

Watson, Camilla

Page 1 of 1

WD0703

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2008 11:23 AM
To: NBAFProgramManager
Subject: No to NBAF in Athens

1|25.2 | Please do not destroy our lovely and unique environment!

Camilla Watson
--
Camilla E. Watson

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Georgia [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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

Weaver, Gary and family

Page 1 of 1

WD0191

From: Gary S. Weaver [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2008 10:08 PM
To: NBAFProgramManager
Subject: Please Don't Build the National Bio Agro Defense Facility in North Carolina!

Hello,

1) 25.3 |
 2) 12.3 | My family and I are very concerned about the danger that would be posed by a National Bio Agro
 3) 20.3 | Defense Facility in North Carolina, especially one as close to our water supply in North Raleigh as Butner,
 NC. Not only are the prisoners and psych patients in Butner directly at risk with no way to have them
 easily evacuate in case of emergency, but my family, neighbors, and friends would be at risk. Considering
 that there are much less populated, more remote areas of the U.S. than Butner, which is not far from
 large metropolitan areas or their water supplies, it seems like it would be a bad move for all if the facility
 were located in NC.

cont.) 2) 12.3 |
 4) 5.0 | I would actually advocate somewhere even more remote than within the continental U.S. While this may
 not be convenient, safety and defense of the health of the U.S. population should be top concern, and the
 risk caused by such a facility to me outweighs the benefits.

Thanks for your consideration,

Gary Weaver and family
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] NC [REDACTED]Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 25.3

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Umstead Research Farm Site Alternative. 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 Butner. An example is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention located in downtown Atlanta, Georgia.

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 12.3

DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding the NBAF's proximity to Butner's water supply and acknowledges the current regional drought conditions. As described in Section 3.7.7.3.1 of the NBAF EIS, the South Granville Water and Sewer Authority has 3 to 4 million gallons per day of excess potable water capacity and could meet NBAF's need of approximately 110,000 gallons per day, currently less than 0.4% of the Authority's total current capacity. The NBAF annual potable water usage is expected to be approximately equivalent to the amount consumed by 210 residential homes. The NBAF would be operated in accordance with the applicable protocols and regulations pertaining to stormwater management, erosion control, spill prevention, and waste management. Section 3.13.8 describes the waste management processes that would be used to control and dispose of NBAF's liquid and solid waste. 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: 20.3

DHS notes the commentor's concern. The risks and associated potential effects to human health and safety were evaluated in Section 3.14 of the NBAF EIS. The risks were determined to be low for all site alternatives. Emergency response plans would be developed by the managers of the prison and hospital after the site is selected. These facilities have emergency response plans for natural disasters like fires, hurricanes, etc. and will develop one to address an accidental release from the NBAF.

Comment No: 4 Issue Code: 5.0

DHS notes the commentor's preference for siting the NBAF in a more isolated location. 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.

Webb, Bill

Page 1 of 2

08/22/2008 09:11 FAX 2283961288

SNCPC MDA

001

FD0043

To: U.S. DEPT of Homeland Security

JAMES V. JOHNSON 1-866-508-6223 (FAX)

From: Bill Webb - MDA 1-228-374-2973 (FAX)

RE: Letter of Support for NBAF (Mississippi)

Webb, Bill

Page 2 of 2

09/22/2008 09:11 FAX 2263081288

SMCP: MDA

002

FD0043

August 22, 2008

Department of Homeland Security

Science and Technology Directorate

To whom it concerns:

1) 24.5

My name is Bill Webb and I live on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. I definitely think Mississippi is the best choice for the NBAF project. Our ability to attract two major automotive giants, Nissan and Toyota to our state, sends the message loud and clear that we can provide the quality workforce to handle the employment needs for this project. Our people have a great work ethic and are looking for opportunities to stay in Mississippi and build a bright future for their families.

I fully believe that this project is safe and secure. We already have several businesses and industries that could be targets of our enemies, such as, Stennis Space Center, our military bases, and others. The NBAF should not increase our terrorist threat any more than the others. The potential benefits surely outweigh the risks.

Sincerely,

Bill Webb

MDA-Regional Office Manager

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 24.5

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Flora Industrial Park Site Alternative. The decision on whether or not the NBAF is built, and, if so, where will be made based on the following factors: 1) analyses from the EIS; 2) the four evaluation criteria discussed in Section 2.3.1; 3) applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulatory requirements; 4) consultation requirements among the federal, state, and local agencies, as well as federally recognized American Indian Nations; 5) policy considerations; and 6) public comment.

Webb, Jonni

Page 1 of 1

WD0625

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 23, 2008 11:09 AM
To: NBAFProgramManager
Subject: NBAF - Flora, MS

1|24.5 As a business owner in [REDACTED] MS, I offer my support for locating the NBAF in this area. The working environment is great and the facility is definitely wanted in our area. Please seriously consider locating the facility in Flora, MS.
Jonni R. Webb
[REDACTED]

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Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 24.5

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Flora Industrial Park Site Alternative. The decision on whether or not the NBAF is built, and, if so, where will be made based on the following factors: 1) analyses from the EIS; 2) the four evaluation criteria discussed in Section 2.3.1; 3) applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulatory requirements; 4) consultation requirements among the federal, state, and local agencies, as well as federally recognized American Indian Nations; 5) policy considerations; and 6) public comment."

Wechsler, Dale

Page 1 of 1

CD0802

From: info@athensfaq.org on behalf of Dale Wechsler [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 14, 2008 9:50 AM
To: NBAFProgramManager
Subject: NBAF in Athens, Georgia

Dear NBAF Program Manager,

1) 12.2 NBAF has been promoted by ever-changing "facts" put out by UGA and DHS. Why do you choose to gloss over
 2) 21.0 the real dangers presented by NBAF in the middle of our community? How does DHS propose to deal with our
 100-year drought that is still persisting? Do you plan to "trust" Mother Nature just as you ask us to "trust"
 technology and training to keep a catastrophic accident from occurring?

3) 25.2 We do not want NBAF in Athens! We are strongly opposed to having NBAF in our community. The DEIS clearly
 shows that the Athens, GA site is neither safe nor compatible from an environmental standpoint for the construction
 of NBAF. The DEIS discloses an "insectary" where disease-spreading mosquitoes and other "vectors" will be bred.
 4) 23.0 It also discloses that any release of pathogen, because of our warm, humid climate, could cause the disease to
 2 cont.) 21.0 become permanently established in our community. To add further insult, the DEIS seems to gloss over the effect of
 NBAF on the environment of the State Botanical Garden one of this areas natural jewels. What a shame that this
 5) 13.2 area, which includes an important bird area, would have to bear such a degradation to the "neighborhood."

6) 24.1 Please re-consider keeping this site in its current location - on an island where it is well-documented that any
 infectious disease "accidents" could be much more easily contained and pose reduced threat to more populated, less
 2 cont.) 21.0 isolated areas. The NBAF will be a prime symbolic target for domestic or foreign terrorists, and therefore should not
 be in the middle of a populated area such as Athens. Aren't lives and our communities natural resources worth the
 extra expense? Hasn't history told us cheaper alternatives can end up with much higher costs? This community -
 actually NO community - deserves this facility in its backyard. Again, please re-consider and make a rational
 3 cont.) 25.2 decision and not a "cheap" one.

Thanks for considering this comment.

Sincerely,
 Dale Wechsler

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 12.2

DHS notes the commentor's drought concerns. As described in the NBAF EIS Section 3.7.3.3.1, the NBAF at the South Milledge Avenue Site 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's final design and operation will adhere to conservation restrictions and incorporate water conservation measures, such as described in the NBAF DEIS Section 3.7.3.3.2 for the diversion, re-infiltration, and reuse of stormwater managed through a stormwater pollution prevention plan. The NBAF DEIS Section 3.7.3.1.1 describes the potential potable water sources, the Middle and North Oconee Rivers and the Jackson County Bear Creek Reservoir.

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 21.0

DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding the NBAF. The purpose and need for the proposed action is discussed in Chapter 1 of the NBAF EIS. DHS can not guarantee that the NBAF would never experience an accident. However, as discussed in Section 2.2.1.1, modern biosafety design substantially diminishes the chances of a release as the primary design goal is to provide an adequate level of redundant safety and biocontainment that would be integrated into every component of the building. A discussion of human health and safety is included in Section 3.14.

Comment No: 3 Issue Code: 25.2

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the South Milledge Avenue Site Alternative in favor of the Plum Island Site Alternative.

