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NBAF EIS SCOPING MEETING JULY 31, 2008 (afternoon)

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

NATIONAL BIO AND AGRO-DEFENSE FACILITY

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(NBAF DRAFT EIS)

DATE: JULY 31, 2008

1:30 p.m.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

STUDENT UNION-FORUM HALL

MANHATTAN, KANSAS 66502

Catherine Coghill, Moderator

PANEL MEMBERS:

Mr. James Johnson, U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security

Dr. Steven M. Kappes, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

Mr. Charles Pergler, Tetra Tech, Inc.

Reported by:

Donna M. Lytle, CSR, RPR, CRR
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3 NATIONAL BIO AND AGRO-DEFENSE FACILITY

4 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

5 (NBAF DRAFT EIS)

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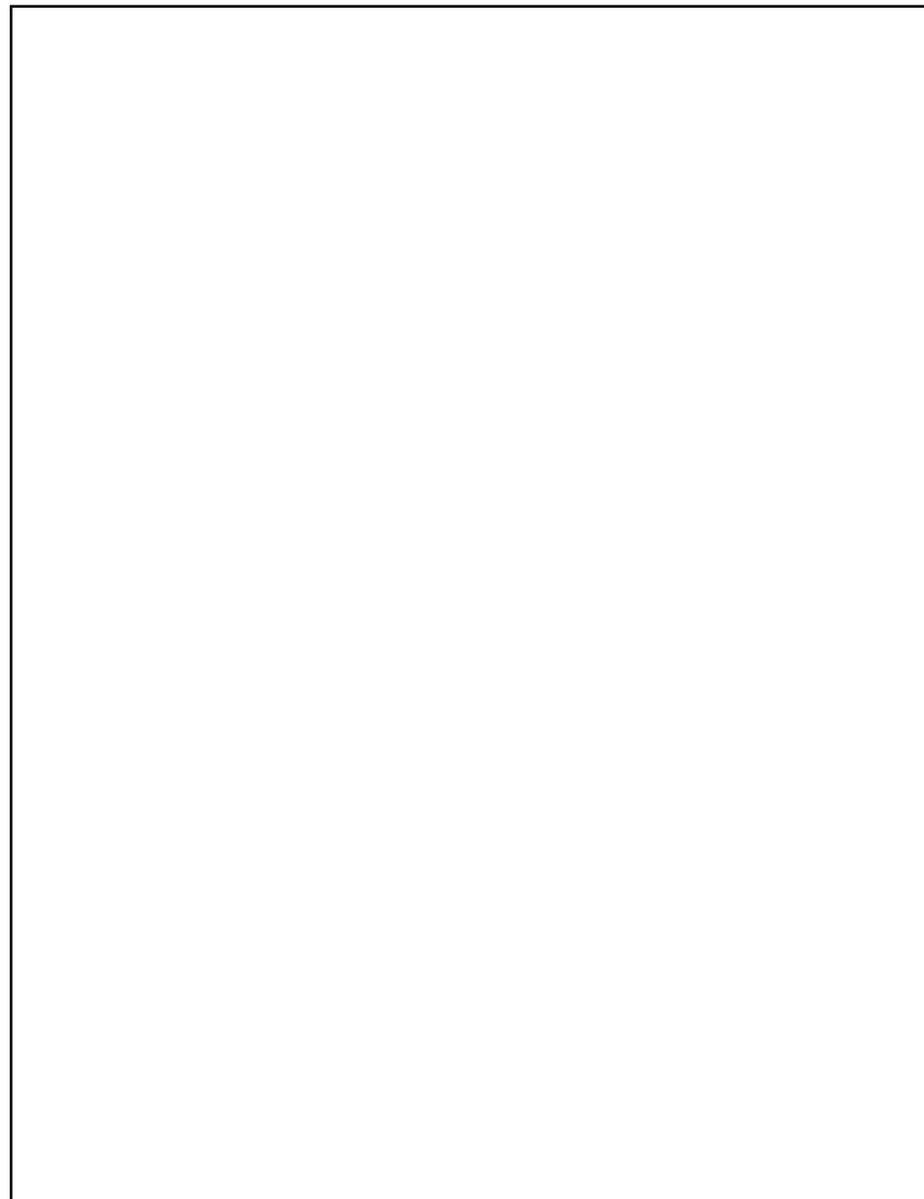
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1 MR. JOHNSON: We're going to go ahead
2 and get started. We have a full afternoon and
3 evening.

4 Welcome to the Kansas public meeting for
5 the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility Draft
6 Environmental Impact Statement, otherwise known as
7 the NBAF EIS.

8 I'm Jamie Johnson, the Director of Office
9 of National Labs, with the Department of Homeland
10 Security, and serving as the program manager for
11 the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility.

12 We're here today to present the results
13 of a Draft Environmental Impact Analysis conducted
14 by our EIS team.

15 We are also here today to listen to your
16 comments. I hope you had a chance to visit our
17 posters and ask questions of our subject matter
18 experts who are in attendance today.

19 DHS announced its intention to prepare an
20 EIS to evaluate siting alternatives for the
21 proposed NBAF on July 31st, 2007. A 60 day public
22 comment period followed which comments were
23 collected and issues identified.

24 During the scoping process, more than
25 1,350 individuals attended eight public meetings

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1 mechanisms listed here in the slide as long as we
2 receive them by August 25th. Thank you.

3 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you, Jamie.

4 At this point in time, we are ready to start the
5 question and answer period. This is a 20 minute
6 period.

7 Again, I want to reiterate that this is
8 all on the record, this entire meeting, and the
9 questions that you have, if you have any, need to
10 pertain specifically to the presentation that was
11 given, so if you need anymore information that you
12 feel wasn't clarified in the presentation, now's
13 your opportunity to ask that. We're also asking,
14 again as a reminder, that each person who'd like
15 to ask a question, that you just ask one in order
16 to accommodate the other folks in the room who may
17 have a question.

18 So at this point in time what I'd like to
19 do, if anyone does have a question, please come to
20 the microphone, state your name if you'd like and
21 your organization and face the panel, of course,
22 so we all can hear you very clearly.

23 MR. TREWYN: Ron Trewyn, K-State.
24 Dr. Kappes mentioned the forthcoming FMD vaccine
25 today but he expanded on that last week in

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1 Washington suggesting it would be likely available
2 and on the market by 2010, something like that.

3 Since there has been some anxiety about
4 FMD on the mainland, I would like to ask that he
5 make additional comments on this potential game
6 changer, and how it could mitigate the FMD
7 concerns.

8 Also I would ask how this vaccine will be
9 factored into the EIS, and the potential
10 consequences of a release. Thank you.

