

## Heyl, James and Nancy

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WD0678

**From:** James Heyl [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 25, 2008 9:20 AM  
**To:** NBAFProgramManager  
**Subject:** Lab in Athens, GA

1|25.2; I am against locating the lab here because of (1) the water situation. I  
 2|12.2 know the environmental assessment said it would not use any more water than  
 a normal industry, but right now, we are in a drought, and the industries  
 here have had to cut back on their use. We are saving water, and not  
 watering lawns, and taking brief showers - and the long term forecast is for  
 not much improvement. (2) We have the possibility of earthquakes here. (3) I  
 don't think it would really help the poverty level because the unskilled  
 labor, who are the poor here, would only be helped briefly, and the  
 3|21.2; professionals would not help the poverty level in this county because they  
 4|15.2 would live elsewhere. I do hope you decide not to choose Athens. Nancy Heyl

Comment No: 1                      Issue Code: 25.2

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the South Milledge Avenue Site Alternative.

Comment No: 2                      Issue Code: 12.2

DHS notes the commentor's drought concerns and DHS acknowledges regional drought conditions. As described in Section 3.7.3.3.1 of the NBAF EIS, the South Milledge Avenue Site alternative would use approximately 118,000 gallons per day of potable water approximately 0.76% of Athens 15.5 million gallons per day usage. The NBAF annual potable water usage is comparable to 228 residential homes' annual potable water usage. Additional water conservation will be addressed during the NBAF's final design.

Comment No: 3                      Issue Code: 21.2

DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding earthquake impacts to the NBAF operation as located at the South Milledge Avenue Site. Sections 3.4, 3.6, and 3.14.3.2 and Appendix E of the NBAF EIS, address NBAF design criteria and accident scenarios associated with events such as earthquakes, tornadoes and flooding. The NBAF would be designed and constructed to withstand the seismic conditions that are present within the geographic area of the selected site. The structural design basis and construction / building codes and standards used for the South Milledge Avenue site to withstand seismic conditions are provided in Section 2A.5 (Structural Basis for Design - Athens, Georgia) and Section 6.1 (General Codes and Standards) of the NBAF Site Characterization Study, dated 25, July 2008 and located on the DHS website.

Comment No: 4                      Issue Code: 15.2

DHS notes the commentor's statement regarding poverty level. The number of short-term and permanent jobs are discussed in Section 3.10. It is expected that approximately 2,700 direct temporary jobs would result from construction of the NBAF, with many of the jobs being filled locally. Approximately 483 permanent jobs, including the initial 326 direct jobs, would result from operation of the NBAF. A portion of the permanent jobs at the NBAF will be filled locally and the household spending by new residents and the operations of the NBAF are expected to indirectly support additional jobs that will be filled by the local labor force.

Heynen, Jennifer

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WD0147

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**From:** [REDACTED] Jennifer Heynen [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, July 31, 2008 8:35 PM

**To:** NBAFProgramManager

**Subject:** NBAF in Athens, Georgia

Dear NBAF Program Manager,

1|25.2 | I am writing in opposition to the NBAF site in Athens, GA. I am very opposed to it. I do not want my children to grow up anywhere near a site like this. I also do not want to live with th fear of terroism in my backyard. I do not believe for one minute this is safe. Please go else where.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Heynen

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 25.2

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the South Milledge Avenue Site Alternative.

Heynen, Jennifer

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WD0712

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**From:** [REDACTED] Jennifer Heynen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 25, 2008 12:02 PM  
**To:** NBAFProgramManager  
**Subject:** NBAF in Athens, Georgia

1|25.2;  
2|12.2 | I attended themeeting a few weeks ago about the NBAF site, I have ot say I cannot believe you would consider placing it here in Georgia where an ongoing drought would cause so many problems. Water is a major issue for us and I don't want NBAF taking more. Please go somewhere else!

Jennifer Heynen

Comment No: 1                      Issue Code: 25.2

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the South Milledge Avenue Site Alternative.

Comment No: 2                      Issue Code: 12.2

DHS notes the commentor's drought concerns and DHS acknowledges current regional drought conditions. As described in Section 3.7.3.3.1 of the NBAF EIS, the South Milledge Avenue Site alternative would use approximately 118,000 gallons per day of potable water, an amount that is approximately 0.76% of Athens' current annual average of 15.5 million gallons per day usage. The NBAF annual potable water usage is expected to be approximately equivalent to the amount consumed by 228 residential homes.

**Hiccum, Sandy**

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**PD0186**

August 22, 2008

1|24.4

Hi, my name is Sandy Hiccum. I am a resident of Kansas and I want to let you know that I do support the NBAF in Kansas. And believe that this would be a wonderful place to have your facility.

Thank you.

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 24.4

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Manhattan Campus Site Alternative.

## Hickernell, Lucinda

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CD0101

**From:** Cindy/Don Hickernell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 14, 2008 9:24 PM  
**To:** NBAFProgramManager  
**Subject:** National Bio- and Agro Defense Facility

Dear Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff,

It is my understanding that the U.S. government has circulated proposals to relocate the Plum Island Animal Disease Center to a location on the mainland United States.

1) 24.1 I am writing to you today in support of a National Bio-and Agro Defense Facility that is geographically isolated as much as possible from the environmental, commercial and civic infrastructure of the mainland, such as the Plum Island facility. I strongly oppose the development of an animal disease research facility on the United States mainland that works with live strains of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) viruses as well as other virulent foreign animal diseases (FADs) anywhere near existing concentrations of commercial livestock.

2) 25.0  
3) 5.0  
4) 21.0  
5) 15.0 To work with FMD and FADs in a mainland facility is incomprehensible. We are very fortunate to not have these diseases in the US. To move these live viruses to a location where an accident or terrorist incident could result in release to domestic or wild livestock is asking for a calamity.

1) 24.1 cont. Please leave the Plum Island Animal Disease Center where it is - safely away from the mainland.

