



## Department of Energy

Oak Ridge Office  
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February 16, 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR CINDY B. FINN

REAL ESTATE CONTRACTING OFFICER  
FACILITIES, INFORMATION, AND RESERVATION  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION, AD-412

FROM: DON F. THRESS, JR.  
ACTING MANAGER  
OAK RIDGE OFFICE, M-1

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. F. Thress, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENT ANALYSIS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
PROPOSED CONVEYANCE OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF  
SCIENCE AND ENERGY AND ASSOCIATED PROPERTY, PARCEL G,  
AND PARCEL 279.01 (DOE/EA-1415-SA-1)

The subject Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed in March 2007, and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was signed on March 26, 2007. Two of the properties (Parcel G and Parcel 279.01) have since been declared excess, and the question arose as to whether the almost nine-year old EA and FONSI would still support a subsequent conveyance. The attached brief Supplement Analysis (SA) was prepared to answer this question. The EA/FONSI was found to be adequate in all areas except potentially for two: (1) conveyance to the General Services Administration (GSA), and (2) federally-listed bat species on Parcel G. The EA considered conveyance to GSA, but this alternative was rejected in the document. The SA concluded that environmental impacts would be similar regardless of the entity that received the property since the types of development likely would be comparable, so the EA and FONSI were deemed to be adequate to support conveyance of these two excess properties to GSA. Please note that the third property (American Museum of Science and Energy and associated property) covered by the EA has not been declared to be excess property, and this SA has no effect on its status which will be decided at a later date by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory Site Office.

As far as the listed bat species on Parcel G, further field work indicated the two species (Indiana and gray bats) that were likely to be there were found through acoustic studies to definitely inhabit the parcel. In addition, a third species (northern long-eared bat) found on the parcel was listed (threatened) in late 2014. Also, good roosting

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CONVEYANCE OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND ENERGY AND ASSOCIATED  
PROPERTY, PARCEL G, AND PARCEL 279.01 (DOE/EA-1415-SA-1)**

habitat for the Indiana bat and the northern long-eared bat was found on the southern portion of the parcel across Scarboro Creek. The gray bat roosts year-round in caves and cave-like structures, and development of the parcel should not likely harm this species. The SA concluded that potential consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and following their instructions during development of Parcel G should avoid potential harm to these two tree-roosting species, especially considering that ample roosting habitat is available south of the parcel.

Based on the analysis in the SA, the recommendation of the Integrated Support Center-Oak Ridge (ISC-OR) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Compliance Officer (NCO), and after consultation with the Office of Chief Counsel, it is determined that the proposed action does not constitute a significant change relevant to environmental concerns pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) § 1502.9, 10 C.F.R. § 1021.314, and *Recommendations for the Supplement Analysis Process (July 2005)*; therefore no additional review under NEPA is required.

Please note that this SA will be made available to the public at the Department of Energy Information Center in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

If you have questions on the ISC-OR NEPA process, please contact Jim Elmore, ISC-OR NCO, at (865) 576-0938.

**Attachment**

**cc w/attachment:**

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SUPPLEMENT ANALYSIS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
ENTITLED PROPOSED CONVEYANCE OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF  
SCIENCE AND ENERGY AND ASSOCIATED PROPERTY, PARCEL G, AND  
PARCEL 279.01 (DOE/EA-1415)

December 30, 2015

In March 2007, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed conveyance of the American Museum of Science and Energy (AMSE) and associated property, Parcel G, and Parcel 279.01 to the City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, (Oak Ridge), American Museum of Science and Energy Foundation, or other managing entity. These properties have not been conveyed, and a recent proposal was made to convey one or more of them to the General Services Administration (GSA). This Supplement Analysis (SA) is being prepared to assess whether the original EA is still adequate to comply with requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the conveyance of one or more of these three properties.

All parts of the EA were reviewed thoroughly including Land Use, Air Quality, Geology and Soils, Water Resources, Floodplains and Wetlands, Ecological Resources, Cultural Resources, Socioeconomics, Infrastructure, Noise, Intentional Destructive Acts, and Cumulative Impacts. Although there were some minor changes, and it has been almost nine years since the EA was approved, the data and analyses still support the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Some additional information and clarification was found to be needed in two areas: (1) the conveyance to GSA alternative dismissal, and (2) updating of information on listed bat species on Parcel G.

GSA Conveyance

The EA considered but dismissed a GSA conveyance alternative “because the AMSE is considered to be such a valuable asset to the City of Oak Ridge and the surrounding region, and because AMSE’s future is a fundamental component of the city’s desire to expand tourism and protect the community’s historical legacy...” With the November 10, 2015, establishment of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park (MPNHP) by the Departments of Interior and Energy, the considerations affecting AMSE changed substantially. In support of Park implementation in Oak Ridge, the National Park Service (NPS) requested space for a temporary visitor contact center; after discussion between the agencies, DOE offered the NPS temporary visitor contact space at AMSE. DOE and NPS executed a three-year permit for NPS presence in certain portions of AMSE. NPS has developed local staffing support for the temporary visitor contact center, and is beginning to develop a robust NPS presence in the Oak Ridge and East Tennessee area in support of the MPNHP mission.