11 DR. KAPPES: Thank you for the
12 question. ARS has done the initial research in
13 identifying a vaccine platform that allows us to
14 take part of the Foot and Mouth Disease genetic
15 material and make a vaccine out of this, and DHS
16 has worked with us and is going through the
17 further development with a company by the name of
18 GenVac, who is currently in the process of doing
19 that work under contract from DHS, and the results
20 are very promising.

21 We're also using the same vector to make
22 vaccines for all seven serial types of Foot and
23 Mouth Disease, and you are correct, that with
24 these promising early results, we hope to have
25 some products available to APHIS by about the time

1120

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 2.0

DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding the siting, construction and operation of the NBAF at the Manhattan Campus Site Alternative. 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.

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1 of 2010, so we're quite encouraged with that.

2 ARS is also doing work on biotherapeutics
3 that increases the efficacy of that vaccine, so
4 the two aspects there is timing and then also
5 being able to produce this vaccine in the United
6 States because it is not an infectious particle,
7 and how that will be used, I'll turn that over to
8 my USDA colleague, Bill White.

9 DR. WHITE: Thank you, Steve. Thank
10 you, sir. Right now, the USDA APHIS at Plum
11 Island, we have the North American Foot and Mouth
12 Disease Vaccine Bank, and this is a stored antigen
13 bank which has the seven different serotypes and a
14 number of subtypes. If FMD outbreak were to be
15 confirmed, that antigen vaccine would be made
16 available within a few days for vaccination of
17 animals.

18 And then you have locally, you have
19 nationally, 400 trained veterinarians who know how
20 to investigate an FMD outbreak, how to respond to
21 an FMD outbreak, and so forth. So if FMD is
22 actually diagnosed, it would start a whole flow
23 chart of things that would happen, and it would --
24 after diagnosis, the USDA secretary would declare,
25 most likely, an extraordinary emergency. The

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1 secretary -- then the secretary of DHS would
2 declare an incident of national significance and
3 so forth, so anyway, what I'm trying to say, is
4 that the full brunt of the federal infrastructure
5 would be brought to this outbreak.

6 But it would rely essentially on stop
7 movement, depopulating animals that are showing
8 obvious signs of clinical signs, and vaccination.

9 Thank you.

10 MODERATOR COGHILL: Yes, sir, do you
11 have a question?

12 MR. SIMMONS: John Simmons, with the
13 Kansas Bioscience Authority. It's great to hear
14 that FMD may not be an issue by the time this is
15 constructed, but at the D.C. hearing last week,
16 one of the presenters mentioned that the economic
17 impact of an FMD outbreak is substantially similar
18 across all the sites, I think the number was
19 80 percent or so.

1|15.0

20 Could you elaborate a little bit further
21 on what that means?

22 MR. PERGLER: Basically, the
23 difference is the number of livestock in a
24 particular area and the response that would be
25 conducted, so that's reflected in the range of

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 15.0

The potential effects to livestock-related industries is discussed in Section 3.10. As noted in Section 3.10.9 and Appendix D, the major economic effect from an accidental release of a pathogen would be a ban on all U.S. livestock products until the country was determined to be disease-free. The mainland sites have similar economic consequences regardless of the livestock populations in the region.

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1 what you see.

2 MR. SIMMONS: Eighty percent of that
3 number that's been up there pretty much --

4 MR. PERGLER: Most of the cost is the
5 result of livestock -- banning of livestock
6 product overseas, so until we're declared FMD
7 free, that would continue to incur cost.

8 MODERATOR COGHILL: Is there anyone
9 else who has a question?

10 Yes, ma'am, would you please come to the
11 microphone so we all could hear you.

12 MS. CRAVENS: Hi, I'm Sandy Cravens,
13 a stockperson.

14 What will the impact be upon the people
15 of this area if an immediate emergency quarantine,
16 due to a release, has to be imposed, say, during a
17 K-State football game?

18 MR. JOHNSON: I'll take a shot at
19 that, and Bill White will follow-up.

20 No matter where we site the facility, we
21 are going to have emergency response plans as part
22 of this facility. We fully expect to leverage and
23 integrate ourselves into the existing community
24 plan, so for instance, if we were to choose to
25 locate here in Manhattan, we would fully leverage

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 19.4

DHS notes the commentor's concerns regarding the impact of an pathogen release on the local population. 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. 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. The chances of an accidental release are low. Although some accidents are more likely to occur than others (e.g., safety protocol not being followed), the chances of an accidental release based on human error are low in large part due to the design and implementation of biocontainment safeguards in conjunction with rigorous personnel training. For example, as described in Section 2.2.2.1 of the NBAF EIS, all laboratory staff would receive thorough pre-operational training, as well as ongoing training, in the handling of hazardous infectious agents, understanding biocontainment functions of standard and special practices for each biosafety level, and understanding biocontainment equipment and laboratory characteristics. Appendix B to the EIS describes biocontainment lapses and laboratory acquired infections. Laboratory-acquired infections have not been shown to be a threat to the community at large. As set out in Section 3.14.3.4 of the NBAF EIS, employees and contractors will be screened prior to employment or engagement and monitored while working, among other security measures. In addition, oversight of NBAF operations, as described in 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 APHIS Animal Research Policy and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. Should the NBAF Record of Decision call for the design, construction, and operations of the NBAF, site specific protocols would then be developed in coordination with local emergency response agencies and would consider the diversity and density of populations residing within the local area. The need for an evacuation under an accident conditions is considered to be a very low probability event. DHS would have site-specific standard operating procedures and emergency response plans in place prior to the initiation of research activities at the proposed NBAF.

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1 with the emergency response plan with Kansas State
2 University, whatever those plans might be, during
3 major events, with the bioscience center, with the
4 vet school and so forth, so we fully anticipate
5 being integrated as part of that community, making
6 sure our response plans are part of that.

7 MS. CRAVENS: You did not answer my
8 question.

9 A quarantine is exposed. Thousands of
10 people cannot leave, days, months, years.

11 MR. JOHNSON: We have a well defined
12 system in place for responding to detecting the
13 Foot and Mouth Disease, and the Animal Plant
14 Health Inspection service puts in a system of
15 procedures.

16 You want to walk through that, again,
17 Bill?

18 DR. WHITE: Sure. Thank you. The
19 USDA, we have no rules, regulations to stop your
20 movement or anyone else from the Kansas State
21 University football game.

22 With Foot and Mouth Disease, it doesn't
23 affect people. It would have absolutely no
24 influence on you or the game. If one of the
25 zoonotic diseases were to be accidentally

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1 released, and I must stress, this is really,
 2 really a low, low probability event, if this were
 3 to happen, the amount of virus that we would work
 4 on, say, Rift Valley Fever virus, is so small that
 5 it's unlikely that enough virus could actually
 6 leak through the walls or a hole or whatever the
 7 catastrophic event would be, that would infect
 8 even one person.