Sincerely,

Lucinda W. Hickernell



Comment No: 1      Issue Code: 24.1

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Plum Island Site Alternative. Other locations to construct the NBAF were considered in Section 2.4.3 of the NBAF EIS. These alternatives were considered but eliminated from detailed study in the EIS based on the evaluation criteria calling for proximity to research programs that could be linked to the NBAF mission and proximity to a technical workforce. These alternatives included remote locations such as an island, desert, or arctic habitat distant from populated areas or inhospitable to escaped animal hosts/vectors.

Comment No: 2      Issue Code: 25.0

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the five mainland site alternatives.

Comment No: 3      Issue Code: 5.0

See response to comment No: 2.

Comment No: 4      Issue Code: 21.0

DHS notes the commentor's position and concern regarding the safe operation of the NBAF on a mainland site. DHS believes that experience shows that facilities utilizing modern biocontainment technologies and safety protocols, such as would be employed in the design, construction, and operation of the NBAF, would enable the NBAF to be safely operated on the mainland. Sections 3.8.9, 3.10.9, 3.14, and Appendices B, D, and E of the NBAF EIS provide a detailed analysis of the consequences from an accidental or deliberate pathogen release. Should the NBAF Record of Decision call for the design, construction, and operations of the NBAF then site specific protocols and emergency response plans would be developed, in coordination with local emergency response agencies that would consider the diversity and density of human, livestock, and wildlife populations residing within the area. DHS would have site-specific standard operating procedures and emergency response plans in place prior to the initiation of research activities at the NBAF. It has been shown that modern biosafety laboratories can be safely operated in populated areas. An example is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in downtown Atlanta, Georgia, where such facilities employ modern biocontainment technologies and safety protocols, such as would be employed in the design, construction, and operation of the NBAF.

Comment No: 5      Issue Code: 15.0

DHS notes the commentor's concern. The potential economic effects of an accidental release are discussed in Section 3.10.9 and Appendix D of the NBAF EIS. The risk of an accidental release of a pathogen is extremely low, but DHS acknowledges that the economic effect would be significant for all sites. It should be noted that a primary objective of the NBAF is to combat the spread of viruses that could enter the United States inadvertently or as the result of a terrorist act. Hence, the risk of operating the NBAF must be balanced against the potential benefits of the research that would be conducted at the facility

Hicks, Elaine

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PD0314

August 25, 2008

1|25.3

Elaine Hicks and I live in [REDACTED] North Carolina, and I oppose the lab.

Thank you.

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 25.3

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Umstead Research Farm Site Alternative.

Hightower, Brooke

Page 1 of 1

WD0174

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**From:** Brooke Hightower [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 04, 2008 4:20 PM  
**To:** NBAFProgramManager  
**Subject:** Comments

To whom it may concern:

1| 24.4 | I believe that Manhattan, Kansas is the most appropriate city to locate  
the NBAF. Kansas City has a very large concentration of Animal Health  
Companies that makes it beneficial for the NBAF to locate their campus  
in Kansas. There are many companies that supply raw materials and  
2| 8.4 | scientific research to help animal science. Logistically, Manhattan, KS  
makes sense because it is in the center of the USA and has the railroads  
and highways for easy access. Manhattan, KS has the scientific staff  
and is able to recruit people very easily. Kansas is a wonderful place  
to live and raise children. I specifically am a person that moved away  
but actually moved back to Kansas to raise our child. There are so many  
reasons to locate the NBAF in Manhattan, KS that is why the NBAF should  
build the campus in Manhattan, KS.

Sincerely,  
Brooke A. Hightower  
[REDACTED]

Comment No: 1                      Issue Code: 24.4  
DHS notes the commentor's support for the Manhattan Campus Site Alternative.

Comment No: 2                      Issue Code: 8.4  
DHS notes the commentor's support for the Manhattan Campus Site Alternative.

Hilgers, Jason

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WD0350

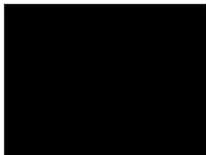
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**From:** JASON HILGERS [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2008 10:06 AM  
**To:** nbafterprogrammanager@dhs.gov  
**Subject:** NBAF in Manhattan, KS

To Whom it May Concern:

1|24.4 | I want to express my support for the location of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in Manhattan, KS. One of the primary reasons of support is the coordination and efficiencies gained due to of the work being completed at the existing Bio Science Research Facility already on Kansas State University's campus. The City of Manhattan stands poised to assist the effort, in addition to the State of Kansas. This is an excellent opportunity for the State of Kansas and the City of Manhattan to partner with the federal government on a worthy venture to assist in the research necessary to further protect our nation's food supply.

Sincerely  
Jason Hilgers



Comment No: 1      Issue Code: 24.4  
DHS notes the commentor's support for the Manhattan Campus Site Alternative.

Hill, Geoffrey Lee

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8/3/08 MD0052

DEAR MR. JOHNSON,

1|25.2 | PLEASE DO NOT MOVE THE BIO-TERROR LAB TO ATHENS, GA.

2|24.1 | KEEP IT ON PLUM ISLAND, NY. AND REVAMP THE EXISTING

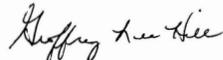
3|5.1 | FACILITY.

AS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN I LOVE OUR COUNTRY. I BELIEVE WE MUST MAINTAIN A STRONG DEFENSE AGAINST ALL TERRORISTS WHO WISH US HARM. WE NEED TO BE VIGILANT AGAINST ALL TYPES OF THREATS.

4|5.0 | HOWEVER, I FEEL STRONGLY THAT THE BIO-TERROR LAB NEEDS TO REMAIN ISOLATED AND AWAY FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC. I MEAN THIS FOR THE COMMUNITY AND ALL THOSE BEING CONSIDERED OTHER THAN PLUM ISLAND. WE DO NOT NEED TO TAKE A CHANCE WITH THIS TYPE OF RESEARCH AND POPULATION CENTERS.

