U.S. Department of Energy
Finding of No Significant Impact
Waste Water Treatment Modifications for Improved Effluent Compliance Project

Brookhaven National Laboratory
Upton, New York

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy conducted an Environmental Assessment (EA), DOE/EA-1854 that analyzed the potential impacts associated with upgrading the Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) to ensure effluent discharges comply with modifications made to BNL's State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. All discussion, analysis and findings related to the potential impacts of the proposed project are documented in the Final EA. The Final EA is hereby incorporated by reference.

The selected alternative reroutes the discharge from the STP to a groundwater recharge system located outside the influence of the Peconic River. The project includes construction of ground water recharge basins, installation of a post-aeration filtration system and building, and plumbing upgrades to route effluent to the new recharge basins. Additionally the project would also include demolition and removal of the existing effluent piping system, settling box, ultra violet disinfection system, STP outfall and headwall, and Building 580 adjacent to the Peconic River.

As a connected action in order to remove impediments to fish migration BNL also plans to remove and/or modify the gauging/monitoring stations along the Peconic River.

In accordance with applicable regulations and policies, DOE sent the draft EA to New York State, in particular the New York State Governor's Office and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for review and comment. Additional copies were sent to interested agencies for information only. Comments from all parties were considered and addressed where appropriate in the final EA.

DETERMINATION: Based on the information and analysis in the EA, the DOE has determined that the proposal to reroute STP discharges to groundwater at BNL does not constitute a federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Therefore, a FONSI is made and an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Public Availability:

Copies of this EA are available from:

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On the DOE web site at: http://www.gc.energy.gov/NEPA/DOE_NEPA-documents.htm

For further information regarding the DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, contact:

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