

**APPENDIX A: PRESENTATION BY DOE AT THE
PUBLIC MEETINGS ON THE DRAFT SEIS**

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Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the National Ignition Facility (Draft SEIS)

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Purpose of the Meeting

- **To provide an opportunity for public comment on the NIF Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to the Stockpile Stewardship & Management Programmatic EIS: DOE/EIS -0236**



Joint Stipulation & Order (JSO)

- **The PEIS lawsuit resulted in a Joint Stipulation and Order whereby DOE agreed to evaluate the “... reasonably foreseeable significant adverse environmental impacts of continuing to construct and operate the NIF... with respect to contamination in the area by hazardous, toxic and/or radioactive materials”**



Agenda & Administrative Matters

- **DOE presentation**
- **Opportunity for elected officials to comment**
- **Sign up sheets for public comments**
- **Public comments**
- **Transcript will be made of the meeting**
- **Web Site for DSEIS:**
<http://tis.eh.doe.gov/nepa/docs/docs.htm>



SEIS NEPA Process

- **Comments must be submitted to DOE by December 20, 1999**
- **Comments received will be considered in the Final SEIS**
- **A Record of Decision (ROD) will be published in the Federal Register**
- **The process is scheduled to be completed in spring 2000**



Background to the Supplemental EIS

- **The environmental consequences of siting, construction and operations of the NIF were addressed in the SSM PEIS.**
 - » **The ROD was published on December 26, 1996**
 - **Construct and operate NIF at LLNL**
 - » **Groundbreaking took place on May 29, 1997**



NIF Construction Picture



DPOM 1199-00031



Capacitor Discovery and Removal Sept 97

- **Excavation activities at NIF discovered 112 capacitors containing PCBs and PCB contaminated soil**
- **Capacitor and soil cleanup conducted with oversight by Federal and State Remedial Project Managers (RPMs) following procedures set forth in CERCLA**
- **RPMs Included: US EPA; State of CA, Department of Toxic Substances Control; and San Francisco Bay Regional Water Control Board**



JSO Identified Seven Areas

- **The Joint Stipulation and Order required characterization of various areas in and around the NIF site**
- **Characterization was done to determine if the areas contained hazardous, toxic, and/or radioactive buried objects**
 - » **During characterization, progress was reported to the court through Quarterly Reports**
- **Following characterization a Draft Supplemental EIS was prepared**



Areas for Evaluation

- **Helipad Area,**
- **East Traffic Circle Area (ETCA),**
- **Northern Boundary Area,**
- **Building 571 Area,**
- **East Gate Drive Area,**
- **Building 490 Area, and**
- **NIF construction site**



Map of Stipulated Area

- **Picture**



Investigation under JSO

- **Records & photos reviewed, past and present employees interviewed**
- **Geophysical surveys conducted**
- **Groundwater wells and soil borings & excavations**
- **Quarterly reports to court**
- **Prepare a Supplemental EIS**



Characterization Activities

- **Review of historical records, examination of aerial photos, interviews with current employees and retirees**
- **Conducting magnetometer, electromagnetic induction, and ground penetrating radar surveys**
- **Drilling boreholes and analyzing soil samples; drilling monitoring wells and analyzing groundwater samples**
- **Exploratory excavations based on geophysical results**



Characterization Activities

- **Geophysical Investigations**
 - » Four Magnetometer Surveys
 - » Two Electrical Conductivity Surveys
 - » One Ground Penetrating Radar Survey
- **Six New Groundwater Monitoring Wells**
- **31 Soil Boreholes**
- **Eleven Test Excavations**
- **Comprehensive Review of Data**