2 cont. | 24.1 | KEEP THE BIO-TERROR LABS ON PLUM ISLAND, NY. AND  
5|21.0 | LET'S STOP THE TERRORISTS FROM HARMING ANY MORE INNOCENT PEOPLE.

SINCERELY,



Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 25.2

DHS notes the commentator's opposition to the South Milledge Avenue Site Alternative.

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 24.1

DHS notes the commentator's opposition to the South Milledge Avenue Site Alternative in favor of upgrading the Plum Island facility. Upgrading the existing facility was considered but dismissed as a reasonable alternative based on the age of the facility, its inability to support a BSL-4 laboratory and animal space, and cost as discussed in Section 2.4.1 of the NBAF EIS. Siting the proposed NBAF on Plum Island is one of the six action alternatives under consideration.

Comment No: 3 Issue Code: 5.1

The proposed NBAF requires BSL-4 capability to meet mission requirements (DHS and USDA). PIADC does not have BSL-4 laboratory or animal space, and the existing PIADC facilities are inadequate to support a BSL-4 laboratory. Upgrading the existing facilities to allow PIADC to meet the current mission would be more costly than building the NBAF on Plum Island, as discussed in Section 2.4.1 of the NBAF EIS.

Comment No: 4 Issue Code: 5.0

DHS notes the commentator's concern. As described in Section 2.4.3 of the NBAF EIS, other potential locations to construct the NBAF were considered during the site selection process but were eliminated based on evaluation by the selection committee. It was suggested during the scoping process that the NBAF be constructed in a remote location such as an island distant from populated areas or in a location that would be inhospitable (e.g., desert or arctic habitat) to escaped animal hosts/vectors; however, the evaluation criteria called for proximity to research programs that could be linked to the NBAF mission and proximity to a technical workforce. The Plum Island Site is an isolated location as was suggested while still meeting the requirements listed in the EOI. It has been shown that modern biosafety laboratories can be safely operated in populated areas. An example is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in downtown Atlanta, Georgia, where such facilities employ modern biocontainment technologies and safety protocols, such as would be employed in the design, construction, and operation of NBAF.

Hillman, D.V.M., Bob

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TXD012



**TEXAS ANIMAL HEALTH COMMISSION**

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Ernie Morales Bob Hillman, D.V.M.  
*Chairman* *Executive Director*

TESTIMONY  
 On The  
 NATIONAL BIO-AGRO DEFENSE FACILITY  
 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
 At The  
 August 7, 2008 Public Meeting  
 Radisson Hill Country Resort  
 San Antonio, Texas  
 By  
 Bob Hillman, DVM  
 Executive Director  
 Texas Animal Health Commission

Good Afternoon,

My name is Dr. Bob Hillman. I am the Executive Director for the Texas Animal Health Commission, which is the regulatory animal health agency for the State of Texas. The Texas Animal Health Commission is responsible for prevention, surveillance, control and eradication of serious livestock diseases in the State. TAHC is one of the agencies that will rely heavily on the new laboratory to provide the tools and diagnostic services in support of responses to animal disease events.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF).

A review of the DEIS indicates that all of the locations which remain under consideration for siting of the NBAF can meet the environmental requirements. Therefore it is important that the Department of Homeland Security give credence to other factors that may elevate a particular location above the others. I believe that the San Antonio location and Texas offer a number of pluses that make it the logical choice for the NBAF. These include the following:

**A Host of Colleges and Universities**

San Antonio is home to 37 colleges, universities, technical and vocational schools. At least 7 of these offer courses in science and 3 have agriculture courses. These colleges and universities as well as those located within reasonable driving distance from San Antonio can provide degree, advanced degree and specialized training opportunities in

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| <p>Rita E. Baca<br/>         Randy C. Brown<br/>         Rita K. Dyess<br/>         William Edmiston, Jr., D.V.M.<br/>         Ken Jordan<br/>         Thomas G. Kezar</p> | <p>COMMISSIONERS:</p> | <p>Coleman Hudgins Locke<br/>         Charles E. "Chuck" Real<br/>         Ralph Simmons<br/>         Mike Vickers, D.V.M.<br/>         Mark A. Wheelis<br/>         R. W. "Dick" Winters, Jr.</p> |
|--|-----------------------|--|

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Hillman, D.V.M., Bob

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NBAF Testimony, B. Hillman

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programs such as biomedical sciences, medical and veterinary medical sciences, technology, engineering, and vocational training.

**Research Programs**

Many of these colleges and universities also have very strong research components for human, animal and zoonotic diseases, and advanced degree programs in fields such as biomedical sciences, public health and epidemiology. Some of these colleges and universities include medical schools and related hospitals and our state's veterinary medical college and related small and large animal hospitals. In addition, there are strong wildlife and wildlife disease research programs. The San Antonio area also includes private research facilities and a number of military facilities that are engaged in research of importance to our national agro and bio security. One of the universities is home to the National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense – a multi-university, multi-state collaborative effort - which is heavily engaged in development and implementation of tools to improve disease response and to lessen the impact of the disease on target populations.

**Strong Heritage in Animal Disease Response**

In the late 1890s, researchers at Texas A&M College, working in concert with USDA scientists and Texas cattlemen solved the puzzle presented by Texas Cattle Fever when they identified the causative agent for bovine babesiosis and documented the mode of transmission through the fever tick. These findings enabled the eventual eradication of Texas Cattle Fever from the United States. The spirit, inquisitive nature and persistence continue to this day and are evident in the many research programs around the state.

The Texas Animal Health Commission, in conjunction with other state and federal agencies, universities (including the National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense) and our livestock industries have developed, exercised and implemented an effective Foreign and Emerging Animal Disease prevention, surveillance, and response plan. The plan has been utilized to respond effectively to introductions of several serious animal diseases, including Exotic Newcastle Disease, High Pathogenic Avian Influenza and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy. The TAHC and its collaborating agencies and industries stand ready to collaborate with the new NBAF laboratory in identifying needs for effective response to high consequence disease events, evaluation of test systems, vaccines or other disease prevention tools.

