

U.S. Department of Energy
Finding of No Significant Impact
Cleanup and Closure of the Energy Technology Engineering Center

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) NNSA Service Center is responsible for the operation of the Energy Technology Engineering Center (ETEC), located in Ventura County California. DOE has determined that ETEC is surplus to its current needs and is closing the site, but first must cleanup the remaining radioactive and chemical contamination at the site. The cleanup of the radiological contamination at ETEC and release of the site from regulatory control is being done in accordance with various laws and regulations, including the Atomic Energy Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response and Liability Act).

DOE prepared an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential impacts of implementing cleanup and closure activities (*see Environmental Assessment for Cleanup and Closure of the Energy Technology Engineering Center, DOE/EA-1345*), in accordance with NEPA and DOE's NEPA implementing regulations (10 CFR Part 1021). Based on the results of the analysis in the EA and other information described below, DOE has decided to implement its preferred alternative (cleaning up radiological facilities and surrounding soils to a 15 millirem exposure per year standard plus ALARA (As Low As Reasonably Achievable) DOE has determined that implementation of this alternative will be fully protective of future users of the site and does not significantly affect the quality of the human health or the environment within the meaning of NEPA. Therefore, preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED WORK:

DOE's preferred alternative (*Alternative 1*) is cleaning up the ETEC site using a 15 mrem/year standard plus ALARA for decontamination of radiological facilities and surrounding soils. Using this standard, DOE would ensure that any remaining radiological contamination would result in no more than an annual 15-millirem additional radiation dose (above background) to the maximally exposed individual from all exposure pathways results in an additional theoretical lifetime cancer risk of no more than 3×10^{-4} (three in 10,000) to the maximally exposed individual over 40 years. However, annual exposures are likely to be much lower as a result of the application of the ALARA (As Low As Reasonably Achievable) principle. Under this alternative, DOE would also decontaminate, decommission, and demolish the remaining sodium facilities and all of the remaining uncontaminated support buildings for which it is responsible. Ongoing groundwater treatment would continue. Radioactive, hazardous, and nonhazardous debris waste would be transported off the site to approved disposal facilities. Sodium would be transported off the site for reuse. Clean soil from an onsite borrow area would be used to regrade the site as necessary. Implementation of Alternative 1 would result in the generation of approximately 9,100 cubic meters (321,400 cubic feet) of low-level radioactive waste.