9 So I don't think the worries that there
 10 be mass exodus or large numbers of people that
 11 could be exposed in a Bhopal, India, type of
 12 event, that's just not likely. Not very likely to
 13 ever happen at all.

14 MS. CRAVENS: What's minute?

15 Thirty thousand cold germ virus can be on
 16 the head of a pin.

17 Thank you.

18 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you. Yes,
 19 sir?

20 MR. THORNTON: Tom Thornton. You
 21 indicated in your presentation that there's
 22 effectively no difference in environmental impacts
 23 between the sites being considered.

24 In light of these similarities, what
 25 factors will DHS use to select a final site?

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 2.0

DHS notes the commentor's statement. As summarized Section 3.1 of the NBAF EIS, DHS analyzed each environmental resource area in a consistent manner across all the alternatives to allow for a fair and objective comparison among the alternatives. DHS has identified its Preferred Alternative in Section 2.6 in accordance with Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1502.14(e)) for implementing NEPA. The Preferred Alternative is one that an agency believes would best fulfill its statutory mission and responsibilities, giving consideration to economic, environmental, technical, and other factors. Several factors will affect the decision on whether or not the NBAF is built, and, if so, where. The NBAF EIS itself will not be the sole deciding factor. The decision 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. The DHS Under Secretary for Science and Technology Jay M. Cohen, with other department officials, will consider the factors identified above in making final decisions regarding the NBAF. A Record of Decision that explains the final decisions will be made available no sooner than 30 days after the NBAF Final EIS is published.

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1 MR. JOHNSON: To get to this point,
2 we went through a down select, using the four
3 criteria: Proximity to research, proximity to
4 work force, acquisition, construction, operation
5 and community acceptance. Those were the four
6 criteria we used to go down into the five sites,
7 and those criteria will certainly continue
8 forward. It's important to us to build in a place
9 that we have proximity to research, but we also
10 need to consider safety and security of this
11 facility, making sure that we are building it in a
12 place where we can protect the workers and public.

13 So the risk assessment, cost will be a
14 factor, and the site characterization, and also,
15 security, we want to make sure that we protect
16 this facility, that it has the necessary security
17 features, and that we assess the threats to each
18 of the communities as well.

19 So all of those factors are considered in
20 the final decision.

21 MODERATOR COGHILL: We're half way
22 through the Q and A period.

23 Yes, sir, please come to the microphone.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The nuclear
25 industry is protected by law, saying that they

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1 cannot be held accountable, it cannot be sued in
2 the event of a catastrophic outbreak.

3 Who is the final insurer?

4 Who carries the liability in the event of
5 some outbreak from this facility?

6 Who covers the people?

7 MR. JOHNSON: This is something that
8 we are working through with USDA. DHS is the
9 responsible party to operate this particular
10 facility. USDA, I believe, has policies in place
11 now in terms of should there be an outbreak of FMD
12 and what that compensation would be, liability
13 would be.

14 Are you in a position to comment?

15 DR. WHITE: I hope you're not getting
16 tired of me already. Regarding -- I'm with the
17 USDA, so we're not -- our focus right now is on
18 Foot and Mouth Disease, but we understand, of
19 course, the BSL-4, zoonotic components are very
20 important diseases.

21 With Foot and Mouth Disease, if there's
22 an outbreak in the United States, full
23 compensation would be given to the farmer for loss
24 of his animals, okay. I believe the same would
25 happen if there's an outbreak of Rift Valley Fever

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 15.0

The determination of criminal or civil liability arising from an accidental or intentional release of a pathogen is beyond the scope of this EIS. It is also not possible to accept or reject a claim for damages until the specific facts of an incident are known and the applicable local, state or Federal law is applied.

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1 or Nipah or Japanese Encephalitis Virus and so
2 forth in animals. So compensation would be made
3 and is essential. That's the reason why in
4 developing countries, often diseases are not
5 reported because compensation, it can't be
6 afforded. United States can afford it and would
7 compensate producers, and therefore, we would
8 expect the disease to be reported.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But Nipah
10 Valley Fever is zoonotic. It has occurred in
11 humans; correct?

12 DR. WHITE: Yes.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So what
14 happens there?

15 DR. WHITE: If it gets in the
16 people --

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: In the
18 population and there's an outbreak among people in
19 the whole area.

20 DR. WHITE: What would be the
21 recourse as far as damage to the human population?

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

23 DR. WHITE: I'm not in a position to
24 answer that, I'm sorry.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Who is?

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 19.0

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.

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1 Who is in a position to answer that?

2 You're the guys; right?

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We'll put it

5 in writing.

6 MR. JOHNSON: The question, recourse,

7 CDC has responsibility for that, Center for

8 Disease Control.

9 Some day, if there's a human issue in
10 terms of an outbreak. People getting infected and
11 stuff, that's a CDC area?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Who pays the
13 hospital bill?

14 That's the point of the question.

15 MR. JOHNSON: Come down to the mike
16 so people can hear your question.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sure. We're
18 not just talking about Hoof and Mouth Disease,
19 we're talking about zoonotic diseases. We're
20 talking about diseases that can get into mosquito
21 populations and wild animal populations, and then
22 transferred to humans. So if it gets to where
23 it's in the mosquito population and it goes into
24 humans, I understand CDC covers that, but they
25 don't pay the insurance bills. That's what the

1|15.0

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 15.0

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1 question is about.

2 Who covers that?

3 MR. JOHNSON: We'll have to take that
4 for the record, for clarification on that, and
5 make sure we give you a right answer on that.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just a
7 question for clarification for the last presenter,
8 I'm sorry, I can't recall your name.

9 You mentioned in passing when you talked
10 about considered alternatives to building NBAF at
11 this time, no BSL-4 large animal facilities. That
12 there are no current -- currently no BSL-4 large
13 animal facilities in the U.S. at all?

14 Is that a correct assumption to make?

15 MR. JOHNSON: There is no BSL-4 for
16 large animals in the United States, correct.

17 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you. We
18 have time for one more question.

19 Yes, sir.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You
21 comprehensively mentioned data in your
22 presentation. In the Draft EIS, you used data,
23 obviously, but there's some level of general
24 assumptions used when you analyze that data.

25 I think you'll find in our comments today

1|10

1|20

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 1.0

As noted in Chapter 1, Section 1.2 of the NBAF EIS, there are no existing large animal or livestock BSL-4 laboratories in the United States.

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 2.0

DHS notes the commentor's statement.

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1 cont. | 2.0

1 that will raise some differences. Like Kansas
2 City has an area of cost adjustment factors, one
3 good example.