**The Threats for Introduction of High Consequence Diseases into Texas and the United States are Real and the Consequences will be Great**

There is a risk for introduction of a Foreign Animal Disease into any state of the United States. We believe that the risk to the State of Texas is significantly higher than for most other states. Texas is the leading animal agriculture state in our nation. The state is ranked number one in the production of cattle, sheep and goats and is ranked high in the production of dairy products, swine, poultry and poultry products and equine. Additionally, the state is a leading producer of exotic livestock and wildlife. These

Hillman, D.V.M., Bob

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NBAF Testimony, B. Hillman

page 3

rankings for the state come with a price. They make Texas among the most vulnerable states to accidental or intentional introduction of a devastating animal disease. Texas has approximately 367 miles of coastline, numerous international airports and seaports, all of which provide potential points of entry for disease agents or toxins. In addition, Texas has 889 miles of border with another country – every mile of which has proven to be highly porous for entry of stray or smuggled animals, or persons who have no legal right to enter our country, some of whom may not have honorable intentions toward our country or its citizens.

Some may argue that the threat for introduction of a Foreign Animal Disease into the United States is remote and not likely to happen. The facts prove otherwise. Since 1999 there have been at least five introductions of foreign animal diseases or pests into the United States (West Nile Virus, Exotic Newcastle Disease, Monkey Pox, High Pathogenic Avian Influenza and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy). All had an impact on segments of the livestock or poultry industries of the state of Texas. All appear to have been unintentionally introduced. However, they demonstrate the potential for introduction and the serious consequences from introduced diseases.

#### NBAF Should be Built in San Antonio

Some have argued that the risk for release of a high consequence agent is too great. We disagree. There are already two bio-level 4 laboratories and a number of bio-level 3 laboratories operating in the State of Texas. One of the bio-level 4 labs and several bio-level 3 labs are in the San Antonio area. These laboratories conduct research on diseases and agents that affect humans, but are located in high population areas. Clearly the bio-security systems in place have been adequate to prevent release of agents. The new NBAF will be built to the highest standards for bio-security and bio-containment that are available in the world today and the facility will be continually operated under the highest bio-security standards. I believe that a facility constructed and operated under these high standards for biosecurity and biocontainment can be located and operated in our state without danger to our livestock and human populations.

Some would argue that the state having the largest livestock and exotic wildlife populations in the county would be reason to not locate the lab in Texas. However, I believe the opposite is true. We have the largest animal populations, but also the long porous border and the perhaps, because of the size of our livestock and poultry industries, the greatest risk. It makes good sense to have the new laboratory easily accessible to large livestock population areas to facilitate rapid diagnostic response.

In addition to these factors, the San Antonio area is a desirable place to live. We are facing a dwindling number of food animal veterinarians and agricultural scientists willing to work in animal agriculture fields or to fill research positions. Locating the NBAF in an area that is desirable to live and rear a family will be a plus for San Antonio.

We believe these factors are significant reasons to locate the new NBAF at the Research Park in San Antonio, Texas.

Thank You.

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 21.6

DHS notes the commentator's support for the NBAF and understanding that the proposed research would be safely conducted at the NBAF Texas Research Park location. Additionally DHS notes the information provided by the commentator.

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 15.6

DHS notes the commentator's support for the Texas Research Park Site Alternative. The number of short-term and permanent jobs that would result from construction of the NBAF at the Texas Research Park Site Alternative are discussed in Section 3.10.8 of the NBAF EIS.

Hilton, Jane

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MD0031

Name and complete address:

Jane Hilton

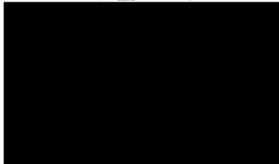


Comment:

1|25.3

The Citizens of Granville County  
& Budner do not want the Bio-hub  
located here.

Jane Hilton



Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 25.3

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Umstead Research Farm Site Alternative.

Himelick, Tom

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CD0906

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**From:** [REDACTED] Tom Himelick [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, August 25, 2008 2:56 PM

**To:** NBAFProgramManager

**Subject:** NBAF in Athens, Georgia

Dear NBAF Program Manager,

1| 25.2 The DEIS clearly shows that the Athens, GA site is neither safe nor compatible from an environmental standpoint for the construction of NBAF. As a resident in a nearby Oconee county neighborhood, I strongly oppose this project.

Please do not act irresponsibly in the face of such overwhelming evidence. NBAF should not be in Athens.

We are strongly opposed to NBAF and will continue to actively work against any effort to bring NBAF to our community.

Sincerely,  
(Your Name)

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 25.2

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the South Milledge Avenue Site Alternative.

Hinchcliffe, Alice

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WD0277

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**From:** Alice Hinchcliffe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 15, 2008 9:17 AM  
**To:** NBAFProgramManager  
**Cc:** Nancy Lesnick, Cznarski  
**Subject:** Level 4????????no subject)

1|25.1; I can not believe that our government could be so short-sighted as to  
2|21.1; not realize what a danger the facility on Plum Island is to Long Island  
3|2.0; Sound and the highly populated area surrounding it. When will the  
Federal Government start realizing what the future generations will  
think of these poor [but somebody is making a lot of money!!] decisions?

Comment No: 1                      Issue Code: 25.1

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Plum Island Site Alternative.

Comment No: 2                      Issue Code: 21.1

DHS notes the commentor's concern. The risk of an accidental release of a pathogen is extremely low. Section 3.14 and Appendix E of the NBAF EIS investigate the chances of a variety of accidents that could occur with the proposed NBAF and human health consequences of potential accidents, As described in Section 2.3.1 of the NBAF EIS, DHS's site selection criteria included, but were not limited to, such factors as proximity to research capabilities and workforce. As such, some but not all of the sites selected for analysis as reasonable alternatives in the NBAF EIS are located in suburban or semi-urban areas. Modern biosafety laboratories can be safely operated in populated areas. State-of-the-art biocontainment facilities such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in downtown Atlanta, Georgia employ modern biocontainment technologies and safety protocols, such as would be employed in the design, construction, and operation of NBAF.