Comment No: 4 Issue Code: 23.0

DHS notes the commentor's concerns regarding the risk of an accidental release of an insect, such as a mosquito, from the NBAF insectary operations area at the South Milledge Avenue site. The NBAF would be designed, constructed, and operated to ensure the maximum level of public safety and to fulfill all necessary requirements to protect the environment. The NBAF would provide state-of-the-art operating procedures and biocontainment features to minimize the potential for outside insect vector penetration, laboratory-acquired infections, vector escape and accidental releases. A discussion of insectary operations is contained in Chapter 2, Section 2.2.1 and elsewhere in the NBAF EIS. Chapter 2, Section 2.2.1.1 (Biosafety Design) of the NBAF EIS, also provides a discussion of the biosafety fundamentals, goals and design criteria for the NBAF operation. In addition, information has been added to Chapter 2 regarding operations and containment of arthropod vectors. Chapter 3, Section 3.14 and Appendix E 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 each of which has the potential to release a vector. Although some "accidents" are more likely to occur than others (e.g., safety protocol not being followed), the chances of an accidental release of a vector are low. DHS would have site-specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and response plans in place prior to

the initiation of research activities at the proposed NBAF. In addition, oversight of NBAF operations, as described in Chapter 2, Section 2.2.2.6 of the NBAF EIS, will be conducted in part by the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), which includes community representative participation, and the Animal Research Policy and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (APHIS). An analysis of potential consequences of a pathogen (e.g. Rift Valley fever virus) becoming established in native mosquito populations surrounding the South Milledge Avenue Site is specifically addressed in Chapter 3, Section 3.8.9 and Section 3.10.9.1 as well as in Section 3.14.4.1 (Health and Safety). Section 3.10.9.1 discusses the relative suitability of the regional climate of the South Milledge Avenue Site to promote mosquito survival and virus spread based on the extensive discussion contained in Section 3.4.3.1 of the NBAF EIS. As such, the RVF response plan would include a mosquito control action plan, and the potential consequences of pesticide use in mosquito control would be evaluated during the preparation of a site specific response plan

Comment No: 5

Issue Code: 13.2

DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding the proximity of the South Milledge Avenue Site to the Botanical Garden and the Important Bird Area (IBA) and the potential effects on wildlife. As indicated in Sections 3.8.3.2 and 3.8.3.3 of the NBAF EIS, construction and normal operations of the NBAF would have no direct impact on the State Botanical Garden or IBA. The NBAF would affect primarily pasture areas that have low wildlife habitat value due to their disturbed condition, lack of native vegetation, and lack of wildlife food and cover. The forested portion of the South Milledge Avenue Site along the Oconee River is a high value riparian wildlife corridor that connects the Botanical Garden with the Whitehall Forest IBA. However, impacts to the forested riparian area would be minor (0.2 acre), and these impacts would occur within the existing pasture fence-line in areas that have been disturbed by grazing. The high value forested riparian corridor would be preserved; and therefore, the proposed NBAF would not have significant direct impacts on wildlife dispersal between the Botanical Garden and the Whitehall Forest IBA. Section 3.5.5.3 addresses operational noise impacts associated with the proposed NBAF. Minor noise impacts would result from an increase in traffic and operation of the facility's filtration, heating, and cooling systems. Section 3.5.5.3 describes noise-attenuating design features that would minimize noise emissions. In the event of a power outage, operation of back-up generators could have a short-term impact on wildlife by discouraging utilization of immediately adjacent habitats. Routine operations at the NBAF would not be likely to have significant noise impacts on wildlife. Security requirements at the proposed NBAF would require continuous outdoor nighttime lighting. Nighttime lighting has the potential to impact wildlife through astronomical and ecological light pollution. Unshielded lighting can shine upward and interfere with bird migration, disorienting birds and causing them to collide with structures. Birds are attracted to lights and may collide with lighted structures. Most concerns involve lighting associated with high-rise buildings and tele-communication towers; however, even residential lighting can affect some birds. The USFWS advocates the use of shielded lighting to minimize adverse impacts on migratory birds. Shielded fixtures direct light downwards and can be used to keep light within the boundaries of the

site. The NBAF would employ the minimum intensity of lighting that is necessary to provide adequate security. Mitigative measures, such as those described above, will be considered in the final design of the NBAF. Lighting would have the potential for adverse impacts (i.e., repulsion and interference with foraging behavior) on resident wildlife immediately adjacent to the NBAF. However, the use of shielded lighting would minimize the potential for impacts in adjacent habitats. Compared to high-rise buildings and tele-communication towers, the height of the facility would be low (maximum of 90 feet). Given the relatively low profile of the building and the use of mitigative measures, significant lighting impacts on migratory birds would not be likely to occur. The potential impacts of an accidental release on wildlife are addressed in Section 3.8.9. Although the NBAF EIS acknowledges the potential for significant impacts on wildlife in the event of an accidental release, the risk of such a release is extremely low (see Section 3.14). It has been shown that modern biosafety laboratories can be safely operated in populated areas and in areas with abundant wildlife. 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. Furthermore, the purpose of NBAF is to combat diseases that could have significant effects on wildlife. Research at the NBAF would include the development of vaccines for wildlife that could prevent adverse impacts from a foreign introduction.

Comment No: 6

Issue Code: 24.1

See response to Comment No: 3.

Weeks, Robert

Page 1 of 1

WD0200

From: Robert Weeks [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 07, 2008 1:55 PM
To: NBAFProgramManager
Subject: Comment against Proposed NBAF in Butner NC

1|25.3 I am writing to request that you do not locate the proposed NBAF in Butner, NC. The draft EIS leaves too many questions unanswered about what the actual impact of this facility would be to the surrounding communities and what would be done in the event of a release. Butner has many state and federal facilities with large populations that could not safely be evacuated in the event of a release.

2|21.3 Given the record of accidental releases on Plum Island, there is no way the DHS can be 100% certain of preventing a release on the mainland. Also the recent news about Bruce Ivans and the Anthrax attacks just highlights how these labs really run and how little can be done to keep the people in the surrounding communities safe.

3|5.0 I am a father of two young children and I do not want the DHS endangering my children's lives either through polluting the air or our drinking water, or by and accidental release of a pathogen, or by aerial spraying after there is a release. A lab like this should stay on a place like Plum Island. No one would be safe with this on the mainland.

1 cont. | As others said at the public comment meeting concerning the DEIS, I
 25.3 will do whatever it takes to keep this lab from coming to Butner, NC. The community does not want this here. Please keep it out of North Carolina.

Thank you,

Robert Weeks

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] NC [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: 21.3

DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding the NBAF. The purpose and need for the proposed action is discussed in Chapter 1 of the NBAF EIS. DHS can not guarantee that the NBAF would never experience an accident. However, as discussed in Section 2.2.1.1, modern biosafety design substantially diminishes the chances of a release as the primary design goal is to provide an adequate level of redundant safety and biocontainment that would be integrated into every component of the building. A discussion of human health and safety is included in Section 3.14.

Comment No: 3 Issue Code: 5.0

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the five mainland site alternatives in favor of the Plum Island Site Alternative. 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 Manhattan. An example is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention located in downtown Atlanta, Georgia.

Weibert, S. Warren

Page 1 of 2

WD0617

From: Warren Weibert [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 23, 2008 2:22 PM
To: NBAFProgramManager
Subject: NBAF Support for site in Manhattan, Kansas
Attachments: NBAF Support.pdf

Weibert, S. Warren

Page 2 of 2

WD0617

KS

August 23, 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

Dear Mr. Johnson,

124.4 I am writing this communication in support of placing the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in Manhattan, Kansas. My wife, Carol, and I decided to relocate to live in Manhattan five years ago for the quality of life in a thriving college town in the middle of Kansas' beautiful flint hills, even though our small business is located in northwest Kansas. Carol and I have served various leadership roles on local, state, and national boards and committees over the past 25 years. We are unabashedly proud native Kansans, but we lived briefly in Texas and travel extensively around the United States. We have chosen to live in Kansas! We enjoy the quality of life made possible by Kansas State University in our community, whether it is Big XII sports, the McCain Auditorium Performance Series, or the Landon Lecture Series, featuring leaders from around the world, plus the regular co-mingling of professors and scientists who have studied and lived all over the world with the "regular locals".

28.4 As you are no doubt aware, the Veterinary College at Kansas State University is a world leader in animal health research and development which makes it's internationally recognized scientists available for collaboration with scientists with the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility. Plus, the state-of-the-art Biosecurity Research Institute is located next door to the proposed NBAF site. We believe this facility should uniquely qualify Manhattan and Kansas State University for location of the NBAF. Kansas State University originated the Homeland Defense Food Safety Security and Emergency Preparedness Program in 1999 to solidify its standing as a national leader in food safety research. Kansan's are known across the nation for their work ethic manifested in honesty, integrity and dependability. They identify with work and take personal pride in a job well done.

1Cont24.4 I believe that the Manhattan, Kansas community, Kansas State University, and the people and leadership of the state of Kansas are solidly behind locating the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in Manhattan, Kansas. I believe the people who relocate to this area will be completely satisfied with their decision to do so. Carol and I strongly encourage you locate the NBAF in our community.

Sincerely,



S. Warren Weibert

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 statement.

Weiland, Geri

Page 1 of 1

WD0666

From: Weiland, Geri [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 22, 2008 5:42 PM
To: NBAFProgramManager
Subject: Support for Mississippi as NBAF site

1|24.5 I am writing to support the proposed site in Mississippi. I am a physician in practice in [REDACTED] and an alumnus of the University of Mississippi Medical School. There has been discussion at Alumni meetings about the NBAF and a lot of excitement at the prospect of the facility being built in Mississippi.

2|15.5 This facility will bring a lot of opportunities to Mississippi. It will give our brightest students the chance to stay in state for challenging and rewarding jobs. Those workers recruited here from elsewhere will be pleasantly surprised at how great life can be in this state. I know first hand of the misconceptions about Mississippi. I was born and raised in New Jersey until I was 13. I was initially apprehensive about my family's move here, but once I got settled in, I have never had a desire to return to the East Coast!

1Cont|24.5 We have educational recourses to support this facility, especially UMC, and a great site reserved for the facility. In short, we want it, we need it and we are ready for it.

Thanks for making Mississippi your choice for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility!

Sincerely,
 Geri Weiland, M.D.

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Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 24.5

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

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 15.5

DHS notes the commentor's statement.

Weinig, Mary Jo

Page 1 of 1

WD0392

From: mary jo weinig [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 13, 2008 11:35 AM
To: NBAFProgramManager
Subject: Plum Island Facility

1|25.1 Please do not convert the facility at Plum Island from a Level 3 to a Level 4. Mr. Bishop and Senator Clinton have spoken out against such a move. Given that the U.S. Dept of Accountability Office also states that DHS "lacks evidence to conclude that foot and mouth disease research can be safely conducted on the U.S. Mainland" and the opposition of our learned representatives, I am opposing such a change in Levels.

