists new insights into the structure and properties of the material. The NSNS facility would extract neutrons from the nuclei of "target" material so they can be subsequently used for research on various specimens.

A process known as "spallation" is applied to extract neutrons from target nuclei. In the spallation process, target nuclei containing large numbers of neutrons (typically heavy metals such as lead, mercury, tungsten, etc.) are struck with high energy (fast moving) particles to eject some of the contained neutrons. A large part of the NSNS facility is the accelerator system needed to produce and deliver the high energy particles (in this case protons) onto the target material. The accelerator system is comprised of: (1) an ion source to electrically charge hydrogen atoms (a hydrogen atom is comprised of a single proton in the nucleus and one orbiting electron) so they can be accelerated using magnetic fields and electromagnetic energy. This part of the facility is relatively small, *i.e.*, only a few meters in length; (2) a Linear Accelerator (linac), which is a series of energy-inducing devices used to accelerate (increase energy level) the protons (hydrogen ions) and form a beam of high energy particles. The linac structure is approximately 550 meters (about 1/3 mile) long; and (3) a storage ring to accumulate large numbers of the high energy protons, and then release that grouping of protons in a single pulse onto the target. The storage ring is a rectangular-shaped structure approximately 80 meters across.

The accelerator system is operated so that proton pulses from the storage ring are repeatedly directed onto the target at a repetition rate of 60 Hz (60 times per second). The initial design of the NSNS would involve approximately 1 MW of power (equivalent to approximately 1,340 horsepower) being deposited onto the target from this series of proton pulses. As time and technology permits, the NSNS may undergo a series of upgrades in future years to raise the beam power on the target.

The target of the proton pulse power would be liquid mercury circulated in a stainless steel vessel. Mercury, as a target material, provides good conversion of protons to released neutrons and, as a liquid, it can be continuously circulated in a closed system to absorb the impact of the proton pulses, release pulses of neutrons, and transport impact energy (heat) to remote cooling systems. Approximately 1 cubic meter of mercury would be used in the NSNS, a volume that would be expected to last for the facility's design life of 40 years.

Because the neutrons released by the spallation process are moving very fast, they must be moderated (slowed) to levels suitable for research needs. Neutron moderation is achieved by successive collisions of the fast neutrons with cooler nuclei. In the NSNS, two thermal moderators and two cryogenic moderators would be positioned around the mercury target to slow the neutrons in each pulse. First, the thermal moderators would use water to slow the neutrons to speeds associated with room temperatures (approximately 2200 meters per second). Concurrently, cryogenic moderators would use liquid hydrogen to slow the neutrons to speeds associated with very low temperatures (approximately 500 meters per second). Beam guides, 18 in all, would direct the slowed neutrons to experiment stations where the scientific research is conducted. The building housing the target, moderators, beam guides, and research instruments would be approximately 50 by 75 meters in size.

The NSNS facility would be appropriately integrated into the site infrastructure of the host laboratory, including roadways, utilities, and monitoring systems. The laboratory would provide security and fire protection. The entire facility would require approximately 110 acres of cleared land, and ready access to and availability of 50-60 MW of electric power. It would have a design lifetime of 40 years, but the design would not preclude lifetime extensions beyond 40 years. Systems and structures would be designed to facilitate eventual decontamination and removal.

Design of the NSNS is projected to span four years (FY 1999-2002), and construction nearly five years (FY 2000-2004). Facility commissioning would occur in FY 2003-2004, with FY 2005 being the first full year of operation. Project staffing is estimated to rise from approximately 30 to approximately 90 during conceptual design (FY 1996-1998); rise from approximately 100 to a peak of approximately 1200 and decline to approximately 225 during design/construction (FY 1999-2004); and hold at approximately 225 for operation (FY 2004 and beyond). The estimated total project cost from conceptual design through commissioning is approximately $1 billion.

Preliminary Environmental Analysis. DOE plans to analyze potential impacts of the NSNS project on the following parameters. This list is neither intended to be all-inclusive, nor is it a predetermination of potential impacts. Additions to or deletions from this list may occur as a result of the scoping process.