Comment No: 3                      Issue Code: 2.0

DHS notes the commentor's viewpoint. DHS believes that experience shows that facilities utilizing modern biocontainment technologies and safety protocols, such as would be employed in the design, construction, and operation of the NBAF, would enable the NBAF to be safely operated regardless of the site chosen.

Hinkin MD, Douglas

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WD0534

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**From:** Doug Hinkin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 24, 2008 11:06 PM  
**To:** NBAFProgramManager  
**Subject:** MANHATTAN KANSAS AND NBAF

1) 24.4 | As a 25 year member of the Manhattan community, physician and hospital board member, I can whole heartedly tell you that the MAJORITY of Manhattan would welcome NBAF here. From the scientific community (both medical, veterinarian and university based scientific community) we see negligible risk and great up side both research and development wise and for the growth of our community. Specifically, Mercy Regional Health Center is not afraid of NBAF and actually for several years we have been planning and training for response to a potential infectious catastrophe whether it be terrorist in origin or a lab accidental release or accident in the community.

2) 8.4 |

1 cont.) 24.4 | NBAF will be well received and well supported in MANHATTAN

Douglas Hinkin MD  
[REDACTED]

Comment No: 1                      Issue Code: 24.4  
DHS notes the commentor's support for the Manhattan Campus Site Alternative.

Comment No: 2                      Issue Code: 8.4  
DHS notes the information provided by the commentor.

Hinson, Katherine Inge

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WD0186

**From:** Katherine Inge Hinson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 05, 2008 3:57 PM  
**To:** NBAFProgramManager  
**Subject:** No NBAF

To whom it may concern:

1| 25.2 | I plan on writing a more formal letter later, but I wanted to email  
the powers at be to let you all know that there is a rising surge of  
opponents for NBAF, and you have not seen anything yet. This  
community wants nothing to do with this Plum Island exodus, and I  
plan on moving if NBAF enters the Athens, GA area. DO NOT BRING THESE  
DANGEROUS pathogens to the community where I am raising my children.  
2| 24.1 | It should remain on an isolated island. I have done my research, have  
earned my advanced degrees, and have made an informed decision. I  
make decisions based on carefully researched facts and figures. I am  
outraged Athens is being considered, and you will be hearing from me  
and countless others regarding our disapproval of NBAF in the Athens,  
GA area as the months progress.

Sincerely,  
Katherine Inge Hinson  
[REDACTED]

Comment No: 1                      Issue Code: 25.2  
DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the South Milledge Avenue Site Alternative.

Comment No: 2                      Issue Code: 24.1  
DHS notes the commentor's support for the Plum Island Site Alternative.

Hinton, Andee

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WD0646

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 22, 2008 6:13 PM  
**To:** NBAFProgramManager  
**Subject:** MS NBAF Site

1|24,5 | It would be great to have this facility in Mississippi.

Andee Hinton



Comment No: 1      Issue Code: 24.5  
DHS notes the commenter's support for the Flora Industrial Park Site Alternative.

**Hoblet, DVM, Kent**

**Page 1 of 3**

**WD0428**

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**From:** Kent Hoblet [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 21, 2008 1:43 PM  
**To:** NBAFProgramManager  
**Subject:** Comments on NBAF  
**Attachments:** NBAF support letter Flora M.pdf

Mr. Johnson:

1| 24.5

Attached are my comments regarding the NBAF Impact Study with particular reference to the Flora, Mississippi site. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions. Thank you.

Kent H. Hoblet, DVM  
[REDACTED]

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 24.5

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Flora Industrial Park Site Alternative.

Hoblet, DVM, Kent

Page 2 of 3

WD0428

August 21, 2008

1 cont. |  
24.5

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Science and Technology Directorate  
James V. Johnson  
245 Murray Lane, SW  
Building 410  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I am writing to support locating the proposed NBAF in Flora, MS. I am a relative newcomer to Mississippi. In June 2006, I became Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University. Previously, I had spent 23 years on the faculty (14 yrs as Department Chair) at The Ohio State University and prior to that, 12 years in private food animal practice in NC Ohio. I provide this information because I believe it gives me the background to observe and dispel the stereotypes that often are still perpetuated regarding my new State.

My experience has been that the Mississippi legislature, the practicing veterinarians and the general public have all been extremely supportive of our College of Veterinary Medicine. For example, the class size at MSU-CVM is approximately half that of OSU's CVM but the overall annual state-appropriated support is greater in Mississippi. There is also hard evidence that Mississippi State's CVM is providing a superior educational experience. For two of the past three years we have led the nation in percentage of students successfully "matching" in residency/internships. For two of the past three years, a small animal resident from our program has been selected to receive the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians' top resident award. We typically have 20+% of our students participating in an NIH-funded Summer Research Program (one of twelve such funded programs among the twenty-eight U.S. CVMs) between their first and second year of the professional curriculum.

Hoblet, DVM, Kent

Page 3 of 3

WD0428

August 21, 2008  
James V. Johnson  
Page 2

Our research enterprise is growing and at \$5-6 M in annual extramural expenditures compares favorably with other CVM's of our size and age. This semester we also have sixty-nine students enrolled in MS or PhD programs including three in our new combined DVM-PhD program.

1cont| 24.5

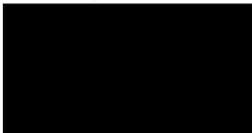
Some have claimed that my new state cannot attract high quality veterinary professionals. That has not been my experience. Actually the opposite seems to be case. While recruiting faculty for CVM's is extremely competitive we've been fortunate. We had thirteen new permanent faculty join us in 2007 and six so far in 2008. All of these were hired following national searches and all were our first choice! Included among these new faculty are those that were already in faculty positions at LSU, Cornell, University of Pennsylvania and The Ohio State University. Others came after completing residency/graduate programs at Purdue, Michigan State, University of Georgia, and the University of Missouri.