Thanks for listening to those who live on [REDACTED]

MJ Weinig

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 25.1

DHS notes the commentator's opposition to the Plum Island Site Alternative. The NBAF would be designed and constructed using modern biocontainment technologies, and operated by trained staff and security personnel to ensure the maximum level of worker and public safety and least risk to the environment in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Weis, Linda

Page 1 of 10

MD0046

LINDA B. WEIS215 PINE DRIVE
MANHATTAN, KANSAS 66502

AUGUST 8, 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

Dear Dr. Johnson and U.S. Department of Homeland Security:

I have prepared this report in support of the placement of a National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in an appropriate location to expedite our nation's critical need for a federal laboratory dedicated to the development of strategies against bio-terrorism. The sole mission of this laboratory is to research and defuse high-consequence pathogens that serve as a potential threat to our national food supply.

That appropriate location is Manhattan, Kansas, proud home of Kansas State University, the world's leader in animal health research and development, a university whose visionary commitment to food-safety research and bio-security technology pre-dates the terrorist attacks of 2001. Led by an entrepreneurial spirit, this extraordinary university is an advocate for cooperation and collaboration, resulting in cutting-edge research and bioscience technology that attracts world-class scientists. The vision of Kansas State University has been enlarged in its role as an academic partner with the Kansas Bioscience Authority, whose sole purpose is to advance Kansas' leadership in bioscience research and development.

A strong advocate for entrepreneurship, cooperation and collaboration among academic, public, and private partners, I am a 40-year resident of Manhattan and small-business owner. I currently serve as Chair-Elect of the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. My husband is a Yale post-graduate-trained research scientist, who served Kansas State University as Director of the Division of Biology in an interim capacity for several years, and who now plays an active leadership role in the Manhattan community as emeritus of the University.

I currently serve on the Chamber's Executive Committee, Military Relations Committee and the Retire to the Flint Hills Committee. Elected to Leadership Kansas in 2005, I have served as State President for the Certified Residential Brokers of Kansas, the Certified Residential Specialists of Kansas, and the Women's Council of Realtors of Kansas. I am Past-President of the Manhattan Association of Realtors.

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 24.4

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Manhattan Campus Site Alternative. The decision on whether or not the NBAF is built, and, if so, where will be made based on the following factors: 1) analyses from the EIS; 2) the four evaluation criteria discussed in Section 2.3.1; 3) applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulatory requirements; 4) consultation requirements among the federal, state, and local agencies, as well as federally recognized American Indian Nations; 5) policy considerations; and 6) public comment.

Weis, Linda

Page 2 of 10

MD0046

-2-

My comments reflect my personal perspective of Manhattan and the appropriateness of the NBAF placement in Kansas. By way of professional qualification, I am certified at the national level as a relocation specialist, with advanced-level training in the transitioning of people and their projects to, from, and within communities across the nation. It is my job to match desired criteria and available opportunity, bringing parties together in compromise to the satisfaction of all.

A significant aspect of this process is the motivation of all parties in being "ready, willing, and able". My purpose in this letter is to stress that Manhattan, Kansas, is completely "ready, willing, and able" to facilitate the placement of NBAF in our community and to assure you that the Department of Homeland Security and the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility would be welcomed as an excellent addition and strong asset by the leaders and residents of this fine city.

A review of the Department of Homeland Security criteria clearly suggests that the Kansas location for NBAF offers the best of all sites under consideration for many reasons. The purpose of NBAF and the DHS is the proactive protection of national security, thus the critical support readiness of Kansas' national defense systems brings indisputable credence to our qualification as the leading contender for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility.

Our highly-disciplined Kansas National Guard stands in trained readiness for bio-security defense and is located in immediate proximity to the proposed Kansas NBAF location. The state-of-the-art global technology center at the U.S. Army's newly-constructed Division One Headquarters is located within 10 miles of the NBAF location. And the powerful military strength of the Army's Big Red One stands in constant readiness to defend our national security. These military resources are of significant potential benefit to the Department of Homeland Security in protecting our nation's vital resources in the event of a terrorist attack.

The recently-constructed, extraordinary state-of-the-art Biosecurity Research Institute (BRI), Pat Roberts Hall, located next door to the proposed NBAF site, is a readiness asset of incomparable value unique to Kansas State University. The ready availability of this excellent research facility, coupled with Kansas State University's status as the world's leader in animal health research and development, ensures DHS the immediate availability of research expertise by internationally-recognized scientists qualified for collaboration with NBAF research and development programs.

More than one hundred twenty-five animal health companies along the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor also stand ready to complement K-State's agricultural research expertise in collaboration with NBAF. Long a leader in food safety research, Kansas State University originated the Homeland Defense Food Safety Security and Emergency Preparedness Program in 1999. Similarly, K-State has collaborated actively in the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Funded Food Safety Consortium and in 2002 created the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center, followed by the construction of the BRI facility. More than \$70 million has been invested in K-State's food safety, animal health, and related research since 1999, and more than 150 K-Staters are involved in food-safety and animal-health research. K-State's commitment has culminated in the Olathe Innovation Campus, a 105-acre bioscience park in the Kansas City area, making available to that region K-State's expertise in agriculture, food safety, animal health and research.

1
cont.]
24.4

Weis, Linda

Page 3 of 10

MD0046

-3-

Of critical significance to the NBAF location in Manhattan, Kansas, is the full and unqualified support of Kansas leadership at all levels. By Executive Order of Kansas Governor Sebelius, a 45-member Kansas NBAF Task Force was formed, comprised of top-level business, professional, and political leaders, bioscience experts, and members of the Kansas Congressional Delegation. Led by the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Senator Pat Roberts, this bipartisan leadership group showed unprecedented willingness to cooperate in their choice of Kansas State University as their NBAF site recommendation to the Kansas Legislature. This bold action exemplifies extraordinary motivation and willingness on the part of an entire region to remove all contingencies in qualifying Kansas as the #1 site for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility. The exceptional cooperation in this effort, facilitated by State leadership, exemplifies exceptional unity and commitment to national security readiness and recognizes K-State's prominence in bioscience research.

Our State, local, and regional leadership have expended similar extraordinary efforts to support Kansas military bases, including nearby Fort Riley, home of the Big Red One and the exceptional new state-of-the-art Division One Headquarters. These continuing efforts prove the willingness of Kansas leaders to work together for the common good in not only recruiting but also maintaining positive working relationships with our partners. Kansas is committed to the preservation and maintenance of long-term relationships in all partnerships, including NBAF.

Willingness is also demonstrated by the guarantee of Manhattan-area governmental, community and business leaders who have lined up to offer their full support in addressing the needs of the NBAF project and its people, confirming their support by recorded vote. Politics is set aside when our national security is at stake, and our local and State leaders are totally unified in support of the relocation of NBAF to Manhattan, Kansas. Indeed, Manhattan, in the "Heart of the Heartland", is a cooperative community, a "ready, willing, and able partner" ready to share the opportunity of welcoming NBAF and facilitating the needs of its people.

Is the Kansas site able to accommodate the needs of NBAF? The key to this question is the totally extraordinary commitment made by the Kansas Governor, the Kansas Legislature, and Kansas State University in providing extensive support for the physical aspects of the project. Every effort has been made by State leadership to conform to the DHS criteria, qualifying Kansas without reservation for the NBAF project. Centrally well-located in the Heartland, the proposed site in Manhattan, Kansas, is free of negative environmental conditions and is blessed with both natural resources and human resources to meet the needs of the massive NBAF project.

¹ cont.]
24.4 The highly-desirable Kansas work ethic is an asset of priceless significance respected by employers nationwide. The Kansas worker's reputation for innovation, collaboration and cooperation, honesty, integrity, dependability, and resourcefulness facilitates the smooth functioning of systems and operations, contributing to a positive work environment, ultimately leading to increased productivity. Kansas workers expect to earn a living commensurate with their abilities and experience, yet their job satisfaction is not limited to their financial earnings and paid vacation. Aware of the "big picture", the Kansas worker takes immense pride and gratification in knowing a job well done will contribute to a better life and a better world.

Weis, Linda

Page 4 of 10

MD0046

-4-

Will the Kansas site be compatible with the needs of NBAF employees and their families? What does Manhattan have to offer? Are we able to accommodate them in providing a stimulating and satisfying environment for personal and professional growth and development? Will there be educational and work opportunities for family members? Will there be academic, spiritual and cultural stimulation? Will there be sufficiently challenging recreational opportunities? What is life really like on the Prairie?

I can best answer this question by relating my own personal experience. A college scholarship brought me to Kansas, where I met and married a graduate-level scientist, a Kansas native. Following completion of his Ph.D., we set off to see the world, looking forward to a stimulating life in academia. Through the course of my married life I have been a community resident of the following academic institutions and professional schools: Aspen School of Music, Aspen, Colorado; Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York; Kansas State University, Manhattan; Santa Fe Opera Company, Santa Fe, New Mexico; University of Denver, Denver, Colorado; University of Kansas, Lawrence; University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana; University of Minnesota, Duluth; and Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.

My residencies in nine interesting communities and eight progressive states have qualified me well to objectively evaluate the merits of the quality of life offered in Manhattan, Kansas. As a real estate specialist, I have facilitated the successful relocation of many discerning clients, including internationally-renowned scientists, distinguished professors, and executive-level professionals and business leaders – all of whom, without exception, have found the Manhattan community to offer a stimulating and satisfying quality of life that exceeded their family's expectations.