4 How will you represent these differences
5 as you move to a final decision?

6 MR. JOHNSON: Are you referring to
7 the 2002?

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

9 MR. JOHNSON: What I would say, make
10 those comments, at the time when we did our study,
11 the only available data was 2002.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

13 MR. JOHNSON: And 2008 data was not
14 available. I think it's available at some sites,
15 so certainly, we want to be consistent across
16 sites, so for all the sites, we used 2002 data.
17 Certainly, if there's more available, recent data
18 that we can use, we'll certainly take advantage of
19 that, so if people have comments on that, we would
20 certainly welcome that and clarify that in the
21 final EIS.

22 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you.

23 Okay, this is the end of the formal
24 comment period portion of the meeting, and what
25 I'd like to do is just reiterate the parameters

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1 that we're asking everybody in every location to
2 follow in order for everybody to have a fair
3 opportunity to speak.

4 I'd also like to clarify, under the
5 National Environmental Policy Act, we have to
6 formally respond to every comment and question in
7 what's called the Comment Response Document and
8 then the final Environmental Impact Statement, so
9 when you come to the microphone, if you're
10 anticipating a question to be answered at this
11 time, due to the process that's set forth to us,
12 we will do that formally in the final
13 Environmental Impact Statement, so please don't
14 misconstrue that we're not responding to you
15 directly this afternoon.

16 MR. JOHNSON: I just want to respond
17 to the question that gentleman asked about the
18 insurance. One of the things we're looking into
19 is what we call the 85-804. It's government
20 owned -- if we decide to go down the context of
21 contractor or operator grounds of why this
22 question's important to us, if you read the EIS,
23 we have it in there, it's going to be a government
24 owned, government operated facility, government
25 contracted.

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1 You mentioned the nuclear industry, they
2 have indemnification, in case there's a nuclear --
3 the industry I come from, in case there's nuclear
4 exposure, who's covered, who's liable. The
5 company has liability coverage, so they can
6 appropriately be reimbursed for any damages or
7 losses that are incurred.

8 We are looking into that. That takes an
9 act of Congress and that's certainly something we
10 welcome your input on. We're looking at that.
11 We're doing that for one of our other facilities
12 at DHS, trying to get the right insurance for
13 government owned contract and operated facilities,
14 but we're not in a position to make that decision
15 at this point.

16 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you, Jamie,
17 for the clarification.

18 Just a reminder, everybody has three
19 minutes to speak. When there's 30 seconds left,
20 I'll flash up a yellow card, and when your time is
21 up, the red card. If you're not finished, please
22 sit down. We have a full schedule we're trying to
23 accommodate. There's more people that would like
24 to speak than time slots but we're accommodating
25 those people who signed up, so please everybody,

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1 work with us to keep this moving along so everyone
2 can be heard in a respectful manner.

3 The first person to speak is the Governor
4 of Kansas, I don't believe she's here at this
5 time. So what we're going to do is we'll start
6 with the second person and if she shows up, we'll
7 work that through to accommodate everybody.

8 Having said that, the first person, if
9 you could please come to the microphone, is Adrian
10 Polansky, followed by Bill Sanford, and George
11 Teagarden.

12 MR. POLANSKY: Good afternoon, and
13 thank you for the opportunity to be here before
14 you today. I am Adrian Polansky, Kansas Secretary
15 of Agriculture. I also farm with my son and
16 daughter-in-law 70 miles northwest of Manhattan.
17 In fact, Sarah was showing several head of
18 registered Salers at the County Fair this morning.

19 I want to express my appreciation for
20 your vote of confidence in Kansas as the future
21 site for the National Bio and Agro-Defense
22 Facility. It speaks well of Kansas' strong
23 agricultural tradition, of our leadership in food
24 production, and of our well established and well
25 respected veterinary medical research sector.

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 24.4

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

1|24.4

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1 cont.|24.4

1 There are a few detractors who will
2 condemn NBAF regardless of where it is built but I
3 feel confident when I say there's no better place
4 than Kansas. We are centrally located, we have
5 the research expertise, and we have a well
6 educated and capable work force. We also have a
7 hospitable agricultural community that recognizes
8 the pivotal role our State can play in supporting
9 this facility.

10 As Secretary, I get to visit every corner
11 of this state and take part in countless
12 conversations with Kansas farmers and ranchers,
13 consistently I've heard support for this project,
14 as well as concern that some research is not
15 already underway.

16 Folks involved in farming and ranching
17 understand that a focus of our national resource
18 initiative is needed to protect American
19 agriculture and our national economy. We know
20 this because we have talked about different
21 threats to agricultural production.

22 With regard to foreign animal disease, we
23 have planned for and practice what we will do if
24 we are faced with one. The Kansas Department of
25 Agriculture will join with the Kansas Animal

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1 Health Department as well as many local, state and
2 federal partners in an orchestrated effort to stop
3 any disease that threatens livestock production.
4 Research capabilities such as the National Bio and
5 Agro-Defense Facility could be crucial to our
6 response effort though we don't perceive the
7 facility itself to be a threat. We believe that
8 the stringent protocols for a Biosafety Level 4
9 lab are sufficient to contain the diseases being
10 studied.

11 Kansas continues to express unified
12 support for this project across all sectors, both
13 public and private. We have a clear understanding
14 and appreciation for the NBAF mission, and we have
15 the necessary academic and research based
16 infrastructure to support the facility of this
17 magnitude. We have a highly trained work force
18 with expertise in animal health issues and our
19 agricultural community has put out the welcome mat
20 to show that we value NBAF as a neighbor. Kansans
21 have the leadership, the ingenuity and the
22 enterprising spirit necessary to make our State a
23 good home for the National Bio and Agro-Defense
24 Facility.

25 Thank you.

1 cont | 24.4

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1 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you, sir.
2 Bill Sanford.

3 MR. SANFORD: Thank you very much.
4 My name is Bill Sanford, and I'm pleased to speak
5 in support of the National Bio and Agro-Defense
6 Facility here at Kansas State University.

7 I'm speaking this afternoon from multiple
8 perspectives. First as a graduate of Kansas State
9 University many years ago. Second as an
10 entrepreneur of commercialized technology that has
11 spun out of the Kansas State laboratories, and I'm
12 also vice chairman of the Kansas Bioscience
13 Authority, but most of all, I'm speaking as a U.S.
14 citizen who's concerned with the potential threats
15 to our nation's food supply.

16 I'd like to focus on three main points
17 for your consideration in the final EIS and Record
18 of Decision. First, the NBAF must be located in
19 an integrated research environment. There is
20 currently no facility in the nation, including the
21 Plum Island Animal Defense Center that effectively
22 meets the research and diagnostic capabilities
23 required to address the threats of agro-terrorism.
24 Our nation needs a facility to conduct zoonotic
25 disease research.