The College has also received approval to begin a Veterinary Technology program (4-year BS degree) with first students scheduled to graduate in 2012. This program is patterned after Purdue University's successful program and will provide local highly qualified professional staff for NBAF.

My wife and I, and the many others who have chosen to make Mississippi their new home find that the quality of living here is excellent. Ohio and OSU were, and remain excellent places. However, I believe that the opportunities in Mississippi are greater. I am somewhat envious of those who will be able to spend a greater portion of their careers here. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

*Kent H. Hoblet*



Hodges, Susan

Page 1 of 2



Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 25.2

DHS notes the commenter's opposition to the South Milledge Avenue Site Alternative.

Hodges, Susan

Page 2 of 2

CD1507

2| 27.0

1 cont. |  
25.2



Comment No: 2      Issue Code: 27.0  
DHS notes the information submitted by the commentor.

Hoelscher, Andrew

Page 1 of 1

WD0600

**From:** Andrew Hoelscher [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 24, 2008 12:04 AM  
**To:** NBAFProgramManager  
**Subject:** NBAF locating in Kansas

To whom it may concern,

1|4.4; I want to first thank you for taking the time to assess what the public thinks of this facility. I want to  
 2|24.4 encourage you to locate it in Kansas because of three key reasons.

3|8.4 The first is the availability of all agriculture practices in the state of Kansas. If you go from the Northeast  
 to the Southwest you can grow any crop in the state. Then you have the beef industry, poultry industry,  
 dairy industry, and the tremendous Kansas City Vet Corridor. The state can not only support all  
 endeavors, but has experience and availability to all agriculture sectors.

The second is the education setting of the state. This point can speak for itself, but the recent  
 infrastructure developments speak to the credibility and vision that the state has for its agriculture.

4|15.4 The last point is the people of Kansas. You will not find a state more dedicated to its agriculture, from the  
 government, to the individual farmer, everyone cares about the farm. We as a state truly understand  
 where our footings are located, that being in growing and supplying the nation and world with food and  
 production based commodities. You won't find a better group of educated, early adopting, production  
 focused people that in the State of Kansas.

Thanks for your time,  
 Andrew

*Andrew Hoelscher*



Comment No: 1                      Issue Code: 4.4

DHS notes the commentor's statement. DHS has conducted a thorough and open public outreach program in support of the NBAF EIS that exceeded NEPA requirements.

Comment No: 2                      Issue Code: 24.4

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Manhattan Campus Site Alternative.

Comment No: 3                      Issue Code: 8.4

DHS notes the commentor's statement.

Comment No: 4                      Issue Code: 15.4

DHS notes commentor's opinion. As described in Section 2.3.1 of the NBAF EIS, DHS's site selection criteria included, but were not limited to, such factors as proximity to research capabilities and workforce.

Hogan, Beverly

Page 1 of 2



# Fax

**To:** Mr. James V. Johnson  
U. S. Department of Homeland Security

**From:** Beverly W. Hogan  
[Redacted]

**Fax:** 1-866-608-6223

**Date:** August 25, 2008

**Phone:** NBAF Facility

**Pages:** 2, including cover

**Re:** **CC:**

Urgent     For Review     Please Comment     xFor Your Info     Per Your Request

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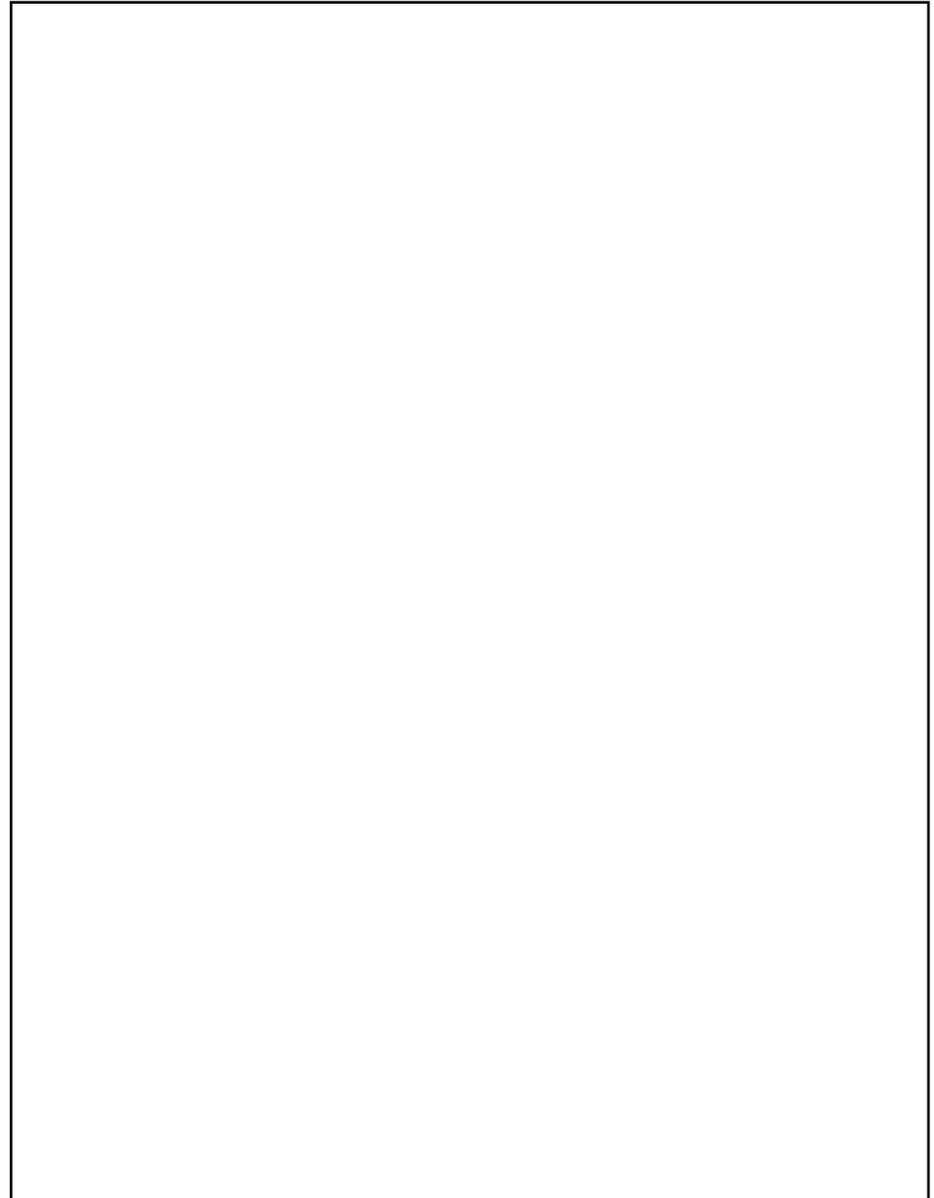
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Hogan, Beverly

