

APPENDIX B

SCOPING LETTER AND RESPONSE LETTERS FROM RECIPIENTS



Department of Energy

Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401-3393

April 10, 2002

DISTRIBUTION LIST

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PUBLIC AND AGENCY COMMENTS ON SITE-WIDE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RELATED TO THE PROPOSED OPERATION AND IMPROVEMENTS AT THE NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY'S SOUTH TABLE MOUNTAIN SITE.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), will be preparing a site-wide environmental assessment (EA) of proposed operations and improvements at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) South Table Mountain site near Golden, Colorado. NREL is a federally owned, contractor-operated research facility that supports renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. A detailed description of the site and the Proposed Action are included in the attachment to this letter. DOE is the lead agency for this EA, and other federal, state, and local agencies are invited to participate in the environmental documentation process. DOE is requesting public input on the proposed NEPA process, proposed actions and alternatives, and the environmental issues to be addressed in the EA.

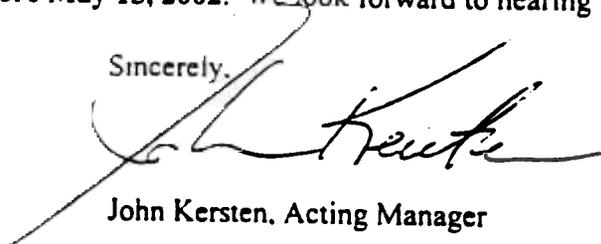
DOE plans to distribute the draft EA for public review and comment by October 2002. This letter and the draft EA, when it is available, will be posted as it becomes available on the DOE Golden Field Office electronic reading room at www.golden.doe.gov.

Please direct your written and oral comments to:

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(303) 275-4723
(303) 275- 4788 (fax)
steve_blazek@nrel.gov :

Please provide your input on or before May 15, 2002. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



John Kersten, Acting Manager

Attachment: As Stated



PURPOSE AND NEED

A Site-Wide EA for the STM and the 3 buildings at the eastern end of the DWOP was prepared in 1993. In accordance with DOE NEPA implementing regulations (10 CFR section 1021.330), DOE is required to evaluate existing Site-Wide EAs periodically to determine whether they adequately address current agency plans, functions, programs and resource utilization. Based on current program priorities, applicable regulatory processes, and new research and development proposals, DOE has determined that a new comprehensive EA should be prepared for these sites at this time.

This Site-Wide EA will provide an opportunity to review the collective potential effects of existing and proposed facilities and operations at the STM and DWOP sites. The purpose and need for the Proposed Action is to operate the sites with new and improved capability to support DOE's mission to research and develop renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.

PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

The following presents a summary of the current Proposed Action and No Action alternative descriptions. Other alternatives raised during the scoping period will be considered and may be addressed in the EA if they are consistent with the Proposed Action purpose and need.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is to continue operation of the STM and DWOP sites for alternative energy research with new and improved capability. New construction would include permanent physical improvements to the sites that involve buildings and equipment, utilities and other infrastructure. The Proposed Action also consists of expanded activities not requiring new permanent facilities or infrastructure, including research programs, facility operations, management practices and maintenance activities.

The components of the Proposed Action are addressed according to two implementation periods:

Short-Term (2003-2007)

Long-Term (2008-2022)

Federal budgeting decisions and fluctuating priorities will determine which components of the proposed actions are selected for funding and implementation. Thus, the specific physical requirements and locations of proposed facilities as well as their actual construction schedules are uncertain for most short-term and long-term components. In many cases, the descriptions of the improvements will be in general terms and the locations and schedules for components will be estimated based on currently available information. If implemented, these potential scenarios could change to involve more or less development. Therefore, the EA will use a "bounding analysis" approach to consider the full range of possible development scenarios.

Short-Term Components (2003-2007)

The Short-Term improvement program includes components for both the STM site and the DWOP site, but most of the physical improvements will occur at the STM site. The following improvements define the short-term components of the Proposed Action:

ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS TO BE ADDRESSED

The proposed EA will address primary, direct, indirect, secondary and cumulative impacts of the Proposed Action and alternatives. Beneficial and adverse, on-site and off-site, construction, demolition, and operation and maintenance impacts will be discussed, as appropriate. The environmental topics to be discussed in the EA include:

- Land Use, Planning, Socioeconomics and Public Policy
- Traffic and Circulation
- Air Quality and Noise
- Visual Quality/Aesthetics
- Water Resources
- Soils and Geology
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Waste Management
- Public Facilities, Services and Utilities
- Energy

SCHEDULE

The schedule for key milestones to complete the NEPA review process is:

Close of Scoping Period	May 15, 2002
Public Distribution of the Draft EA	October 2002

No formal public scoping meeting is currently planned for this project. This letter and the draft EA, when it is available, will be posted on the Golden Field Office electronic reading room at <http://www.golden.doe.gov>.

Please direct written and oral comments to:

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FIGURES:

- Figure 1 Regional Location Map, South Table Mountain Site
- Figure 2 Local Setting Map, South Table Mountain Site
- Figure 3 Site Plan, South Table Mountain Site