I submit that Manhattan, Kansas, is without peer in its ability to compatibly satisfy the quality of life needs of NBAF and its 250-350 team members. We are a truly dynamic community that provides the best possible quality of life for our residents, and that is what we offer you today – a quality of life that is enriching, stimulating, and heartwarming, sufficient reason for my husband and me to remain in “The Little Apple” to raise three children to adulthood rather than returning near “The Big Apple”, from whence we came.

1 cont
24.4

Manhattan, Kansas, is a community with endless opportunities for those who come to help build and contribute -- to participate as team players. The people of this “Heart of the Heartland” community are a cut above -- generally intelligent, resourceful, and mature in spirit. They care about one another and understand that cooperation, collaboration and community partnerships are essential to growth and development. A legacy of positive “town-gown” relationships has paved the way for exceptional community progress, with visionary civic leaders who have moved forward with faith, hope, impeccable ethical standards, uncommon wisdom, and dedication.

The foundation of this exceptional community has been built on its goodness as an inclusive community of dedicated citizens with seemingly endless energies -- industrious, thoughtful, cooperative, and respectful of one another and differing opinions. Free speech is alive and well in Manhattan, Kansas, where citizens are encouraged to express support or opposition in public meetings, where governmental officials welcome public comment until all have had their turn.

Weis, Linda

Page 5 of 10

MD0046

-5-

The underlying bond of courtesy in the "Little Apple" allows us to passionately disagree on issues without resorting to vindictive personal attacks or malicious slander about our neighbors. Though we have not been without challenges to community unity, mutual respect dictates that we may dislike what the person is saying, but we rise above our personal differences with honor.

There is much to see and do in this beautiful part of the country! Alive with trees, parks, hills, rivers, lakes, friendly people and fun activities, Manhattan is located in the beautiful Flint Hills. Newcomers soon come to love this welcoming community for its small-town quality of life and exciting city-like attractions. New residents often move here for a year or two "to get started", then choose to stay, becoming enthusiastic pillars of this engaging community. My husband and I are typical examples. We came to Kansas State University from the Ivy League with toddler in hand promising ourselves to stay "two years; three, at the most". Then, like thousands of others, we fell in love with the wonderfully intelligent, warm, hospitable people of this special community and, here we are, six grandchildren later, loving it more each day, with plans to remain an active part of the community the rest of our lives.

During our residence here we have seen the doubling of both the Manhattan population and Kansas State University enrollment; yet the basic character of the community has remained intact. Settled by Easterners and originally called "New Boston", later re-named "Manhattan", this beautiful Flint Hills community has remained true to the most important things in life, the things that can't be bought with money or constructed with brick and mortar. When we moved here from the East Coast, I was very suspicious, wondering to myself, "These people are just too nice; I wonder what they want?" My defenses soon came down with the realization that the people of Manhattan were well-intentioned and *Real*, accepting me for myself, without ulterior motive.

It became obvious that the Golden Rule, courtesy, good manners and resulting good will were the rule rather than the exception in Manhattan, Kansas. In the "Little Apple" we were no longer pressured by crowding, pushing, traffic jams, and horns blaring the instant the light turned green. "Little Apple" drivers even defer to others when both are seeking the same special parking space! The character of Manhattan was essentially the same then, with a population of 25,000, as it is now at 51,707. Relationships and respect remain of prime importance. This respect extends to the simple courtesy of traffic cessation until a funeral procession passes by, a custom unaffected by our increasing population and resulting traffic.

Manhattan has a reputation as a happy place; in fact, many people consider it near ideal. During the Reagan years dear graduate-school friends visited us in Manhattan from their home in Washington, DC, where they worked as Ph.D. researchers in federal programs. We proudly took Hal and Peg on a tour of our city, highlighted by Manhattan's beautiful Anneberg Park. On this near-perfect day, sunlight streamed across the beautiful, crystal clear Anneberg Lake; ducks and geese were enjoying a swim on soft rippling water; the ball fields, soccer fields, trees and hills were lush with green; the wonderful children's playground was alive with energy; and the shaded walking trail offered stimulating refreshment to its participants. It was truly an awesome sight – much like a picture in a travel magazine. Suddenly, our friend Hal exclaimed boldly to his wife, "Peg, I can't believe it, but Reagan is right!! A place like this DOES exist!!"

1 cont.
24.4

Weis, Linda

Page 6 of 10

MD0046

-6-

Yes, such a place does exist. Though it may seem too good to be true, Manhattan is a nearly idyllic community, which is why we've stayed. And why our children, like many others who grew up here, have fondly nicknamed this special place "Manhappiness".

There is a world of opportunity in Manhattan, Kansas, and the entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well! Manhattan loves new ideas and supports their creators. I have personally benefited from an abundance of encouragement and support from the people of this community. And Success. Yes. It is true that Manhattan, Kansas, has set a national franchise real estate record as #1 for the four-state region of Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, and Nebraska – an area that includes the Greater St. Louis area, the Greater Kansas City area, Denver, Wichita, Topeka, and Lawrence, among others. This record-breaking statistic also qualified Manhattan internationally as #18 of 12,500 worldwide, including 721 offices in 9 countries. How could this be? That's what competitors from Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Boston, New York, Washington, DC, and Chicago wondered aloud at the announcement. How could a small community like Manhattan, Kansas, be so productive? Well, that's just the point. In Manhattan, we accomplish more because of positive relationships and a cooperative business-professional climate. In a word, Manhattan has a culture of high productivity because we have fewer problems and frustrations, thus we waste less time and energy, accomplish more, and enjoy life in the process.

1 cont
24.4 So what features does the Manhattan area offer? What initially attracts people from far and near to this special spot in the Heartland? They come from diverse backgrounds, bringing their talents from around the world. These newcomers are the lifeblood of our growing community and to our dynamic Kansas State University, comprised of 23,000 students from 90 countries and 50 states.

Our university faculty, staff, and administration are proud to be affiliated with the only public university that ranks among the Top 10 in public and private universities. Kansas State University faculty, staff and administration are constant contributors to the fabric of our community, creating the strong "Town and Gown" relationships to which I referred earlier.

Our military families are welcomed to a community and region where we support our troops and appreciate their service to our country. They are encouraged by the cultural, educational, and recreational advantages offered by a major University and a friendly civilian community that rolls out the welcome mat in support of the families of U.S. service men and women.

Our businesses, corporations, and industries appreciate an environment that is conducive to business doing business. Manhattan's supportive, progressive, and cost-effective business environment facilitates efficient growth of companies and enhances the stability of their corporate family lifestyle.

Our research institutions and companies discover in Manhattan a dynamic progressive University community known for its established serious commitment to biosecurity research, food safety and security, animal health, plant science and bioenergy. Additionally, the Kansas State University/Manhattan community is recognized as one of the most supportive of small, technology-based businesses in America.

Weis, Linda

Page 7 of 10

MD0046

-7-

Golf-lovers are attracted by our PGA-licensed golf course, Colbert Hills, and the many excellent golf courses in the area, including the beautifully renovated, affordable Manhattan Country Club.

Retirees are captivated by the many affordable activities of a community ranked No. 23 of 577 micropolitan areas for its Quality of Life, made possible, in part, by the presence of a Big XII University.

All this excitement, clean air, moderate temperatures, & no traffic jams in an environment that promotes courtesy, honesty, & dependability! Oh, and did I mention that Manhattan was recently recognized by "Money Magazine" as #25 for best commute times? Quoting "Money Magazine": "Here are towns from the Best Places database with the quickest median travel time to work." With high gas prices, what a great list to be on. Why wouldn't everyone want to live in Manhattan, Kansas, we ask ourselves! Indeed, the features seem endless; these are only a few:

- . 155 miles of tree-lined streets
- . Designation as "Tree City USA" for 21 consecutive years
- . 21 parks totaling 1,000 acres
- . Beautiful rolling hills – this part of Kansas is NOT flat!
- . 35 miles of fun-filled water recreation at Tuttle Creek Lake
- . Exciting Big XII, Division I College Sports Events with luxury boxes, club rooms, and lively fan attractions
- . Award-winning restaurants and more on the horizon
- . Intriguing shops, boutiques, shopping, and more on the way
- . A dynamic museum with 1,400 works of art and growing
- . An award-winning private art gallery that features local and regional artists
- . An acclaimed botanical garden and festive annual Gardens Gala
- . A state-of-the-art regional health center
- . A state-of-the-art regional airport with several flights daily to Kansas City and Denver airports
- . An AZA-accredited zoo with outstanding educational programs and activities

1 cont.
24.4

Weis, Linda

Page 8 of 10

MD0046

-8-

- 1 cont. 24.4
- . Our national treasure, Konza Prairie, offering
 - ~8,600 acres of native tallgrass
 - ~14 miles of hiking trails
 - ~Bison, historic buildings, grass-burnings, & research
 - . Manhattan Arts Center's exciting opportunities for all ages
 - . Awesome performances by KSU Music, Theater, & Dance Groups
 - . Thrilling entertainment unique to our community including the
 - ~"Little Apple Ball Drop", a "Times Square" New Year's Eve Event
 - ~"Country Stampede", a summer music festival with big-name country music stars
 - ~"Purple Power Play on Poyntz", a downtown, main-street football rally like no other
 - ~Parades & marching bands celebrating occasions, seasons, football, patriotic holidays
 - ~ The Division One Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard, ceremonial horses
 - ~"Little Apple Military Ball", honoring Fort Riley Leadership with a formal evening of gourmet dining & dancing, hosted by the Chamber's Little Apple Brigade
 - . KSU's renowned Landon Lecture Series featuring world & national leaders in enlightening, interactive sessions that have included several past and sitting U.S. presidents; patron luncheons and receptions are enthusiastically supported by a State-wide audience
 - . Stimulating professional entertainment at the McCain Performance Series -- 2008 and the current season brings the following artists:
 - Marvin Hamlisch, Capitol Steps, Garrison Keillor, Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, Russian National Ballet Theater, Hairspray, Nunsense, Sweeney Todd, Ensemble Galilei with NPR's Neal Conan, Gaelic Storm, Glenn Miller Orchestra, and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center -- all with affordable tickets, no waiting lines, and a 10-minute drive to the theater -- or perhaps 15 at the most!
 - . The "Symphony In The Flint Hills", featuring the amazing Kansas City Symphony in concert on the open prairie. Hosted by the Governor, this is a sell-out each year, with 6,000 tickets sold in 3 hours this summer! Events feature a Patron's Tent, art auction, cowboy tales & songs, Flint Hills legends, food, drink, camaraderie, beautiful music appropriate to the setting, & the chance of a gorgeous sunset. You won't want to miss this event.

