

# **Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Consolidation of Nuclear Operations Related to Production of Radioisotope Power Systems**



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# Presentation Overview

- ◆ Background
- ◆ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements
- ◆ Purpose of this scoping meeting
- ◆ Examples of environmental issues assessed
- ◆ Alternatives
- ◆ Proposed schedule for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- ◆ How to comment?



# Background

- ◆ **Prior NEPA reviews**
- ◆ **Current status**
- ◆ **Need for action**
- ◆ **Proposed action**
- ◆ **Alternatives**



# National Environmental Policy Act Requirements

- ◆ **Applies to Federal agencies**
- ◆ **EIS for major Federal actions with potential for significant impacts on the environment**
- ◆ **Environmental Assessment to determine if an EIS should be prepared**
- ◆ **After completion of EA:**
  - Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), or
  - Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS
- ◆ **EIS determination**
  - Notice of Intent to prepare EIS published in Federal Register on November 16, 2004



## **Purpose of this Scoping Meeting**

- ◆ **Inform the public, Federal, State, and local agencies, Tribes, and other interested parties of the proposed action**
- ◆ **Provide opportunity for public involvement in the Federal decision making process**
- ◆ **Solicit comments on the proposed action and scope of the EIS**



# **Examples of Environmental Topics Assessed in the EA**

**Ecological Resources**

**Land Resources**

**Air Quality**

**Water Quality**

**Waste Management**

**Pollution Prevention**

**Health & Safety**

**Socioeconomic**

**Environmental Justice**

**Natural Disasters**

**Earth Resources**

**Hazardous Materials**

**Radiation Effects**

**Others as warranted**



# Alternatives

## ◆ “No Action Alternative”

- Continue RPS program as currently configured
  - Neptunium-237 storage at the Idaho Site
  - Target fabrication at Oak Ridge National Laboratory
  - Target irradiation in Advanced Test Reactor at the Idaho Site
  - Target processing for plutonium-238 at Oak Ridge National Laboratory
  - Plutonium-238 purification and encapsulation at Los Alamos National Laboratory
  - RPS assembly at the Idaho Site

## ◆ **Consolidate nuclear operations related to RPS production at the Idaho Site -- the preferred alternative**

## ◆ **Other Reasonable Alternative(s) identified during the scoping period**



# NEPA Review Process

## Public Notification

### ◆ Notice for the Scoping Meetings

- Federal Register Notice – November 16, 2004
- Display advertisements placed in local newspapers
- Over 1,760 postcards mailed to stakeholders

### ◆ Scoping Meetings

- Idaho Falls, ID - December 6, 2004
- Jackson, WY - December 7, 2004
- Fort Hall, ID - December 8, 2004
- Twin Falls, ID - December 9, 2004
- Los Alamos, NM - December 13, 2004
- Oak Ridge, TN - December 15, 2004
- Washington, DC - December 17, 2004





## **Schedule for the Consolidation EIS**

- ◆ **Comments due on the proposed action and scope of the EIS - January 31, 2005**
- ◆ **Draft EIS distributed for public, agency, and affected state and Tribe comments - Late Spring 2005**
- ◆ **Final EIS - Fall 2005**



# How to Comment

## U.S. Mail

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Oral and/or written comments at the scoping meetings