Page 2 of 2

FD0083

August 25, 2008

Mr. James V. Johnson  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Science and Technology Directorate  
Mail Stop #2100  
245 Murray Lane, SW  
Building 410  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I am among the many Mississippians who are excited about the potential for the NBAF facility to be located in Flora, Mississippi. I think this would be a great opportunity for our state because of the research and economic impact that it will have. This facility would be located near several great universities and colleges that would be supportive of the NBAF and with which NBAF could work to develop collaborative partnerships. I live in the Jackson area and work at Tougaloo College. I know the advantages a facility of this nature and scope can bring to our state.

1|24.5

We have a great quality of life here in Mississippi. The NBAF would attract new people to move to our state to work and live. This facility is just what our state needs and a warm, welcoming, hospitable, safe and secure environment is what NBAF needs. Mississippi offers this and much more.

We humbly request that the site at Flora, Mississippi be given top consideration as the selection for NBAF's location. Thank you for the leadership you are providing in this very important endeavor.

Sincerely,

  
Beverly W. Hogan

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 24.5

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Flora Industrial Park Site Alternative.

Hohn, Keith

Page 1 of 1

WD0294

**From:** Keith Hohn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 15, 2008 6:08 PM  
**To:** NBAFProgramManager  
**Subject:** Support for Citing NBAF in Manhattan, KS

1|24.4 | I am writing as both a community member of Manhattan, KS, and as a faculty member at Kansas State University in support of the efforts to bring the NBAF to Manhattan. In my opinion, Manhattan offers both an outstanding environmental for top-notch research and a wonderful community that make it an ideal site for the NBAF.

I first came to Manhattan in 1999 when I took a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering at Kansas State University (K-State). I was immediately made to feel welcome, and part of the K-State community. K-State is well known to students and the citizens of Kansas to have a "family" environment, and that is how I have felt. As a new professor trying to establish a research program, I felt extremely lucky to have the support and mentorship of faculty both inside my department and from other departments as well. A senior faculty member in the Department of Chemistry generously let me and my students use his equipment whenever we wanted, which was very helpful early on in my career. The K-State culture values working together. Researchers want to work together, and I expect that NBAF researchers would quickly note this enthusiasm for collaborative research at K-State. The other thing that I've noted at K-State is a culture of service. K-State is a land-grant university, so serving Kansas is part of our mission. That role of service has made it down to the faculty who are eager to solve Kansas and the world's problems. People would be extremely enthusiastic about working with NBAF to solve the issue of animal diseases.

As a community, I have found Manhattan to be a wonderful place to live and raise a family. The presence of K-State brings wonderful cultural events to town, such as art shows, Broadway shows, and big-time athletics. But Manhattan still remains a small town. You can get anywhere in town in 15 minutes or less, and one truly feels a sense of community. The people you see at the grocery store are the same ones you'll see at the zoo and the same ones your kids go to school with. I know that the NBAF employees would be made to feel welcome, and I think they would fall in love with the community like I have.

1 cont. | Please give Manhattan every consideration for the final site for the NBAF.  
 24.4

Sincerely,

Keith Hohn



Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 24.4

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Manhattan Campus Site Alternative.

**Holden, Holden**

**Page 1 of 1**

WD0102

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**From:** The Holdens [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 24, 2008 12:28 AM  
**To:** NBAFProgramManager  
**Subject:** NBAF Risk is too great

- 1) 25.4 | The NBAF should never be placed in the proximity of a population center much less in the center of the nation's livestock industry, Manhattan, Kansas.
- 2) 24.1 | Build your new facility on Plum Island as far off shore as need be.  
Thank you.

Comment No: 1                      Issue Code: 25.4

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Manhattan Campus Site Alternative.

Comment No: 2                      Issue Code: 24.1

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Manhattan Campus Site Alternative in favor of the Plum Island Site Alternative based on risks to residents and livestock. DHS believes that experience shows that facilities utilizing modern biocontainment technologies and safety protocols, such as would be employed in the design, construction, and operation of the NBAF, would enable the NBAF to be safely operated in populated areas such as Athens. An example is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention located in downtown Atlanta, Georgia.

## Holden, Holden

## Page 1 of 1

WD0278

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 15, 2008 9:47 AM  
**To:** NBAFProgramManager  
**Subject:** PROPOSED NBAF AT MANHATTAN KANSAS.

1|25.4 | There is simply no way I can express strongly enough my opposition to this  
 facility near a populated area and in the heart of cattle country.  
 2|2.0; | I will bet the DHS philosophy is "Why not put it in Kansas? Nothing out there  
 1 cont. | anyway." The local paper has reported a lack of organized opposition. That is  
 25.4 | true, but there is a great groundswell amongst a great number of people who  
 would vote "NO". Of course we do not get that opportunity. The existing  
 dangerous facility on the KSU campus was brought in under the public scrutiny  
 3|21.4 | radar. DO NOT PUT THIS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS FACILITY IN AMERICA'S HEARTLAND.  
 You still have not offered how you protect against the disgruntled employee  
 breaking your security. Look to the "Anthrax Professor" that recently  
 committed suicide. How easy the theft was for him?  
 4|5.0 | PUT THIS THING ON AN ISLAND AS FAR AS POSSIBLE FROM THE MAINLAND, WHAT ARE YOU  
 THINKING ANYWAY?