1|24.4

2|5.0

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 24.4

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

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 5.0

DHS notes the commentor's views. 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. The four evaluation criteria discussed in Section 2.3.1 will be among those factors considered in the decision of whether or not NBAF is built, and, if so, where.

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2 cont.|5.0

1 More importantly, the NBAF must not be in
2 an isolated location. The NBAF must be cited in
3 an integrated research environment where it can
4 gain maximum advantage of existing and
5 complementary world class research, education and
6 infrastructure to insure the success of its
7 important mission.

8 This means the NBAF must be located at a
9 research university. Such an approach will assure
10 access to the best and brightest talent already
11 working on zoonotic disease threats, many of those
12 at Kansas State University, collaboration that
13 drives innovation faster than scientists working
14 in isolation, and maximum use of existing
15 infrastructure to accelerate NBAF's mission.

16 Our proposed site is on the campus of
17 K-State immediately adjacent to the Biosecurity
18 Research Institute, or BRI. The BRI is a

19 \$54 million research education facility having
20 extensive Biosafety Level 3, BSL-3 state of the
21 art research space funded by the federal
22 government and the State of Kansas. No other
23 state in the U.S. has a comparable state of the
24 art facility with this capability and homeland
25 security directed mission emphasis.

1 cont.|24.4



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1 The Kansas culture and experience in
2 successfully gaining community and other
3 referenced support and in designing and building
4 an agricultural biological defense facility, is
5 unequaled elsewhere. The proposed site borders on
6 the research laboratories and teaching hospital of
7 college of veterinary medicine and the research
8 department.

9 Coincidentally, I'm chairman of the
10 Nanoscale Appropriation which is a technology spin
11 out from K-State which will be a backyard
12 neighbor, and we're very pleased at that
13 possibility.

14 Third, NBAF must be cited in a region
15 that understands its mission and is committed to
16 invest in its important mission.

17 But finally, I've had the good fortune as
18 a member of the Kansas Bioscience Authority to
19 directly observe and participate in the
20 development and the proposal that's led you to
21 being here today. In my entire career, I've never
22 before witnessed the collaboration and support for
23 a project as has occurred here in Kansas. Leaders
24 from the federal, state, county and municipal
25 governments from both parties, the academic

1 cont.|24.4

2 cont.|5.0

1 cont.|24.4



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1 cont.|24.4

1 community, the business community, and the general
2 public have come together for the common purpose
3 to establish NBAF.

4 I appreciate your interest and the
5 opportunity to speak today. Thank you.

6 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you.

7 George Teagarden.

8 MR. TEAGARDEN: Good afternoon, and
9 greetings from Kansas. I'm George Teagarden, I
10 come to you from the Kansas Animal Health
11 Department. Thank you for the opportunity to
12 comment on the proposal of the National Bio and
13 Agro-Defense Facility and the environmental impact
14 study as it pertains to locating the facility at
15 Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas.

16 As I have looked at the risk analysis of
17 causing disease in domestic livestock and wildlife
18 due to an accidental release of any viral
19 pathogens, I noted in Table ES-3, comparison of
20 environmental effects, Page ES-11 of the draft
21 document, that both the biology and health and
22 safety resources, the effects of an accidental
23 escape were negligible. Accumulative effects of
24 all resources, on all resources was determined to
25 be minor. I think you spoke earlier of that, that

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1 the sites are equal and in a very low risk
2 situation at all sites.

3 Section 3.14.4.2 points out that there
4 are some risks associated with an accidental
5 release of pathogens that are to be studied in the
6 proposed laboratory. On Page 3-458, the draft
7 document indicates that the viral pathogens will
8 not be transported in significant quantities far
9 from the site. It also says, and I quote,
10 emergency planning and rapid response to a
11 possible release will afford an opportunity to
12 mitigate the consequences of the postulated
13 accidents.

14 Kansas has an emergency animal disease
15 plan in place. This plan was formulated in 1998
16 and since has been modified and proved and
17 exercised. This plan has been designed to control
18 and eradicate the most contagious animal disease
19 known, Foot and Mouth Disease. All other diseases
20 would require less time, less resources, and less
21 effort to control and eradicate.

22 Each of the 105 counties in Kansas has an
23 emergency animal disease plan that is designed to
24 supplement and augment the State plan. The county
25 plans are designed to be the first line of defense

1|15.4

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 15.4

DHS notes the information provided by the commentor.

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1 for any emergency animal disease until State and
2 federal resources are in place. We anticipate the
3 county plans will be the primary tools for the
4 first 24 to 48 hours of disease outbreak.
5 The plan is activated when we suspect a
6 foreign animal disease. In the case of this
7 laboratory, if there's a leak, we will know about
8 it immediately, we'll know exactly what the
9 disease, what the pathogens are, and we will
10 respond accordingly.
11 Our plan incorporates a number, over 20,
12 state agencies and private groups that will
13 support our plan.
14 I will hand in my copy of my remarks.
15 Thank you.
16 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you very
17 much, appreciate it.
18 Jennifer Brandt is next, followed by Eric
19 Alsup and then Bob Walker.
20 MS. BRANDT: Good afternoon. My name
21 is Jennifer Brandt, and I'm the Industry and
22 Relations Policy Director for Kansas Bio.
23 Kansas Bio is an industry trade
24 association representing over 100 private,
25 academic, and public sector members dedicated to

1 cont. | 15.4

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1 strengthening the leadership position of Kansas as
2 a globally recognized bioscience hub and as a
3 preferred place to do business and to start
4 businesses involving advance technologies.

5 In an effort to achieve our mission,
6 Kansas Bio recently instituted a legislative and
7 regulatory advocacy program to support and impose
8 specific federal and state measures that are
9 relevant to the bioscience industry in Kansas.

10 We surveyed our entire membership in
11 March of this year so that we could hear from the
12 mouths of actual bioscience companies as to what
13 emerging state and federal initiatives were of
14 most importance to them and their future growth.
15 We had a very statistically significant response
16 to the survey, and it was not surprising to us
17 that support for federal initiatives to expand
18 research was one of the top initiatives that
19 Kansas Bio members wanted us to spend our time and
20 resources on.