The City of Oak Ridge is a critical stakeholder in the development, execution, and impact of the MPNHP; the early implementation of a temporary visitor contact center was driven in part by a desire to respond to feedback from the MPNHP's stakeholders. As the NPS begins to develop a long-term plan for a visitor contact center in Oak Ridge, the implementation of the MPNHP will include partnership between DOE and NPS; the notion of a "partnership park" is consistent with the enabling legislation and the subsequent establishing agreement, as well as guidance and direction from both agencies' front offices. MPNHP implementation provides an opportunity for the partner agencies to explore a possible partnership facility to house the NPS needs for MPNHP, the DOE needs for MPNHP, the public education and outreach mission of AMSE, and the goals and priorities of other cooperating associations and organizations who support the MPNHP, the AMSE mission, or both. Given certain opportunities in the GSA excess protocol, as well as DOE's larger obligation to reducing the unneeded and excess real estate footprint, coupled with recent developments surrounding the MPNHP, the re-evaluation of using the GSA excess protocols for potential future activities at AMSE is deemed appropriate. The GSA conveyance alternative is bounded by the environmental impact analysis in the EA since the types of activities that are likely to result are going to be similar regardless of how the parcels are conveyed.

#### Listed Bat Species on Parcel G

The 2007 EA assessed potential impacts to two federally-listed endangered bat species, i.e., gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*) and Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*). A Biological Assessment (BA) was appended to the EA that considered these impacts and concluded that the proposed transfer of Parcel G to the City of Oak Ridge is not likely to adversely affect either of the listed species. However, since that time, the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) has been federally-listed as threatened. Also, 13 years have transpired since the completion of the BA (March 2002), a sufficient time period to allow noticeable habitat changes to occur. Parcel G is within the summer roosting range of all three species. Both the Indiana and northern long-eared bats roost in trees during the summer, while the gray bat roosts almost exclusively in caves.

The northern long-eared bat is a medium-sized bat (3 to 3.7 inches in length) with a wingspan of 9 to 10 inches. This bat species has long ears for a *Myotis*, a genus generally known for having small ears (*Myotis* means mouse-eared). The northern long-eared bat is found across most of the eastern and north central United States and Canada from the Atlantic Coast west to the southern Northwest Territories and eastern British Columbia. White-nose syndrome is currently the main threat to the northern long-eared bat, especially in the Northeast where the species has declined by up to 99 percent at many hibernation sites.

[http://ecos.fws.gov/tess\\_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=A0JE](http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=A0JE)

In the summer months, northern long-eared bats roost singly or in colonies underneath bark, in cavities, or in crevices of both live and dead trees (typically  $\geq 3$  inches diameter at breast height). Males and non-reproductive females may also roost in cooler places, such as caves and mines. This bat species appears to be opportunistic in selecting roosts, using tree species based

on suitability to retain bark or provide cavities or crevices. Northern long-eared bats have also been found roosting in structures like barns and sheds. However, this has been a rare occurrence. These bats spend the winter hibernating in caves and mines. They typically use large caves or mines with large passages and entrances with constant temperatures and high humidity and no air currents. Specific areas where northern long-eared bats hibernate have very high humidity.

([http://ecos.fws.gov/tess\\_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=A0JE](http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=A0JE), USFWS 2014)

Northern long-eared bats feed mainly by flying through the understory of forested hillsides and ridges where they feed on moths, flies, leafhoppers, caddisflies, and beetles, which are caught in flight through echolocation. This bat will also glean motionless insects from vegetation and water surfaces.

([http://ecos.fws.gov/tess\\_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=A0JE](http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=A0JE))

The northern long-eared bat breeding season begins in late summer or early fall when males begin swarming near their hibernacula. After mating, females practice delayed fertilization until hibernation ends the next spring. After egg fertilization, the pregnant females will migrate to summer areas where they roost in small colonies and give birth to a single pup. The maternity colonies generally contain 30 to 60 bats including young; however, larger maternity colonies have been observed. Most females within the maternity colony give birth around the same time. Birth may occur from late May or early June to late July, which is dependent on where the colony is located within the species' range. The young bats start flying 18 to 21 days after birth. Adult northern long-eared bats can live as long as 19 years.

([http://ecos.fws.gov/tess\\_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=A0JE](http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=A0JE))

Acoustic monitoring performed in 2013 on and near Parcel G identified vocalizations of all three of the federally-listed species known to frequent the Oak Ridge Reservation (i.e., gray bat, Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat) (McCracken, *et al*, 2015). Portions of the site provide good quality foraging habitat for all three bat species. In addition, suitable roosting habitat (i.e., trees with exfoliating bark, cracks or crevices) for Indiana and northern long-eared bats has been found in the southeastern section of Parcel G south of Scarboro Creek. If these trees are to be removed in the future, the developer will need to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to determine when this can be done without directly impacting federally-listed bats (recently April 1 – November 14 has been used as a roosting and swarming season). Also, USFWS will determine if any mitigation measures are needed either on the site or at another location. If these measures are taken, DOE is determining that the transfer of Parcel G will not likely have a significant direct effect on populations of any of the three federally-listed species. In addition, there is ample foraging and bat roosting habitat of good quality south of Parcel G. Gray bats tend to spend all of their non-foraging time in caves in all seasons.

### Conclusion

With this SA, DOE is determining that the EA and FONSI are adequate to bound conveyance of one or more of the three properties.

## References

McCracken, M.K., N. R. Giffen, A. M. Haines, B. J. Guge and J. W. Evans. 2015. *Bat Species Distribution on the Oak Ridge Reservation*. ORNL/TM-2015/248, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tenn.

USFWS. ECOS Environmental Conservation Online System. Species Profile for Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*).  
[http://ecos.fws.gov/tess\\_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=A0JE](http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=A0JE), accessed December 16, 2015.

USFWS. 2014. Northern Long-eared Bat Interim Conference and Planning Guidance, USFWS Regions 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6. PR January 6, 2014.