Comment No: 1                      Issue Code: 25.4

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Manhattan Campus Site Alternative.

Comment No: 2                      Issue Code: 2.0

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Manhattan Campus Site Alternative. The Manhattan Campus Site was proposed by the local consortium in response to the request for expressions of interest and was considered along with the rest of the responses. DHS's alternative site selection process is described in Section 2.3.1 of the NBAF EIS.

Comment No: 3                      Issue Code: 21.4

DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding a criminal action perpetrated by an NBAF employee. A separate Threat and Risk Assessment (designated as For Official Use Only)(TRA) was developed outside of the EIS process in accordance with the requirements stipulated in federal regulations. The TRA is "For Official Use Only" and is not available for public review. The purpose of the TRA was to identify potential vulnerabilities and weaknesses associated with the NBAF and are used to recommend the most prudent measures to establish a reasonable level of risk for the security of operations of the NBAF and public safety. Section 3.14 of the NBAF EIS investigates the chances of a variety of accidents that could occur with the proposed NBAF and consequences of potential accidents. Accidents could occur in the form of procedural violations (operational accidents), natural phenomena accidents, external events, and intentional acts. Although some accidents are more likely to occur than others (e.g., safety protocol not being followed), the chances of an accidental release based on human error are low in large part due to the design and implementation of biocontainment safeguards in conjunction with rigorous personnel training. For example, as described in Section 2.2.2.1 of the NBAF EIS, all laboratory staff would receive thorough pre-operational training, as well as ongoing training, in the handling of hazardous infectious agents, understanding biocontainment functions of standard and special practices for each biosafety level, and understanding biocontainment equipment and laboratory characteristics. As further set out in Section 3.14.3.4, all employees and contractors will be screened prior to employment or engagement and monitored while working, among other security measures.

Comment No: 4                      Issue Code: 5.0

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the five mainland site alternatives.

Holder, Nelda

Page 1 of 1

WD0743

**From:** Nelda Holder [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 25, 2008 2:33 PM  
**To:** NBAFProgramManager  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Butner, NC, site for BioLab

Aug. 25, 2008

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
 Science and Technology Directorate  
 James V. Johnson- Mail Stop #2100  
 245 Murray Lane SW, Building 410  
 Washington, DC 20528

Re: Public Comment on proposed National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility

1|25.3 I am opposed to the siting of the BioLab at the Butner, NC, site. The area around  
 this site, which is my home territory and where my family still lives, contains far  
 too many people who would be in harm's way from any disease releases from such  
 2|12.3; a facility, and the drinking water sources for these people would likewise be  
 3|19.3 susceptible. Management of this population base in the event of an emergency  
 evacuation or quarantine would be a massive, dangerous problem -- and would, I  
 fear, result in a monumental disaster.

4|2.0 But my concerns extend to the other potential sites for this lab as well. I do not believe  
 adequate precautions exist for the necessary information to be made available to the  
 public for their own ability to safeguard themselves, or to create their own public safety.  
 There needs to be credible public information and debate about the existence of such  
 a facility in addition to simply the decision of "where."

Nelda F. Holder  
 [REDACTED]Comment No: 1      Issue Code: 25.3

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Umstead Research Farm Site Alternative.

Comment No: 2      Issue Code: 12.3

DHS notes the commentor's watershed concern. The NBAF EIS Section 3.13.8 describes the Waste Management processes that would be used to control and dispose of NBAF's liquid and solid waste. The NBAF EIS Sections 3.3.7 and 3.7.7 describe standard methods used to prevent and mitigate potential spills and runoff affects.

Comment No: 3      Issue Code: 19.3

DHS notes the commentor's concern. Risks to human populations at each alternative site were evaluated and discussed in Section 3.14 and Appendix E of the NBAF EIS. Modern biosafety laboratories can be safely operated in populated areas. State-of-the-art biocontainment facilities such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in downtown Atlanta, Georgia employ modern biocontainment technologies and safety protocols, such as would be employed in the design, construction, and operation of NBAF. The risk of an accidental release of a pathogen from the NBAF is extremely low.

Comment No: 4      Issue Code: 2.0

DHS notes the commentor's concern. DHS has made every effort to explain the operational aspects of NBAF and has conducted a thorough and open public outreach program in support of the NBAF EIS that exceeded NEPA requirements. DHS prepared the NBAF EIS in accordance with the provisions of NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and CEQ's regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500 et seq.). Since the inception of the NBAF project and beginning with the release of DHS's request for Expressions of Interest (EOI) on January 19, 2006, DHS has supported a vigorous public outreach program and has been as forthcoming as possible in disseminating information about NBAF as program planning has matured over time.

Holiday, Allan

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KSD018



## National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility Draft Environmental Impact Statement Comment Form

Personal information is optional as this document is part of the public record and may be reproduced in its entirety in the final National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility Environmental Impact Statement.

Name: ALLAN HOLIDAY

Title: [REDACTED]

Organization: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

City: [REDACTED] State: KS Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

① KANSAS IS THE #1 PRODUCER OF BEEF CATTLE IN USA

② #1 INDUSTRY IN KANSAS IS BEEF CATTLE

③ IS THIS 100% SAFE?

(Continued on back for your convenience)

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 19.4

DHS notes the commentor's concern. Section 3.14 and Appendix E of the NBAF EIS investigate the chances of a variety of accidents that could occur with the proposed NBAF and consequences of potential accidents, DHS cannot guarantee that the NBAF would never experience an accident. However, the risk of an accidental release of a pathogen from the NBAF is extremely low. The economic impact of an accidental release, including the impact on the livestock-related industries, is presented in Section 3.10.9 and Appendix D of the NBAF EIS. The major economic effect from an accidental release of a pathogen would be a potential ban on all U.S. livestock products until the country was determined to be disease-free.