21 More specifically, the survey stated that
22 Kansas Bio, as a member of the NBAF task force,
23 supports Governor Sebelius, the Kansas Bioscience
24 Authority, and the other partners in our
25 collective efforts to bring a federal biodefense

1|244

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.4

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

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1 cont.|24.4

1 lab complex, NBAF, to Kansas State University in
2 Manhattan. In reaction in the survey results, the
3 Kansas Bio Board of Directors passed a resolution
4 on behalf of the entire membership, once again,
5 100 plus members, which read in part: Whereas the
6 Department of Homeland Security is proposing to
7 build a new \$1 million national lab, NBAF,
8 somewhere in the continental United States to help
9 protect America's agriculture infrastructure,
10 economy and citizens from biological threats, and
11 whereas one locale in Kansas, Manhattan, is among
12 the five sites still under consideration for the
13 proposed NBAF project.

14 Because NBAF will serve as a magnet for
15 attracting biotechnology companies, scientists,
16 professionals and support infrastructure and
17 because NBAF will help anchor Kansas' existing
18 strength in animal health, human health and plant
19 sciences, and because NBAF research activities
20 will help safeguard Kansas' broad based
21 agricultural and food industries, as well as
22 general public, and because NBAF will bring
23 international recognition to the State and its
24 citizens of Kansas if selected for this facility,
25 and whereas security of NBAF in Manhattan will

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1 help establish a research base for developing
2 talent and ideas that support the growth of the
3 bioscience industry.

4 Finally, whereas the 100 plus members of
5 Kansas Bio have pledged to participate on and
6 support Governor Kathleen Sebelius' NBAF task
7 force established to advocate for locating NBAF in
8 Kansas, therefore be it resolved that the Board of
9 Directors of Kansas Bio supports and endorses the
10 construction of NBAF in Manhattan, Kansas.

1 cont|24.4

11 Once again, I want to take the
12 opportunity to state the support of the 100 plus
13 members throughout the State of Kansas wanting to
14 locate this NBAF facility in Kansas.

15 Thank you.

16 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you,
17 Jennifer.

18 I understand the Governor of Kansas is
19 here and would like to give her the opportunity to
20 present her comments.

21 Please come to the microphone. Thank you
22 very much.

23 GOVERNOR SEBELIUS: Thank you very
24 much. I am Kathleen Sebelius, Governor of Kansas,
25 and I want to start by welcoming the Department of

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1 Homeland Security back to Manhattan and back to
2 K-State.

3 We appreciate the department's
4 recognition of Kansas as a national leader in
5 animal health research and industry. We've always
6 taken the role very seriously. America's food
7 supply and agricultural economy is one that we are
8 very familiar with, and it's long past time for
9 our nation to address animal disease threats in a
10 more serious and concentrated way.

11 We feel NBAF is a critical national
12 priority, and feel that it must move forward
13 without delay because we need new vaccines and
14 treatments to ensure that families across the
15 country can continue to enjoy the safest food
16 supply in the world.

17 We know that diseases of such Foot and
18 Mouth and Avian Flu already occur in other parts
19 of the world, and those diseases could
20 accidentally or intentionally cause an outbreak in
21 the U.S., and that's exactly the reason we need to
22 ramp up our efforts to prevent and treat such
23 diseases.

24 We don't shy away from big challenges in
25 America, we address them directly and

1|1.0

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 1.0

DHS notes the Governor's support for the NBAF and its research mission.

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1 successfully, so I'm confident that a push to
2 protect our farms will yield tremendous results.

3 I want to highlight just a few areas in
4 my three, short minutes. Kansas is uniquely
5 qualified to achieve the NBAF mission. We've been
6 guardians of America's dinner table for decades,
7 providing high quality food essential to our
8 economy and our livelihood's and we're motivated
9 to do the best job we can, and we're pretty good
10 at it.

11 We're innovative and forward thinking in
12 Kansas. Right here at Kansas State University we
13 have the Bioscience Research Institute, a state of
14 the art facility. That's as a result of the
15 state's identification of potential disease
16 threats long before September 11th occurred. We
17 knew the country needed to step up efforts to
18 prevent and treat animal diseases and we knew we
19 had something special to offer because of our
20 longstanding expertise.

21 Finally, we know how to collaborate and
22 work together to get important work done. On
23 NBAF, we have a couple of things going on by way
24 of examples of that. We have an interagency task
25 force group meeting regularly to ensure that

2|24.4

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.4

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

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1 Kansans provide information during the
2 Environmental Impact Statement process in a timely
3 and efficient manner. We've got state agencies
4 and offices working together to interface with DHS
5 without the bureaucratic red tape and competing
6 agendas found elsewhere.

2 cont.|24.4

7 We have an NBAF Kansas task force that I
8 created, and it's galvanized leaders from
9 academia, federal and state and local government,
10 and private industry in support of NBAF, and
11 you'll hear from many of them today. The task
12 force has also built a national consortium of 17
13 states who all favor bringing NBAF to Kansas,
14 while keeping Kansans closely informed of the
15 project's progress.

16 The bottom line is that we're unified, we
17 want to be a true partner to the federal
18 government in making the National Bio and
19 Agro-Defense Facility a success.

20 We have a longstanding commitment to this
21 work and unparalleled expertise that we believe
22 can put people and resources together and make
23 things happen.

24 We also would finally urge you to look at
25 the merits. We've been assured from the outset by

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1 Admiral Cohen and others that this project will be
2 chosen on the merits. We feel that this site has
3 the combined advantages that have the very
4 criteria that DHS articulated at the outset:
5 Close proximity to relevant research and existing
6 infrastructure; a work force with relevant
7 national expertise; strong public/private support;
8 and a significant cost share proposal that
9 demonstrates our deep commitment.

10 We have no doubt that Kansas provides DHS
11 and the nation the most flexible, cost effective
12 and sensible pathway to getting NBAF's important
13 work underway, and we look forward to producing
14 great results.

15 Again, welcome to Kansas.

16 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you very
17 much, Governor.

18 Eric Alsup is next, please.

19 MR. ALSUP: Thank you. I am Eric
20 Alsup. I'm the head of the cattle business in the
21 U.S. for Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health.
22 I grew up here in Kansas.

23 I graduated from veterinary school here
24 in 1984 and just left my kids at the Douglas
25 County fair with their calves, so I've been a part

2 cont.|24.4

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1 of the Kansas' regional and national animal
2 agriculture all my life.

3 Satchel Paige famously said a few decades
4 ago, his quote was, "None of us is as smart as all
5 of us," and I think that wisdom's been at the
6 heart of government sponsored successful ventures
7 before and since. It's helped us especially in
8 the confluence of government, industry, and
9 academic cooperators, has helped us with ventures
10 from disease eradication to space exploration, and
11 I believe this site in Manhattan brings a unique
12 opportunity to bring that wisdom to bear for the
13 mission of the NBAF.

