

Werth, Robert H.

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February 15, 2001

U. S. Department of Energy
Gary S. Hartman
Oak Ridge Operations, EM-912
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge TN 37831

Subject: Draft Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement for the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant

Dear Mr. Hartman,

I am forwarding two comments related to noise on the subject EIS.

1. Section 5.7.3.2, p. 5-45, paragraph 1, 2nd sentence - The conclusion that construction noise levels would be below background levels at off-site locations does not appear to be supported by the data in the table. It appears from the table that for some items of equipment, e.g. bulldozer, the noise from equipment would be expected to be heard above background levels. From this table it appears that for some residences, that are near to the construction sites and are a sufficient distance from major roads such that daytime sound levels can be expected to be low, construction noise of this magnitude would be heard at these distances. It appears that some additional analysis or clarification is needed in order to draw conclusions about the impacts of construction noise. The analysis should identify the nearest sensitive receptor(s) and consider the effect of the terrain on sound propagation. If the maximum sound level from an appropriate mix of equipment can't be shown to have no potential for impact at this receptor, further analysis may be necessary which considers the mix of construction equipment, the usage of the equipment, and typical operating loads. Impacts should be evaluated in terms of the change in day-night average sound level and the potential for annoyance, and compliance with the new Oak Ridge noise limits. Noise impacts on wildlife are not discussed.

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2. Section 5.7.3.2, p. 5-47, Table 5.7.3-2 - The source to the table (Golden et al. 1980) is not in the reference list.

Sincerely,



Robert H. Werth

Comment No. 1

Issue Code: 09

Projected sound levels at the Y-12 Site boundary in relation to the proposed sites for the HEU Materials Facility and Special Materials Complex are discussed in Volume I, Section 5.7.3.3. The nearest construction site for proposed projects in relation to off-site residential areas would be Site A for the HEU Materials Facility. Site A is approximately 1,700 feet (ft) from the Y-12 Site boundary and 2,100 ft from the nearest residence in Scarboro as the crow flies. The distance to the center of the Scarboro Community from Site A is approximately 3,500 ft. As shown in Table 5.7.3-2, at these distances the noise levels would be within acceptable levels and in line with background noise levels of 53-62 dBA. The noise levels projected for off-site locations in Table 5.7.3-2 do not include the natural buffering of Y-12 Site noise due to Pine Ridge which separates Site A and the residential areas of Oak Ridge.

The Golden et al., 1980 citation has been added to the reference list.