Groundwater Monitoring Wells NE Area

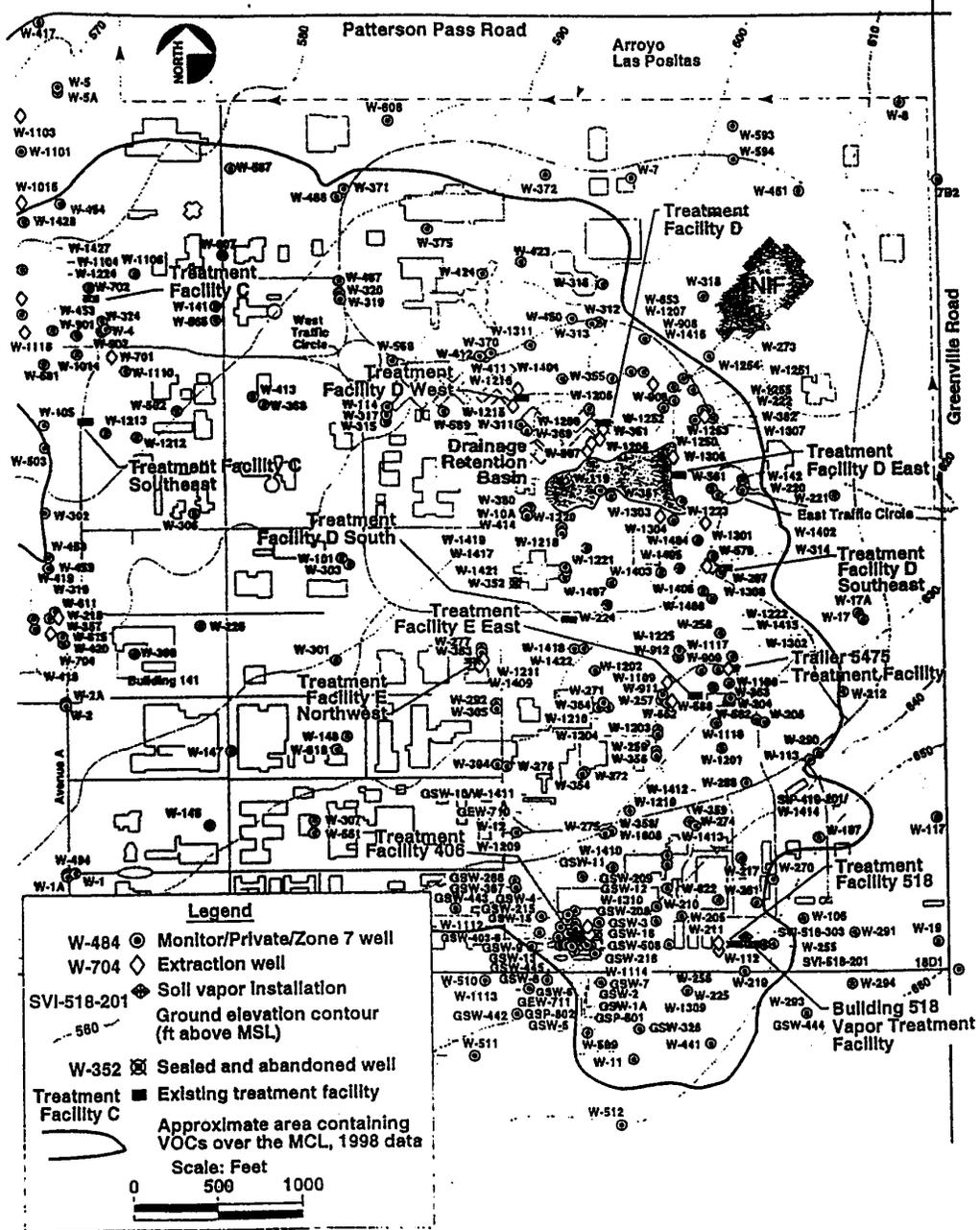
- **Map of area**

Eastern portion of the Livermore Site showing ground water wells and approximate area containing VOCs over the MCL levels in 1998



5/17/00

A-15



Approval Final CRD



Characterization Findings

- **NIF Construction Area**

- » **Sediment samples found no contaminants above levels of regulatory concern**
- » **Only construction debris was uncovered during drilling of boreholes and excavations based on geophysical results**
- » **Groundwater sampling at the NIF site found on-going cleanup had continued to reduce contamination levels**
- » **No PCBs have been detected in groundwater anywhere on site**



Results Other Areas

- **Geophysical surveys evaluated:**

- » boreholes and/or excavations on significant geophysical anomalies found only construction debris

- **Groundwater sampling found:**

- » on-going cleanup had continued to reduce contamination levels



East Traffic Circle PCB Removal

- **December 1998: PCB contaminated soil identified during routine maintenance which is outside the NIF construction site**
- **Approximately 110 cubic yards of contaminated soil removed to regulator-approved level**



ETC PCB Removal 1998

- **Removal Action under Guidance of CERCLA RPMs**
- **Cleanup level of 18 ppm selected based on risk for remote industrial site**
- **Clean fill used to cover excavation**
- **Action Memorandum in preparation**



NIF SEIS Alternatives (JS&O)

- **SEIS evaluated two no action alternatives**

The Preferred No Action Alternative

- » **Complete NIF Project at LLNL**

- Continue to construct (with detailed site characterization under the JSO) and,
- Operate NIF under the ROD for the SSM PEIS

No Action Alternatives

- » **No NIF Project at LLNL**

- Complete construction for alternate facility use
- Demolish facility return site to brownfield condition



NIF SEIS Alternatives (JS&O)

- **SEIS evaluated two alternatives**
 - » **Continued to construct and operate the NIF as indicated in the SSM PEIS (Preferred Alternative)**
 - » **Ceasing construction on the NIF**
 - **Construct and operate at another site**
 - **Cancel project entirely**
- **Action alternative; environmental mitigation**
 - » **Characterization activities indicate that there are no action alternatives that require detailed study**



Environmental Impacts

- **Low likelihood that buried hazardous, toxic or radioactive objects remain in the stipulated area**
- **Soil and groundwater sampling indicate that there is a low likelihood of finding additional buried waste**
- **Continued construction and operation of NIF would not result in a release of hazardous, toxic, or radioactive material to the groundwater**



Cumulative Impacts

- **Historical/ongoing CERCLA cleanup actions and the recently completed site characterization have:**
 - » cleaned-up of contaminated soil and removed buried capacitors,
 - » resulted in continued reduction in groundwater contamination, and
 - » shown a low probability of finding any additional buried hazardous, toxic or radioactive material
- **Reduction in cumulative impacts from historical soil and groundwater contamination at LLNL will continue to improve environments at LLNL and its surrounding community**



Draft SEIS Finding

- **The results of the analysis indicate that:**
 - » the concentrations of contaminants are below applicable levels of regulatory concern and
 - » the impacts from buried material on human health and the environment are very low



SEIS Schedule

- Issued Federal Register Notice of Availability 11/05/99
- Public Meeting - Washington, DC 12/01/99
- Public Meeting - Livermore, CA 12/08/99
- Public Comments due to DOE 12/20/99
- Issue Final SEIS Spring 2000
- Publish Record of Decision in Federal Register Spring 2000