14 Starting with Kansas State as one of the
15 leading agriculture specialty animal health
16 research institutions in the world. Adding to
17 that the Animal Health Corridor, the unique
18 grouping of animal health companies that has moved
19 over the past couple of decades from the New
20 Jersey region out to this greater Kansas City
21 regional area, especially with focus on livestock
22 animal health, and bringing that and the regional
23 biosciences group, provides a really unique
24 opportunity to reach out, to capture resources,
25 intellectual, specialized laboratory resources and

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Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 24.4

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

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1 manufacturing resources that would be hard to find
2 any other place.

3 Additionally, being part of an extensive
4 center of excellence as now occurs here and will
5 be even built further by the addition of the NBAF
6 site, in animal health brings all of us an
7 opportunity to create and embellish an
8 intellectual environment that will help us not
9 only in the synergies that all of the work gets
10 from one another, but also in the further
11 recruitment and retention of the top scientists in
12 animal health in the United States and even in the
13 world.

14 So with that I'll close, and thank you
15 again for the opportunity to speak to you in
16 support of the NBAF site at Kansas State in
17 Manhattan. Thanks.

18 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you,
19 Mr. Alsup.

20 Bob Walker, Reggie Robinson, and then Tom
21 Thornton will be the next three folks to come to
22 the microphone, please.

23 MR. WALKER: Thank you for the
24 opportunity to speak with you this afternoon.

25 My name is Bob Walker. I'm the Director

1 cont|24.4

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1 of Communications for Bayer HealthCare's North
2 American Animal Health Business. Additionally, I
3 am a member of the working group of the Animal
4 Health Corridor, the coalition of animal health
5 companies in the region that spans from Manhattan,
6 Kansas, to Columbia, Missouri.

7 I'm here today on behalf of both
8 organizations, Bayer Animal Health and the Animal
9 Health Corridor, to strongly endorse Manhattan and
10 Kansas State University as the future site of the
11 National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility.

12 The greater Kansas City region is the hub
13 of the global animal health industry. Without
14 question, there is no other place in the world
15 that can claim the level of animal health
16 expertise and experience that matches the current
17 assets within the Animal Health Corridor.

18 With over 120 animal health companies, 37
19 U.S. or global headquarters, and 13,000 employees,
20 the corridor represents more than 30 percent of
21 the \$16 billion dollar global industry. Within
22 those companies are housed more than 5,000
23 researchers in the animal health field
24 representing a significant base of scientific
25 talent and its significant source of collaboration

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Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.4

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

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1 for the NBAF facility.

2 The Animal Health Corridor Initiative is
3 a unique partnership between public, private, and
4 academic institutions established to further drive
5 the growth and economic development of both the
6 industry and the region.

7 In addition to our expressed target to
8 build the existing scientific network of industry
9 and academia far beyond its current status, in the
10 last two years, the Animal Health Corridor
11 Initiative has brought five new animal health
12 companies and two trade associations to the
13 region, and there are currently 25 new projects of
14 varying magnitudes in the pipeline.

1 cont. | 24.4

15 Additionally, success in attracting new
16 research dollars signify the collective strength
17 of the local industry in setting a course of
18 continued momentum, all of significant benefit to
19 NBAF.

20 Kansas State University's expertise in
21 zoonotic disease and livestock medicines make them
22 an invaluable partner to the private sector as we
23 look to new ways to secure and protect the
24 nation's food supply. The cooperation between the
25 veterinary colleges at Kansas State University and

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1 University of Missouri further demonstrates the
 2 unique alliances that thrive within the corridor,
 3 allowing us to include the University of
 4 Missouri's expertise in food animal science and
 5 swine research.

6 And the academic resources don't stop
 7 there. Three other universities with strong
 8 animal science and veterinary medical programs:
 9 Iowa State, Oklahoma State and University of
 10 Nebraska, are all located within 300 miles of the
 11 corridor.

12 Simply put, the Department of Homeland
 13 Security must site NBAF in close proximity to the
 14 very animal health companies that are so critical
 15 to its research agenda, collaboration, and
 16 success, and that site is right here at Kansas
 17 State University.

18 Thank you for your time.

19 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you, sir.

20 Reggie Robinson, please come to the
 21 microphone.

22 MR. ROBINSON: Good afternoon. My
 23 name is Reggie Robinson. I'm president and CEO of
 24 the Kansas Board of Regents, and pleased to be
 25 here on behalf of the Kansas Board of Regents,

Comment No: 2

Issue Code: 5.4

DHS held a competitive process to select potential sites for the proposed NBAF as described in EIS Section 2.3.1. A multi-disciplinary team of engineers, scientists, lawyers, academics and communicators from the departments of Homeland Security, Agriculture, Health and Human Services reviewed the submissions based primarily on environmental suitability and proximity to research capabilities, proximity to workforce, acquisition/construction/operations, and community acceptance. Ultimately, DHS identified five site alternatives that surpassed others in meeting the evaluation criteria and DHS preferences, and determined that they, in addition to the Plum Island Site, would be evaluated in the EIS as alternatives for the proposed NBAF.

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1 which is the governing board for Kansas State
2 University, but in addition, also coordinates a
3 comprehensive system of higher education in
4 Kansas.

5 Unlike a number of states which have a
6 fractured higher education management system at
7 the state level with a number of governing boards
8 for a number of different institutions, separate
9 boards that look to coordinate two year
10 institutions, here in Kansas, we have one Board
11 that has the capacity to strategically set the
12 direction for the entire state higher education
13 enterprise. And in that vein, the Kansas Board of
14 Regents is focused on the advancement of science
15 and is clearly a top priority for the Board and
16 for its higher education system, with particular
17 emphasis on bioscience, food safety and security
18 and Homeland Security.

19 In written comments that I'll submit, we
20 will have examples of the work undertaken not just
21 here at Kansas State University and not just
22 within our other four year institutions, but an
23 important range of work across our postsecondary
24 education system that demonstrates that this State
25 is committed supplying the range of scientists and

1 | 24.4

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.4

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

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1 researchers and other workers that will enable
2 NBAF to fulfill its important mission in our
3 state.

4 This afternoon, because we're so focused
5 on how critically important it is for Kansas State
6 University to be the site for this facility, I'd
7 like to provide some specific information about
8 how this internationally renowned State University
9 and its long and impressive heritage of bioscience
10 and security, food security leadership,
11 demonstrates that this ought to be the appropriate
12 site.

13 In 1989, K-State joined with the
14 University of Arkansas and Iowa State University
15 to form the food safety consortium, a group
16 charged with extensively investigating all areas
17 of poultry, beef and pork meat production from the
18 farm to the consumer's table.

19 In 1999, well before the terrorists
20 attacks of 9-11 focused our nation's attention on
21 homeland security, this University launched a
22 comprehensive homeland defense food safety,
23 security and emergency preparedness program. This
24 food safety and security program is broadly and
25 deeply engaged in leading efforts to solve food

1|24.4

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1 crop, food animal and food safety problems while
 2 preparing to meet and defeat emerging threats in
 3 the future.

