

Socioeconomics

TVA's staff economist reviewed the DOE FEIS and concluded that the FEIS adequately covers the socioeconomic and environmental justice considerations for TVA's proposed actions. One activity was evaluated in greater detail for socioeconomic effects to corroborate that effects were minimal and did not create additional substantive issues or potential for impacts. Construction of additional facilities at NFS is not explicitly addressed in the DOE FEIS. Construction would require about 4 years, with a maximum employment of about 105 workers. This activity would have a positive socioeconomic impact on the area. At maximum employment, the number of jobs in Unicoi County, where the facility is located, would increase about 1.6 percent. However, the Labor Market Area within which most construction workers would live, also includes Carter, Sullivan and Washington Counties. This Labor Market Area (LMA) has a combined employment level of over 189,000 workers. Therefore the maximum LMA employment increase during construction would be less than one-tenth of one percent and would constitute a minor, insignificant addition to employment in the LMA.

Other Considerations

As discussed, the DOE FEIS bounds the expected environmental impacts from the proposed TVA actions. Furthermore, the alternative of obtaining low enriched uranium through conventional mining, milling, conversion, and enrichment has far greater environmental impacts than the proposed action. To produce an equivalent amount of LEU for fuel rod assemblies would require 14 million pounds of U3O8 which would conservatively require mining about 140,000 tons of ore. Finally, the following should be considered. The Department of Transportation estimates that 3.6 billion tons of regulated hazardous materials are transported each year in the United States with approximately 500,000 shipments of hazardous materials occurring each day (FEIS page 4-101). There are approximately 2 million annual shipments of radioactive materials representing about 2 percent of the annual hazardous material shipments. As discussed, TVA's proposed actions will replace some of those shipments with other shipments in the form of natural uranium and low enriched uranium. All of the shipments anticipated resulting from the TVA

actions would represent less than a 0.01 percent increase in the number of expected radioactive material shipments over the same time period, and constitute an insignificant addition to the amount of such material shipped.

Avoidance and Minimization of Environmental Harm

As discussed, implementation of the decisions in this ROD will result in low environmental and health impacts during normal operations. These impacts were adequately addressed in the DOE FEIS. However, DOE, TVA, and its contractors will take all reasonable steps to avoid or minimize harm, including the following:

- DOE and TVA will use current safety and health programs and practices to reduce impacts by maintaining worker radiation exposure as low as reasonably achievable.
- DOE, TVA and its contractors will meet appropriate waste minimization and pollution prevention objectives consistent with the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990. As discussed in the HEU FEIS, segregation of activities that generate radioactive and hazardous wastes will be employed, where possible to avoid the generation of mixed wastes. Treatment to separate radioactive and non-radioactive components will be employed to reduce the volume of mixed wastes. Where possible, non-hazardous materials will be substituted for those that contribute to the generation of hazardous or mixed waste. Waste streams would be treated to facilitate disposal as nonhazardous wastes, where possible. In addition to following such practices at its own federal facilities, TVA and DOE will seek to include comparable requirements in contracts with commercial facilities.

Dated: November 4, 2001.

John Scalice,

Chief Nuclear Officer and Executive Vice President.

[FR Doc. 01-28844 Filed 11-16-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8120-08-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Notice of Approval of the Record of Decision for the Proposed Chicago Terminal Airspace Project

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of approval of the Record of Decision (ROD).

SUMMARY: The FAA is announcing the approval of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Chicago Terminal Airspace Project (CTAP). The ROD provides final agency determinations and approvals for air traffic actions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Annette Davis, Environmental Specialist, AGL-520.E, 2300 East Devon Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois 60018, Telephone (847) 294-8091.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The ROD describes and approves the implementation of FAA actions associated with high-altitude airspace and procedural changes for flights to/from the Chicago region. The project would not provide for any airport related development nor would it cause significant adverse environmental impacts. The FAA's actions, which include only air traffic actions, are described in detail in the CTAP Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), which was approved on August 23, 2001.

In reaching the decisions, the FAA has given careful consideration to: (a) The aviation safety and operational objectives of the project in light of the various aeronautical factors and judgments presented; (b) the need to enhance efficiency of the national air transportation system; and (c) the anticipated environmental impacts of the project.

The FAA's determinations on CTAP are discussed in the ROD, which was approved on November 2, 2001.

ADDRESSES: The ROD is available for review at: Federal Aviation Administration; Airspace Branch; AGL-520, 2300 East Devon Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois, 60018. Individuals who would like to review the ROD must contact Ms. Annette Davis at (847) 294-8091 to make prior arrangements. The ROD will also be posted at the following Web site: <http://www.faa.gov/ctap.html>

Issued in Des Plaines, Illinois on November 9, 2001.

Nancy B. Shelton,

Manager, Air Traffic Division.

[FR Doc. 01-28869 Filed 11-16-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), notice is hereby given that the Federal