

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR  
THE EAST END CAMPUS AT THE  
Y-12 NATIONAL SECURITY COMPLEX,  
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE**



June 2026

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION  
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OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE

AGENCY: Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact

SUMMARY: The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), a semi-autonomous agency within the United States (U.S.) Department of Energy (DOE), is primarily responsible for maintaining and enhancing the safety, security, and performance of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile, while also supporting other DOE/NNSA missions. One of NNSA's critical production sites is the Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12) in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Y-12 is the only facility in the nuclear security enterprise that produces nuclear weapons secondary stage and radiation cases, which are key components for nuclear weapons. Currently, NNSA retains limited legacy radiation case production capabilities at Y-12 in old and inefficient facilities, many of which require significant upgrades or replacement.

In accordance with the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) and the DOE Implementing Procedures, NNSA prepared the East End Campus Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential environmental effects associated with its Proposed Action to construct and operate the East End Campus, which would provide a robust radiation case manufacturing capability to meet national security stockpile requirements, as well as support other Y-12 missions. The East End Campus is proposed to be located on approximately 40 acres of previously disturbed land on the east side of the Y-12. The Proposed Action includes constructing multiple buildings and structures in a phased approach over time and includes related security and utilities upgrades (to include adding fencing to permit construction activities and upgrading physical security measures). The phased construction is expected to last approximately ten years. The Proposed Action and No Action Alternative are described in detail in Chapter 2 of the East End Campus EA.

ADDRESS: The East End Campus EA and this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) have been prepared and are available to the general public on the DOE NEPA web page (<https://www.energy.gov/nepa/doe-environmental-assessments>).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The East End Campus EA, which is incorporated into this FONSI by this reference, analyzes the potential environmental effects of NNSA's

Proposed Action to construct and operate the East End Campus at Y-12 and a No Action Alternative.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:** To determine whether the Proposed Action has the potential to cause significant environmental effects, NNSA analyzed the potential impacts of the proposal on human and natural resources and presented them in Chapter 3 of the EA. The potential impacts associated with the Proposed Action are summarized below. The Proposed Action would have no significant impacts. The following discussion provides a summary of the Proposed Action's potential impacts and the reasons these impacts would not be significant. Land disturbance would be limited to approximately 40 acres of previously disturbed land at Y-12. Visually, Y-12 would remain a highly developed area with an industrial appearance. Water use for the East End Campus construction and operation would represent less than one percent of water use at Y-12. Stormwater and effluents would be managed under existing permits, as required. Short-term air quality impacts associated with construction would occur, but emissions would be below de minimis thresholds. There would not be a change in radiological releases compared to the No-Action Alternative. Because the peak construction workforce (300 persons) would be negligible compared to the population in the region of influence (ROI), socioeconomic impacts during construction, although beneficial, are expected to be negligible. The operational workforce (450 persons) for the East End Campus would be comprised of the same workers who currently conduct these operations at Y-12. Other areas of potential impact were assessed in the EA, including geology, soils, noise, biological, cultural, traffic, and waste management. These areas of potential impact show negligible changes since the proposed activities within the East Campus area are similar or the same nature as work already ongoing within Y-12. The construction of new buildings is also an activity that has occurred many times at Y-12 and is an activity that can easily be covered with a Categorical Exclusion due to its low impact on an existing and previously disturbed industrial site.

With regard to utility requirements, the existing infrastructure at Y-12 would be adequate to support the East End Campus. The East End Campus would not increase waste generation compared to the No-Action Alternative. Workers would be subject to minimal occupational risks, and there would be no change in the dose to radiation workers compared to the No-Action Alternative. The hazard categories for individual facilities will be below HC-3, determined in accordance with DOE-STD-1027-2018, and will involve facility segmentation arguments as needed. Final hazard determination for at least one facility is expected to include threshold quantity modifications with appropriate technical justification as permitted by DOE-STD-1027-2018. Postulated accidents would not result in high consequences, and no member of the public would be exposed to radiological doses or chemical concentrations that could result in irreversible or other serious health effects.

**DETERMINATION:** Based on the analysis in DOE/EA-2310 and as summarized above, I conclude that the Proposed Action to construct and operate the East End Campus at Y-12 will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment within the

meaning of NEPA and DOE's Implementing Procedures. Therefore, preparation of an EIS is not required and the NEPA process for this action is concluded.

Issued in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of June 2026.

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for Mary Helen Hitson  
Manager, Y-12 Field Office