

June 27, 2007

Dr. Seymour Weiss
Chief, Reactor Operations and Engineering
Center for Neutron Research
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Gaithersburg, MD 20899

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT FOR LICENSE RENEWAL OF THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF
STANDARDS REACTOR (NUREG - 1873)
(TAC NO. MC8280)

Dear Dr. Weiss:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has completed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for License Renewal of the National Bureau of Standards Reactor operating license TR-5 for an additional 20 years of operation for the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Enclosed is a copy of the Draft EIS and the associated *Federal Register* Notice of Availability. This notice advises the public that the Draft EIS is publicly available at the NRC Public Document Room (PDR) or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC website at <http://adamswebsearch.nrc.gov/dologin.htm>. The Accession Number for the Draft EIS is ML070920453.

As discussed in Section 8.0 of the Draft EIS, the preliminary recommendation of the staff is that the Commission determined the adverse environmental impacts of license renewal for the National Bureau of Standards Reactor are not so great that preserving the option of license renewal for Federal decision makers would be unreasonable. This recommendation is based on: (1) the analysis and findings in the Draft EIS; (2) the Environmental Report submitted by NIST; (3) consultation with Federal, State, and local agencies; and (4) the staff's own independent review. No public comments were received during the scoping process.

S. Weiss

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A separate Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS will be placed in the *Federal Register* through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the NRC Environmental Project Manager, Dennis Beissel, at 301-415-2145 or by e-mail at drb1@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Eric Benner, Branch Chief
Environmental Branch A
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No: 50-184

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

S. Weiss

-2-

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DISTRIBUTION: See next page

ADAMS Accession Nos.:

1. Letter w/Svc List, FRN: **ML071100227**
2. "Draft Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of the National Bureau of Standards Reactor, NUREG-1873: **ML070920453**
3. Pkg: **ML071220139**

OFFICE	DLR:LA	DLR:REBA:PM	OGC	DLR:REBA:BC
NAME	S. Figueroa	DBeissel	SUttal	EBenner
DATE	05/02/07	05/02/07	05/04/07	06/27/07

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS REACTOR
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR LICENSE RENEWAL OF NUCLEAR PLANTS,
AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE LICENSE RENEWAL OF NBSR

DOCKET NO: 50-184

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC, Commission) has published a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of the operating license TR-5 for an additional 20 years of operation for the National Bureau of Standards Reactor located on the National Institute of Standards and technology (NIST) campus in upper Montgomery County, Maryland. Possible alternatives to the proposed action (license renewal) include no action, constructing a new reactor to replace the NBSR capabilities, and using alternative research facilities.

The draft EIS is publicly available at the NRC Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). The ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room is accessible at <http://adamswebsearch.nrc.gov/dologin.htm>. The Accession Number for the draft EIS is ML070920453. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS, or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the NRC's PDR reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209, or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail at pdrc@nrc.gov. In addition, the Montgomery County Library, located at 2 Metropolitan Court, Suite 4, Gaithersburg, MD 20878, has agreed to make the draft EIS available for public inspection.

Enclosure

Any interested party may submit comments on the draft EIS for consideration by the NRC staff. To be considered, comments on the draft EIS and the proposed action must be received by July 31, 2007; the NRC staff is able to assure consideration only for comments received on or before this date. Comments received after the due date will be considered only if it is practical to do so. Written comments on the Draft EIS should be sent to: Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Mailstop T-6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

Comments may be hand-delivered to the NRC at 11545 Rockville Pike, Room T-6D59, Rockville, MD, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. on Federal workdays. Electronic comments may be submitted to the NRC by e-mail at NISTDEIS@nrc.gov. All comments received by the Commission, including those made by Federal, State, local agencies, Native American Tribes, or other interested persons, will be made available electronically at the Commission's PDR in Rockville, Maryland, and through ADAMS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Mr. Dennis Beissel, Environmental Branch A, Division of License Renewal, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail Stop O-11F1, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Mr. Beissel may be contacted at the aforementioned telephone number or e-mail address.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this ___ day of June, 2007.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Eric Benner, Branch Chief
Environmental Branch A
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Letter to Dr. S. Weiss from E. Benner dated June 27, 2007

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT FOR LICENSE RENEWAL OF THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF
STANDARDS REACTOR (NUREG - 1873)
(TAC NO. MC8280)

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Email

P.T. Kuo (RidsNrrDir)

T. Combs, OCA

R. Shane, OCA

B. Keeling, OCA

R. Franovich (RidsNrrDirRebb)

E. Benner (RidsNrrDirReba)

Bev Miller, PNNL

S. Hoffman

M. Mendonca

OPA (RidsOpaMail)

D. McIntyre, OPA

OPA RI N. Sheehan

S. Uttal

National Institute of Standards and Technology

cc:

Montgomery County Executive
County Office Building
Rockville, MD 20858

Environmental Program Manager III
Radiological Health Program
Air & Radiation Management Adm.
Maryland Dept. of the Environment
1800 Washington Blvd.
Suite 750
Baltimore, MD 21230-1724

Director, Department of State Planning
301 West Preston Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Director, Air & Radiation Management
Adm.
Maryland Dept. of the Environment
1800 Washington Blvd., Suite 710
Baltimore, MD 21230

Director, Department of Natural Resources
Power Plant Siting Program
Energy and Coastal Zone Administration
Tawes State Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dr. Wade Richards, Manager of Operations
and Engineering
NIST Center for Neutron Research
National Institute of Standards and
Technology
U.S. Department of Commerce
100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 8561
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8561

Test, Research, and Training
Reactor Newsletter
University of Florida
202 Nuclear Sciences Center
Gainesville, FL 32611

President, Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850