Weis, Linda

Page 9 of 10

MD0046

-9-

Of great importance are the excellent options for public and private education in Manhattan, both independent and parochial. Our schools offer challenging academic and activity programs, with Manhattan High School having earned national recognition from ACT as one of 382 high schools nationwide honored for its rigorous core curriculum, with this year's ACT composite score the highest in a decade and exceeding the State composite score. The National Merit Scholarship Corporation recognized 13 MHS students for outstanding achievement, and 50 MHS students were designated as AP Scholar by the College Board for exceptional achievement.

Manhattan is well-known for the spiritual foundation provided by its hundred churches and numerous charitable foundations and trusts. Manhattan is a generous community, exemplified by fundraising programs in progress for the construction of a new Emergency Shelter, Boys and Girls Club, & Sheltering Embrace Hospice House, with active community support for many worthwhile organizations including, among others, ALS, Big Brothers-Big Sisters, CASA, the Heart Association, March of Dimes, Multiple Sclerosis, United Way, Cancer Relay for Life, Mercy Community Health Foundation Gala, Homecare & Hospice Wine Festival, Go Red for Women! United Way Pillars Club, among many others. Our County Fair Rodeo riders were featured this year in a fundraising effort called "Tough Enough to Wear Pink", and they did! It was a huge success, preceded by a steak fry and lively auction attended by all local elected officials, with all funds donated to Kansas State University's Terry C. Johnson Center for Basic Cancer Research.

1 cont. | 24.4

Manhattan, Kansas, is a well-rounded, self-contained community that serves a seven-county market area. In addition to historic Fort Riley some 10 miles away, another nearby community of national interest is Abilene, Kansas, site of the Dwight D. Eisenhower National Presidential Library, Museum and Family Home. Located 45 minutes west of Manhattan on Interstate 70, Abilene also is home to two magnificent historic mansions that have been identified among the "8 Wonders of Kansas Architecture", the Victorian style Lebold Mansion (1880) and the Georgian style Seelye Mansion (1905). Traveling 45 minutes straight South on Highway 177 from Manhattan, we come upon historic, vibrant Council Grove, home of the Hayes House, the oldest continuously operating restaurant west of the Mississippi. Established on the Santa Fe Trail in 1857 by Seth Hayes, grandson of Daniel Boone, early customers were General George Custer and Jesse James. The Santa Fe Trail is also marked by one of the twelve "Madonna of the Trail" national monuments placed and maintained by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Continuing South on 177, a fascinating feature of the beautiful Flint Hills is the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, another designated "Wonders of Kansas". Operated by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, the Park is located near Cottonwood Falls, a cameo of Kansas history that features the beautifully restored Chase County Courthouse, recently honored among the "8 Wonders of Kansas Architecture." Forty-five minutes East of Manhattan on I-70 is Topeka, State capital of Kansas. Distinguished by the architecturally compelling historic capitol building, another of the State-designated "8 Wonders of Kansas Architecture", a special feature atop the capitol dome is the magnificent 20' bronze sculpture of a Kanza Indian warrior with his arrow pointed to the North star. The recent 12-year creation of Dr. Richard Bergen, the *Ad Astra* sculpture weighed two tons and represents the Kansas motto, "*Ad Astra per Aspera*", "To the Stars Through Difficulties", a fitting tribute to the vision, progress, and enduring character of Kansans.

Weis, Linda

Page 10 of 10

MD0046

-10-

IN SUMMARY:

NBAF and Kansas are compatible in every way.

The Kansas location is of highest merit in every category.

Kansas is "ready, willing, and able" for a supportive partnership with NBAF.

KANSAS IS THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR NBAF.

NBAF IS THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR KANSAS.

NBAF family members will thank you for making the Right Choice on their behalf.

The U.S. Government will thank you for making the Right Choice for its citizens.

NBAF employees will thank you for providing them in Manhattan, Kansas, the ideal place to live, work, play, and raise their families in a stable community environment that contributes to their personal happiness and professional productivity.

The citizens of the State of Kansas will thank you for your sound judgment and will welcome you as an excellent new neighbor.

It is my pleasure to extend a welcome to the "Little Apple", or, better yet, "Manhappiness!"

*Respectfully Submitted
with Appreciation,*

LINDA B. WEIS

1 cont. | 24.4

Weller, Harold and Betty

Page 1 of 1

MD0147

Harold & Betty Weller
 [REDACTED]
 Kansas

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

Dear Sir:

1) 25.4 We want to state our opposition to the national bro. and Agro-Defense Facility in
 Manhattan, Kansas (Kansas State College) as this is in the heart of the cattle and
 livestock Country. Any escape of pathogens or diseases would not only be devastating to
 2) 21.4 Kansas Agriculture and they with such a foot hold spread to the rest of the US which
 3) 15.4 would ruin our foreign markets besides food for ourselves plus ruin the livestock
 industry.

With modern communications there is no problem to communicate with other workers in
 the same field as some of our work is done overseas now for example. We have had a
 example of a sciencest turning diseases lose 3 years ago and then taking his own life.

If the location of research is away from livestock country at least they could not just go
 outside and release pathogens and hopefully by needing to go to more trouble to release
 these pathogens would rethink what they are doing.

4) 5.0 We need research but should leave it out off the mainland.

We need to think ahead and use common sense not just dollars signs for today.

Sincerely



Harold and Betty Weller

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 25.4

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

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 21.4

Chapter 3, 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 Chapter 3,
 Section 3.10.9 and Appendix D of the NBAF EIS. As described in Section 3.10.9 of the NBAF EIS,
 the economic impact of an outbreak of foot and mouth disease virus has been previously studied and
 could result in a loss in the range of \$2.8 billion in the Plum Island region to \$4.2 billion in the
 Manhattan, Kansas area over an extended period of time. The economic loss is mainly due to
 potential foreign bans on U.S. livestock products. Although the effects of an outbreak of Rift Valley
 fever virus on the national economy has not been as extensively studied, the potential economic loss
 due to foreign bans on livestock could be similar to that of foot and mouth disease outbreak, while the
 additional cost due to its effect on the human population could be as high as \$50 billion. There is little
 economic data regarding the accidental or deliberate Nipah virus release. However, cost would be
 expected to be much lower then a release of foot and mouth disease virus or Rift Valley fever virus
 as the Nipah virus vector is not present in the western hemisphere.

Comment No: 3 Issue Code: 15.4

See resspose to Comment No. 2.

Comment No: 4 Issue Code: 5.0

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

Welling, Richard Daniel

Page 1 of 1

PD0025

July 25, 2008

Hello, good day,

1 | I'm an activist. My name is Richard Daniel Welling and my comment is ...this just came
 1.0 | across my desk at the *Independent*. I started reading the article and I feel like...as far as
 | North Carolina's economical growth is concerned, we don't really need that lab at all.
 | You know for the repercussions that it would, might bring to the Raleigh area, because it
 | is so close, that could be a major problem. I mean Raleigh can't even get clean,
 | unpolluted water, let alone will they be able to handle an outbreak. So come on, let's just
 | be real from a politician's standpoint here. I don't care what David Price says, okay!
 | He's a greedy bastard, okay. We're talking about lives here. We're talking about Bird
 | Flu and ten other deadly diseases that could possibly be transmitted and that there're
 | records dating back to 1981 where, like contained outbreaks have happened. You know?

2 | Where's the safety for our lab workers? Where's the humanity of putting it in another
 25.0 | state? I don't care if it's Long Island. I'm formerly from the Bronx, throw it out there.
 | Put it in San Antonio, Texas, but we don't want it in our State of North Carolina, and I
 | want updates, and I also am going to press too, and call back and get a document list and
 | read this thoroughly and become an activist. I'm also on Face Book with Bio Fuel
 | America, by Richard Daniel Welling. I'm an inspiring casting director and I will make
 | this a top priority as far as documenting it and getting up with the UNC student film
 | department, which I've already worked on in previous projects, and we're jumping on the
 | ball here.

3 | You guys better get your asses in gear and throw it in another state. We don't need it in
 25.3 | North Carolina. We've got plenty of agriculture to keep our economic systems going.
 | We've got a football team. We've got a basketball team, which we don't even have
 | proper convention centers for. Let's work on those things. Let's work on widening our
 | highways. Okay? Back off of this lab. We don't need it.

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 1.0

DHS notes the commentor's concern about the need for the NBAF. The purpose and need for the proposed action is discussed in Chapter 1 of the NBAF EIS.

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 5.0

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Umstead Research Farm Site Alternative based on safety concerns. The NBAF would be designed and constructed using modern biocontainment technologies, and operated by trained staff and security personnel to ensure the maximum level of worker and public safety and least risk to the environment in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Comment No: 3 Issue Code: 25.3

See response to Comment No: 2.