- *Earth Resources:* physiography, topography, geology, and soil characteristics
- *Land Use:* plans, policies and controls
- *Water Resources:* surface and groundwater hydrology, use, and quality
- *Air Quality:* meteorological basis, ambient background, pollutant sources, and potential degradation
- *Radiation Background:* cosmic, rock, soil, water, and air
- *Hazardous Materials:* handling, storage, and use; waste management both near- and long-term
- *Noise:* ambient, sources, and sensitive receptors
- *Ecological Resources:* aquatic, terrestrial, economically/recreationally important species, threatened and endangered species
- *Socioeconomics:* demography, economic base, labor pool, housing, transportation, utilities, public

services/facilities, education, recreation, and cultural resources
- *Historical and Archaeological Resources:* paleontological and archaeological sites, Native American resources, historic and prehistoric sites
- *Scenic and Visual Resources*
- *Wetlands:* protection and remediation
- *Health and Safety:* public and occupational impacts from routine operation and credible accident scenarios
- *Natural Disasters:* floods, tornadoes, and seismic events
- *Unavoidable Adverse Impacts*
- *Natural and Depletable Resources:* requirements and conservation potential
- *Environmental Justice:* disproportionately high and adverse impacts to minority and low income populations

The preliminary identification of reasonable alternatives and environmental issues presented in this NOI is not meant to be exhaustive or final. Alternatives other then those presented in this document may warrant examination, and new issues may be identified for evaluation.

Relevant issues related to decommissioning of the NSNS will be addressed to the extent possible. Additional NEPA review may be necessary in the future when decommissioning plans are proposed.

Scoping Meetings: The purpose of this NOI is to encourage early public involvement in the EIS process and to solicit public comments on the proposed scope and content of the EIS. DOE plans to hold formal public scoping meetings in the vicinity of the proposed and alternative sites to solicit both oral and written comments from interested parties.

DOE will designate a presiding officer for the scoping meetings. The scoping meetings will not be conducted as evidentiary hearings, and there will be no questioning of the commentors. However, the presiding officer may ask for clarification of statements to ensure that DOE fully understands the comments and suggestions. The presiding officer will establish the order of speakers. At the opening of each meeting, the presiding officer will announce any additional procedures necessary for the conduct of the meetings. To ensure that all persons wishing to make a presentation are given the opportunity, a five-minute limit may be enforced for each speaker, with the exception of public officials and representatives of groups who will be allotted ten minutes each. Comment cards will also be available for those who would prefer to submit their comments in written form.

DOE will make transcripts of scoping meetings and other environmental and project-related materials available for public review in the following reading rooms:

- U.S. Department of Energy Freedom of Information Public Reading Room
  Forrestal Building, Room 1E-190
  1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
  Washington, D.C. 20585
  Telephone: (202) 586-3142

- U.S. Department of Energy
  Reading Room
  Oak Ridge Operations Office
  200 Administration Rd., Rm. G-217
  Oak Ridge, TN 37831
  Telephone: (423) 241-4780

- Argonne National Laboratory
  c/o Documents Dept., University Library, Third Floor Center
  University of Illinois at Chicago
  801 South Morgan St.
  Chicago, IL 60439
  Telephone: (312) 996-2738

- BNL Research Library
  Bldg. 477A, Brookhaven Ave.
  Upton, NY 11973
  Telephone: (516) 344-3483

- Longwood Public Library
  800 Middle Country Rd.
  Middle Island, NY 11953
  Telephone: (516) 924-6400

- Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library
  301 William Floyd Parkway
  Shirley, NY 11967
  Telephone: (516) 399-1511

- Los Alamos National Laboratory
  Public Outreach and Reading Room
  Los Alamos, NM 87544
  Telephone: (505) 665-2127

NEPA Process. The EIS for the proposed facility will be prepared according to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and DOE's NEPA Regulations (10 CFR Part 1021).

The draft EIS is scheduled to be published by March 1998. A 45-day comment period on the draft EIS is planned, and public hearings to receive comments will be held approximately one month after distribution of the draft EIS. Availability of the draft EIS, the dates of the public comment period, and information about the public hearings will be announced in the *Federal Register* and in the local news media when the draft EIS is distributed.

The final EIS, which will incorporate public comments received on the draft EIS, is expected in July 1998. No sooner than 30 days after a notice of availability of the final EIS is published in the *Federal Register*, DOE will issue its Record of Decision and publish it in the *Federal Register.*

Signed in Washington, D.C., this 21st day of July, 1997.

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

Peter N. Brush
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
Environment, Safety and Health ■