Wellport, Jane

Page 1 of 1

WD0219

From: jane wellport [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 10, 2008 7:33 AM
To: NBAFProgramManager
Subject: concerned citizen in [REDACTED] Ga

1|25.2 | As a resident of [REDACTED] Ga, I am opposed to the construction of the
 2|21.2 | NBAD facility here in Athen in light of the information available on
 the potential hazards it poses. The full scope of the risks involved
 in having such a research facility located here are not really
 completely understood or at least have not been shared with the
 residents. The consequences of transmission by infectious mosquitoes
 along with which steps would be taken in case of such transmission to
 both human and animal populations has not been addressed. In addition,
 3|18.2 | the method(s) of disposal of research animal carcasses has not been
 disclosed along with the impact of such disposal on local water and
 air quality. If a 'worst case scenario' were to occur, what specific
 4|19.2 | steps would be taken to evacuate the residents and what would the cost
 be? The inadequacy of the information provided is not acceptable. All
 of the aspects listed are extremely worrisome and cause for rejecting
 the building of this facility here. Many residents have expressed
 1 cont. | concern and opposition to this project being carried out in our
 25.2 | community and we hope that our voices will be heard and respected and
 that this facility will be relocated to a more secure setting.

Sincerely,

Jane Wellport

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 25.2

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the South Milledge Avenue Site Alternative based on safety concerns. The NBAF would be designed and constructed using modern biocontainment technologies, and operated by trained staff and security personnel to ensure the maximum level of worker and public safety and least risk to the environment in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 21.2

DHS notes the commentor's concerns regarding disease transmission. The NBAF would be designed, constructed, and operated to ensure the maximum level of public safety and to fulfill all necessary requirements to protect the environment. An analysis of potential consequences of a pathogen (e.g., Rift Valley fever [RVF] virus) becoming established in native mosquito populations was evaluated in Sections 3.8.9, 3.10.9, and 3.14 of the NBAF EIS. DHS would have site-specific standard operating procedures (SOP) and response plans in place prior to the initiation of research activities at the NBAF. RVF and foot and mouth disease SOPs and response plans would likely include strategies that are similar. However, the RVF response plan would also include a mosquito control action plan. The potential consequences of pesticide use would be evaluated during the preparation of a site-specific response plan.

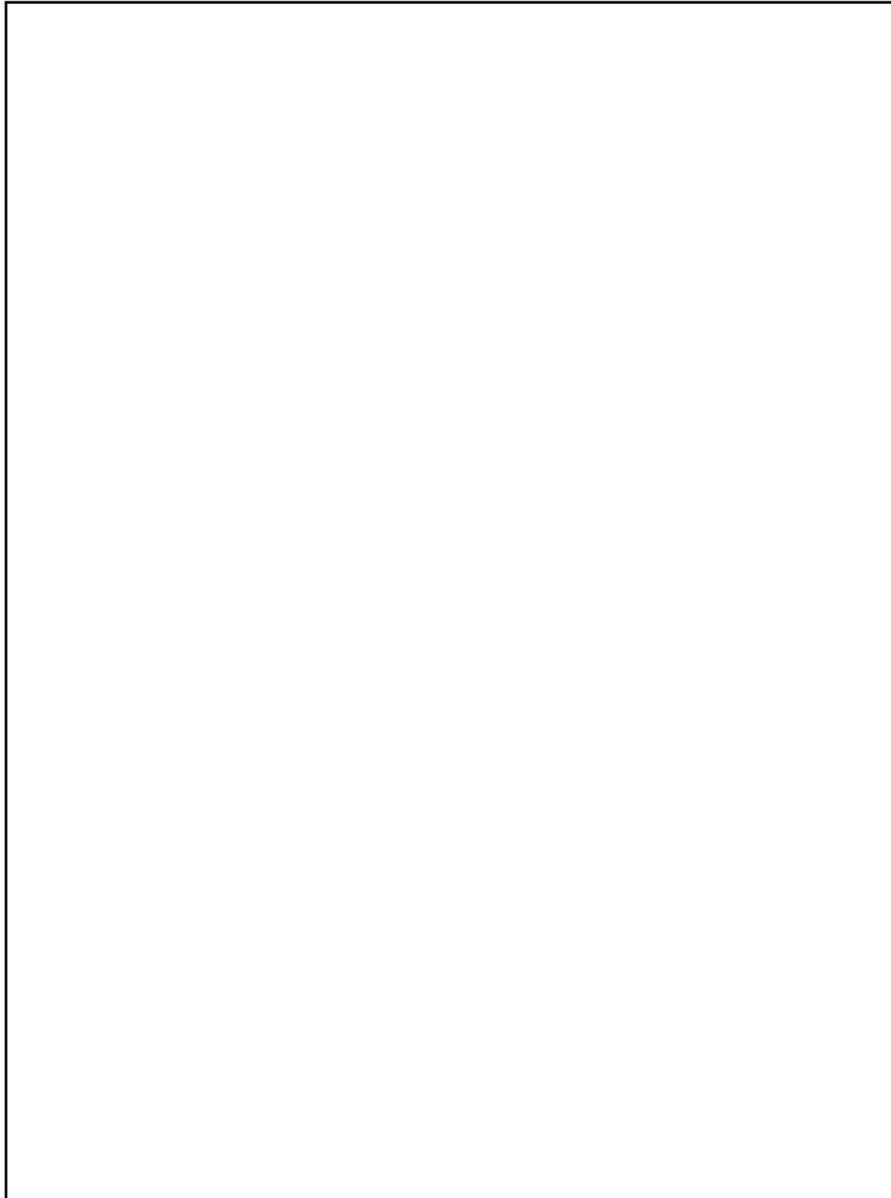
Comment No: 3 Issue Code: 18.2

DHS shares the commentor's concern for the potential environmental impacts that could result from the disposal of experimental animals and pathological wastes. As discussed in Section 3.13.1.2 of the NBAF EIS, several different technologies are being considered for carcass and pathological waste disposal. Table 3.13.2.2-4 provides a brief description and comparison of the three most likely technologies being considered (i.e., incineration, alkaline hydrolysis, and rendering). As discussed in this section, the final design for the NBAF will probably include more than one technology for the treatment of these wastes. Factors that may be considered in making this technology decision include individual site requirements and restrictions, air emissions, liquid and solid waste stream by-products, and operation and maintenance requirements.

Because the method of carcass and pathological waste disposal has not yet been determined, Section 3.4 assumes that incineration, the treatment technology with the greatest potential to negatively impact air quality, will be used to assess the maximum adverse effect. Similarly, because alkaline hydrolysis would have the greatest impact on sanitary sewage capacity, the evaluation in Section 3.3 assumed that alkaline hydrolysis is used for carcass disposal.

Comment No: 4 Issue Code: 19.2

DHS notes the commentor's concern. A site-specific emergency response plan would be developed and coordinated with the local emergency management plan regarding evacuations and other



emergency response measures for all potential emergency events including accidents at the NBAF. The type of, duration, and geographical extent of quarantine would be determined by the appropriate authorities depending on the pathogen released and contamination level. However, the need for an evacuation in response to an accident is considered to be a very low probability event.

Wells, Cydney

Page 1 of 1

WD0311

From: [REDACTED]
 Sent: Sunday, August 17, 2008 8:16 PM
 To: NBAFProgramManager
 Subject: NBAF in Athens, GA

Dear Program Manager,

1|25.2 | As an employee of [REDACTED] (as many individuals in the Athens area are), I could not be seen showing my
 2|12.2 | face at the public hearing last Thursday in fear of retaliation. However, there are many of us at [REDACTED] who
 are against the NBAF being sited here as will be readily apparent if Athens "wins" this designation. I am
 extremely worried, not so much about the possibility of viral/microbial contamination, but about the
 amount of water that the facility will pull from the Oconee River and the area groundwater (according to
 the EIS). We are currently experiencing an extreme drought in the entire mountain and piedmont region
 of Georgia that is showing no sign of abating. Your estimates of DAILY extraction from the water
 resources of our area will further endanger not only our livestock and wildlife but our own drinking water in
 short order. Please take your laboratory to an area with truly sufficient water resources. We do not need
 1 cont. | the jobs so badly as to compromise our drinking water.
 25.2 | Cydney Wells, Medical Technologist
 [REDACTED]

Looking for a car that's sporty, fun and fits in your budget? Read reviews on AOL Autos.
 ([http://autos.aol.com/cars-Volkswagen-Jetta-2009/expert-review?](http://autos.aol.com/cars-Volkswagen-Jetta-2009/expert-review?ncid=aolaut00030000000007)
 ncid=aolaut00030000000007)

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 would use approximately 118,000 gallons per day of potable water an amount that is approximately 0.76% of Athen's 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.

Wenner, David and Helen

Page 1 of 2

WD0318

From: info@athensfaq.org on behalf of David B. Wenner [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2008 11:34 AM
To: NBAFProgramManager
Subject: NBAF in Athens, Georgia

James V. Johnson
 Program Manager
 Department of Homeland Security

18-August, 2008

Dear Mr. Johnson,

I wish to provide comments on portions of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement published on June 2008 titled: US Department of Homeland Security National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility. These comments mainly extend to sections dealing with the geology and soils of the South Milledge Avenue site in Athens, Georgia. It is my view that this report does not adequately address a number of critical environmental issues. By way of background, I am a geologist and recently retired from the geology department of The University of Georgia.

1|11.2 | In review of these sections of the draft EIS report for the proposed NBAF site, it seems likely that the extent of the shallow depth of the underlying bedrock is not adequately assessed or discussed. Although I have not personally investigated this site, I have studied the geology at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia that lies about 2000 feet to northwest. Most of my studies were made with researchers in the College of Environmental and Agricultural Sciences as part of an investigation of nitrate contamination of streams and groundwater (the results of this study are not published but a report was submitted by Dr. David Radcliffe to the Dean of the College of Environmental and Agricultural Sciences in 2004). It is my opinion that the same geologic environment exists at the NBAF site as at the State Botanical Garden.

My investigation of the geology and soils at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia revealed that the thickness of the regolith (unconsolidated residual or transported material that overlies the solid rock) is highly variable, but in general, areas with moderate to steep slopes have a very thin regolith. This is evident from observations of numerous rock outcrops at the surface and from the borehole data. In contrast, in the upland areas where slopes are low, the regolith is generally thicker. This situation probably occurs because extensive erosion occurred along hill slopes because of poor agricultural practices in the early 1900's.

1cont.| | What is of concern at the NBAF site is that, as shown in Figure 2.3.2-2, the proposed laboratories are to be
 11.2 | built mainly in areas characterized by Pacolet soils. These soil types occur in areas with moderate slopes as shown in Figure 3.6.3.1-2. Thus there is every reason to expect that the regolith in the proposed building site may be very thin and thus that bedrock may lie just below the surface in many areas.

Although it is not known to what extent the NBAF laboratories will be built below ground, even level grading in a terrain of moderate slope will likely require a considerable amount of excavation of bedrock. If the laboratories are to be built mostly below ground, this will require extensive excavation of bedrock, on the size of a quarry. Excavation of bedrock requires blasting and haulage. I am concerned about the environmental impact of this activity. What will noise levels be from blasting and how will this impact the adjacent State Botanical Garden and the local community? How much rock will be removed from the site and where will this material be taken? How much will this increase the cost and time of construction? None of these questions are addressed in the draft EIS report.

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 11.2

DHS notes the commentor's geological construction concerns. Section 3.6.3 of the NBAF EIS discusses the geologic and soil conditions at the South Milledge Avenue Site alternative. Sections 3.6.3.2 and 3.6.3.3 discuss the potential construction and operational consequences. Once a site is selected a detailed geotechnical report would be prepared and results included in construction technique development. Section 3.3.3.1.3 describes Atlanta Gas Light as supplying natural gas to the site's boiler fuel. There are no underground storage tanks being considered for the South Milledge Avenue Site.

Wenner, David and Helen

Page 2 of 2

WD0318

1cont.
11.2

Another concern is the impact of fuel storage facilities. According to the Site Characterization Report released on July 25, 2008, about 550,000 gallons of fuel will be stored on site. Assuming these tanks are located underground and in proximity to the Central Plant (an area of moderate slope and thus likely shallow regolith), there is every reason to believe that they will have to be built in bedrock. Borehole data mentioned in the Site Characterization Report also reveal relatively shallow groundwater levels in some areas. If these estimates are valid for the region in question, then what measures will be taken to permanently dewater the site so underground storage tanks can be utilized? What happens if one or more of these tanks leak (as they most likely will in time) and thus contaminate the groundwater? This is critical because any groundwater contamination will almost certainly migrate to the river via fractures in the bedrock and will be nearly impossible to clean up. This same thing is happening in adjacent areas in the State Botanical Garden of Georgia because of leaking swine lagoons. The draft EIS report does not address the potential environmental impact of the fuel storage tanks.

2|26.0

In summary, I find that the draft EIS report does not address some very important environmental issues for the Athens site both during the construction and operation of the NBAF facilities. Although the Site Characterization Study does provide some additional information, this report also does not address many of the environmental issues raised here. It is my judgment that from a geological perspective, the South Milledge Avenue site is not a good location for an NBAF facility.

3|5.2

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. David B. Wenner

██████████
 ██████████ GA ██████████
 ██████████

Comment No: 2Issue Code: 26.0

DHS prepared the NBAF EIS in accordance with the provisions of NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and Council of Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500 et seq.). The primary objective of the EIS is to evaluate the environmental impacts of the No Action and site alternatives for locating, constructing and operating the NBAF. As summarized in Section 3.1 of the NBAF EIS, DHS used available information and analyzed each environmental resource area in a consistent manner across all the alternatives to allow for a fair comparison among the alternatives.

Comment No: 3Issue Code: 5.2

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the South Milledge Avenue Site Alternative based on geological concerns.

West, Lara

Page 1 of 1

WD0758

From: Lara West [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2008 3:26 PM
To: NBAFProgramManager
Subject: No NBAF in Kansas

1|5.4 I would like to express my concern about the potential NBAF facility in Kansas. Our safety and
2|21.4 | the well-being of livestock and crops in America's heartland should be a priority, and I believe
3|25.4 | that bringing this facility to Kansas would put livestock, crops, and humans at risk.

Sincerely,
Lara West
[REDACTED] KS

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 5.4

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Manhattan Campus Site Alternative based on risks to livestock and humans. The NBAF would be designed and constructed using modern biocontainment technologies, and operated by trained staff and security personnel to ensure the maximum level of worker and public safety and least risk to the environment in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 21.4

DHS can not guarantee that the NBAF would never experience an accident. However, as discussed in Section 2.2.1.1, modern biosafety design substantially diminishes the chances of a release as the primary design goal is to provide an adequate level of redundant safety and biocontainment that would be integrated into every component of the building. A discussion of human health and safety is included in Section 3.14.

Comment No: 3 Issue Code: 25.4

See response to Comment No: 1.

Westervelt, Janet

Page 1 of 1

WD0021

From: janet westervelt [REDACTED]
 Sent: Tuesday, July 01, 2008 8:49 AM
 To: NBAFProgramManager
 Subject: Stop the NBAF in Athens, GA

1) 21.0 This would be a total nightmare IF anything were to get out of that facility. Plum Island seems to be the
 2) 25.2 only "somewhat safe" environment which can be contained to a degree. Even then it is possible for
 3) 24.1 things to spread. Please do not build this facility in the Athens area. Especially next to such an
 4) 13.2 incredible space as the Botanical Garden.

--
 Janet Westervelt
 [REDACTED]

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 21.0

DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding the NBAF. The purpose and need for the proposed action is discussed in Chapter 1 of the NBAF EIS. DHS can not guarantee that the NBAF would never experience an accident. However, as discussed in Section 2.2.1.1, modern biosafety design substantially diminishes the chances of a release as the primary design goal is to provide an adequate level of redundant safety and biocontainment that would be integrated into every component of the building. A discussion of human health and safety is included in Section 3.14.

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 25.2

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the South Milledge Avenue Site Alternative in favor of the Plum Island Site Alternative.

Comment No: 3 Issue Code: 24.1

See response to Comment No: 2.

Comment No: 4 Issue Code: 13.2

DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding potential impacts on the State Botanical Garden. Section 3.2.3.3 of the NBAF EIS describes the operational consequences on adjacent visual resources; and based on current design parameters, facility components could be up to 90 feet in height. The NBAF and ancillary features would be well-lit resulting in night-time visual affects. Section 3.2.3.3.2 describes potential options for ameliorating NBAF visual affects. Section 3.5.3.2 describes the temporary construction noise consequences that could effect the visitors and workers at the Botanical Garden and Section 3.5.3.3 describes the routine audible emission sources that may be heard from adjacent University of Georgia facilities.

Whipp, Marcy

Page 1 of 1

PD0055

August 11, 2008

1|25.6 | I'm Marcy Whipp and I live in [REDACTED] I am strongly opposed to you putting your facility in San Antonio, or in Texas, as far as that goes.

2|21.6 | Texas has a large ranching business and a lot of our money comes from ranching and cattle industry, and it could be devastating to the cattle industry if anything happened.

3|5.0 | This facility was previously in an isolated location and I think it should also be put in an isolated location again.

Thank you.

Bye.

1 cont. | I am strongly opposed to this.
25.6

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 25.6

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Texas Research Park Site Alternative.

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 21.6

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. 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.

Comment No: 3 Issue Code: 5.0

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. Nevertheless, 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.

Whitaker, Ellen

Page 1 of 1

WD0861

From: ellenwhitaker [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2008 9:45 PM
To: NBAFProgramManager
Subject: No to NBAF in Athens, GA

1| 25.2 I feel that there is little I can add in order to better express the feelings of the average citizen in the Athens area than what was spoken at the meetings at the Georgia Center. There are many legitimate reasons for objecting to locating NBAF in Athens, and I believe that you are aware of them. However, I would like to express my personal view as a 31-year resident of the community. I recently retired after 25 years at the University of Georgia, and my husband and I assumed that we would spend the rest of our lives in our home, which is located in [REDACTED] a couple of miles from the proposed site. As the crow flies, it is even closer--too close for comfort. We have two precious three-year-old granddaughters who are frequently at our home, and I do not feel that I could bear to risk their safety if the bio-terrorist lab were built just across the river.

3| 19.1 There are many documented instances of lab accidents at the Plum Island site, and no matter how many precautions are taken in the lab, human error WILL occur. While many accidents are documented, how many go unreported? Many proponents point to the CDC in Atlanta as an example of lab safety when, in fact, the CDC has had several incidents this year alone, including one in which duct tape, used to seal a lab, remained on the door for a year! The building's ventilation system malfunctioned and potentially contaminated air out of the lab and into a "clean" hallway. This incident was report in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* on June 22, 2008.

2 cont. | 19.2 Also, the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reported on July 22, 2008, that the backup power generation system at the CDC failed twice in 13 months in a critical germ lab. According to the article, the CDC lost power because the agency had taken two backup generators out of service for upgrades. So, you see--accidents do happen, regardless of the precautions that are taken. If accidents occur at the CDC, we can expect the same at the NBAF facility.

4| 5.1 I am not willing to risk the health or lives of my grandchildren and family because of a lab that has no business being located in this area, or in any area on the mainland. Since DHS has already stated that Plum Island is the safest location for the lab, I cannot understand why there is any question as to location. What is more important--human lives or the so-called "economic boost" to the Athens area? The Athens government officials and UGA took it upon themselves to offer this beautiful and environmentally important land to the DHS for NBAF without any input from the citizens of the area. At the scoping meetings, it was evident that those speaking in support of NBAF were government officials, UGA administrators, faculty members, lab workers, and others who stand to benefit from NBAF. How many average citizens spoke up in support of the facility? I'm convinced that there were few, unlike the opponents, who had nothing to gain, but much to lose. I do not feel that it is the privilege of a few to make decisions that will adversely affect so many. I urge those who are responsible for making this decision to follow their conscience and do what is right--not what a group of politicians and administrators would have you believe.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this matter and for attempting to understand the average citizen, not the self-serving interests of those with the most clout and influence. This is our home--we will be living here while many of the supporters will be in other cities throughout the state and country.

Ellen Whitaker

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: 19.2

DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding the safe operation of the NBAF. Section 3.14 and Appendix E of the NBAF EIS investigate the chances of a variety of accidents that could occur and consequences of those 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 are low. The specific objective of the hazard identification, accident analysis, and risk assessment is to identify the likelihood and consequences from accidents or intentional subversive acts. In addition to identifying the potential for or likelihood of the scenarios leading to adverse consequences, this analysis provides support for the identification of specific engineering and administrative controls to either prevent a pathogen release or mitigate the consequences of such a release. The risk of an accidental release of a pathogen is extremely low.

Comment No: 3 Issue Code: 19.1

DHS notes information provided by the commentor.

Comment No: 4 Issue Code: 5.1

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the South Milledge Avenue Site Alternative in favor of the Plum Island Site Alternative.

Comment No: 5 Issue Code: 4.2

DHS notes the commentor's concern that participation in public comment process is not equitable. DHS is committed to free and open public involvement during development of the NBAF EIS and welcomes comments. DHS's decisions on whether the NBAF should be built, and, if so where, will be based on environmental analyses, public and agency comments, mission requirements, national policy considerations, life-cycle costs, site characterization, security, and other programmatic considerations. Since the inception of the NBAF project, DHS has supported a vigorous public outreach program. DHS has conducted public meetings in excess of the minimum required by NEPA regulations; to date, 23 public meetings have been held in the vicinity of NBAF site alternatives and in Washington D.C. to solicit public input on the EIS, allow the public to voice their concerns, and to get their questions answered. DHS has also provided fact sheets, reports, exhibits, and a Web page (<http://www.dhs.gov/nbaf>). Additionally, various means of communication (mail, toll-free telephone and fax lines, and NBAF Web site) have been provided to facilitate public comment. It is DHS policy to encourage public input on matters of national and international importance. DHS gave equal consideration to all comments, regardless of how or where they were received. All comments received during the public comment periods have been considered in this NBAF EIS.

White, Laura

Page 1 of 1

WD0442

From: Laura White [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2008 11:17 PM
To: NBAFProgramManager
Subject: Butner, NC

Hello.

1|25.3 | I live within a few miles of the proposed NBAF site in Butner, NC and am
strongly opposed to its being built here. As a parent of two young
children, I am very concerned about safety. Please do not locate a lab
like this near such a densely populated area!

Thank you for your consideration.

Laura White
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] NC [REDACTED]

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 25.3

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Umstead Research Farm Site Alternative based on safety concerns. 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 Butner. An example is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention located in downtown Atlanta, Georgia

Whitefield, Anne

Page 1 of 2



NCD021

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: Anne Whitefield

Title: _____

Organization: NC Warn

Address: 4301 Regis Ave

City: Durham State: NC Zip Code: 27705

Comments: I support the "No action" alternative to the proposal to move The Bio-Agro-Defense Facility. Plum Island is a safer place for such research, if indeed we can trust the federal government to be honest with the public about the nature and limitation of research to defense.

Personally I do not have such faith in the US government. I have seen cover-ups, out right lies and double speak from the vested interests which call the shots in Washington DC. NBAF is ~~charter~~ owned by the Dept. of Homeland Security with USDA as co-operative are run by special interest corporations rather than by elected officials

(Continued on back for your convenience)

NATIONAL BIO AND AGRO-DEFENSE FACILITY
 Science and Technology Directorate/Office of National Laboratories

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 5.0

DHS notes the commentor's support for the No Action Alternative. However, as described in Chapter 1 of the NBAF EIS, the purpose and need for the proposed action encompasses the need for an integrated, BSL 4 laboratory in the United States necessary to conduct research and develop countermeasures for zoonotic and foreign animal diseases. Currently, the Plum Island facility does not have BSL-4 capability to meet DHS and USDA mission requirements. However, the NBAF EIS fully analyzes the Plum Island Site Alternative.

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 2.0

DHS notes the commentor's lack of trust in the federal government. Section 3.14 and Appendix E of the NBAF EIS state that the specific objective of the hazard identification is to identify the likelihood and consequences from accidents or intentional subversive acts. In addition to identifying the potential for or likelihood of the scenarios leading to adverse consequences, this analysis provides support for the identification of specific engineering and administrative controls to either prevent a pathogen release or mitigate the consequences of such a release. The NBAF would provide state-of-the-art operating procedures and biocontainment features to minimize the potential for laboratory-acquired infections and accidental releases. The risk of an accidental release of a pathogen is extremely low. Appendix B describes biocontainment lapses and laboratory acquired infections. Laboratory-acquired infections have not been shown to be a threat to the community at large. Should the NBAF Record of Decision call for the design, construction, and operation of the NBAF then site-specific protocols 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 local area. DHS would have site-specific standard operating procedures and response plans in place prior to the initiation of research activities at the proposed the NBAF.

Whitefield, Anne

Page 2 of 2

NCD021

Why do we the public know so little about prion disease, commonly known as mad cow disease? Currently there is no remedy for this disease in livestock and humans - Nor is there any way to destroy infected individuals: prions are unaffected by burial, incineration or other forms of disposal.

3|21.3

We, the public, want investment in green technology. We don't want introduced pathogens in our area. We don't trust Dow Chemical to honestly evaluate the risks. The presentation brushed over mosquito and tick transmission of pathogens. There are presently unknown risks and unknown scope of the facility.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMENTS

Please return this form to the comment table. It may also be mailed or faxed as follows:

U.S. MAIL

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

TOLL-FREE FAX

1-866-508-NBAF (6223)

Comment No: 3

Issue Code: 21.3

DHS notes the commentor's suggestion to invest in green technology. Section 3.14 and Appendix E of the NBAF EIS investigate the chances of a variety of accidents that could occur and consequences of those 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 are low. The specific objective of the hazard identification, accident analysis, and risk assessment is to identify the likelihood and consequences from accidents or intentional subversive acts. In addition to identifying the potential for or likelihood of the scenarios leading to adverse consequences, this analysis provides support for the identification of specific engineering and administrative controls to either prevent a pathogen release or mitigate the consequences of such a release. The risk of an accidental release of a pathogen is extremely low. As discussed in Section 2.2.1.1 of the NBAF EIS, modern biosafety design substantially diminishes the chances of a release as the primary design goal is to provide an adequate level of redundant safety and biocontainment that would be integrated into every component of the building. Further, the NBAF would be operated by trained staff and security personnel to ensure the maximum level of worker and public safety and least risk to the environment in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Whitney, Herbert

Page 1 of 1

MD0109

[REDACTED]
TX

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

Dear Sirs:

1|24.4 I'm writing to express my support for locating the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. Even though I'm a resident of Texas, I know that Kansas State and the State of Kansas have been involved with NBAF-relevant issues for several years. Locating the NBAF facility in Kansas makes the most sense for the security of our country.

Sincerely,



Herbert N. Whitney

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 24.4

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Manhattan Campus Site Alternative. The decision on whether or not the NBAF is built, and, if so, where will be made based on the following factors: 1) analyses from the EIS; 2) the four evaluation criteria discussed in Section 2.3.1; 3) applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulatory requirements; 4) consultation requirements among the federal, state, and local agencies, as well as federally recognized American Indian Nations; 5) policy considerations; and 6) public comment.

Whitten, Ada

Page 1 of 1

PD0289

August 25, 2008

| 25.4 | This is Ade Whitten, [REDACTED] Kansas, and I would like to put a vote against NBAF. I am opposed to it being here.

Thank you.

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 25.4

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

Whitten, Donald and Ada

Page 1 of 1

PD0047

August 6, 2008

Yes,

1| 25.4 | This is Don Whitten in █████ Kansas. I oppose the move to Manhattan. I oppose the
2| 5.0 | move of the organization to mainland, and I would like to see it remain in....right on Plum
3| 24.1 | Island where it is at the present time.

I thank you, and you have a nice day.

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 25.4

DHS notes the commentator's opposition to the five mainland site alternatives in particular, the Manhattan Campus Site Alternative.

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 5.0

See response to Comment No: 1.

Comment No: 3 Issue Code: 24.1

See response to Comment No: 1.

Whitten, Donald and Ada

Page 1 of 1

PD0060

August 13, 2008

Yes,

1) 27.0

This is Don Whitten. I don't know what department I want, but I would like to make a clarification here, or have you make a clarification. In the paper, in the *Manhattan Mercury*, it was dated August the first, you have comments on both sides of the debate, and that was on page 2.,page 8, I believe. But any way, at the last comment on the con you have Don Whitney, [REDACTED] farmer. It appears to me that greed is in the driver's seat.

I would like a clarification on that individual would you please...and the correct identity please.

My telephone number is [REDACTED]

Thank you and have a nice day.

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 27.0

DHS notes the commentor's observation and request for information but that is not within the scope of the NBAF EIS.