4 In 2002, the Kansas Legislature convened
 5 in special session to discuss the need to add to
 6 the state's bioscience research assets. The
 7 legislature went on to authorize the support for
 8 the resources that produced the Bioresearch
 9 Institute that you've heard about.

10 I would just like to leave you with four
 11 important points as the Department of Homeland
 12 Security prepares to move to the final EIS and a
 13 final Record of Decision. NBAF must be located in
 14 a research environment, point number one. Point
 15 number two, NBAF must be located in an educational
 16 environment. It must be located in an environment
 17 that emphasizes collaboration, and it must take
 18 advantage of existing facilities such as the
 19 Biosecurity Research Institute and other important
 20 infrastructure as it seeks to advance this
 21 critically important mission.

22 Thank you for your time this afternoon.

23 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you,
 24 Mr. Robinson.
 25 Tom Thornton.

1 cont. | 24.4

2 | 5.0

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 5.0

DHS notes the commentor's views. 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 well as acquisition/construction/operations factors. The four evaluation criteria discussed in Section 2.3.1 will be among those factors considered in the decision of whether or not NBAF is built, and, if so, where.

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1 MR. THORNTON: I'm Tom Thornton, I'm
2 President and CEO of the Kansas Bioscience
3 Authority. Welcome to Kansas.

4 Kansas considers the NBAF a critical
5 national investment and raises the facility as our
6 State's highest bioscience priority. With a
7 strong agricultural heritage, Kansans embrace the
8 NBAF as part of an urgently needed effort to
9 modernize homeland security facilities and
10 research to ensure public health and safety and
11 security of our nation's food supply.

12 Kansas will partner with DHS and USDA
13 investing over 105 million to advance NBAF's
14 critical mission. Subject to a Record of
15 Decision, Kansas will do the following: First,
16 convey, improve and provide utility access to a
17 site up to 60 acres; provide site related
18 infrastructure investment to support the
19 construction and operations of the facility.

20 We also understand that national security
21 must be earned. Kansas is working hard to win the
22 NBAF and as Senator Roberts has often said, on the
23 merits, Kansas is the right place for the
24 facility.

25 First we have the domain expertise to

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.4

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

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1 ensure the success of the NBAF's mission. From
2 our research excellence in foreign animal
3 diseases, cutting edge research infrastructure
4 like the BRI, access to world class talent,
5 commercialization partnership with the largest
6 animal health companies in the world, and strong
7 public support, Kansas can walk the walk.

8 And the vitality of our animal health
9 industry is gaining national attention. Recently
10 Business Facility Magazine and Battelle Memorial
11 Institute ranked Kansas in the top 10 of all
12 states in terms of our bioscience strength.

13 Importantly, as part of our state's
14 \$581 million dollar bioscience initiative, the
15 Kansas Bioscience Authority is making substantial
16 investments right now to advance this important
17 mission associated with the NBAF. Just last year
18 alone, the KBA invested \$10 million dollars in
19 NBAF related research and expansion efforts, more
20 than any other state in the union. The first of
21 these is the collaborative biosecurity initiative.
22 It's a program to foster collaboration between
23 researchers nationwide to conduct foreign animal
24 disease research and the commercialize
25 countermeasures right here in Kansas. It's the

1 cont.|24.4

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1 only program of its kind in the nation and going
2 forward into the next year, we look to expand it.

3 We've also invested in an imminent
4 scholar, Dr. Juergen Richt, who will speak later,
5 former lead scientists at USDA's Ames lab. We've
6 also worked with K-State to expand its biosecurity
7 training and education program to make that
8 institution, the BRI, the nation's center for
9 bio-containment safety and training. Beyond the
10 financial support, Kansas has strong, stable and
11 predictable public support for the NBAF.

12 In closing, America cannot wait to
13 advance zoonotic disease research. DHS needs a
14 partner capable of ensuring the success of the
15 NBAF and our plan will allow DHS to assemble and
16 integrate the NBAF research team to find a
17 research mission and emphasize getting the product
18 of that research to market.

19 We offer DHS and USDA a flexible, cost
20 effective approach.

21 Thank you for your consideration.

22 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you very
23 much.

24 Ron Trewyn.

25 MR. TREWYN: I'm Ron Trewyn, Vice

1 cont.|24.4

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1 President for Research at Kansas State University.

2 First as you've already heard, NBAF is a
3 critical national priority. It must be built.

4 Second, it should not be built on an
5 island, Plum Island or any other. For NBAF
6 scientists to confront the animal infectious
7 diseases that threaten America's agricultural
8 infrastructure and economy, and to do so in a
9 timely and effective manner, NBAF must be part of
10 a dynamic research community focused on mitigating
11 such threats.

12 Rapid scientific innovation does not
13 occur in a vacuum or in isolation. Breakthroughs
14 occur much more frequently when the synergies of
15 collaboration are exploited, and with today's
16 global threats, every multiplier possible is
17 required.

18 In the world of technology based economic
19 development, innovation clusters are proven
20 commodities. They work. Innovation begets
21 innovation. Silicon Valley is one everyone
22 recognizes. There are other examples.

23 So how can NBAF best accomplish its
24 mission? That's easy. NBAF should become part of
25 the world's leading animal health innovation

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 1.0

DHS notes the commentor's support for the NBAF and its research mission.

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 24.4

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

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1 cluster, the Animal Health Corridor, encompassing
2 one-third of the global market in animal health.
3 The synergies from collaboration and innovation
4 will grow and prosper here. Solutions to animal
5 and zoonotic disease threats will be found.

6 K-State proposed the need for a NBAF like
7 facility to help protect American agriculture from
8 bioterrorist attacks back in 1999, well in
9 advances of 9-11. Definitive proof of the
10 agro-terrorism threat was uncovered in the caves
11 of Afghanistan post 9-11. The threat to American
12 agriculture is real. The threats to the Kansas
13 economy cannot be ignored.

2 cont|24.4

14 Fortunately, K-State now has the BRI and
15 Pat Roberts Hall, a state of the art
16 bio-containment facility where research can be
17 launched on at least five of the eight proposed
18 NBAF pathogens.

19 With a Record of Decision to locate the
20 facility in Manhattan, NBAF research programs can
21 be undertaken here in 2009. They don't have to
22 wait until NBAF is built. K-State, the KBA, MRI
23 and our other consortium partners stand ready to
24 serve American's homeland defense needs.

25 It's clear that the Draft EIS has raised

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1 the level of anxiety for some Kansas livestock
2 producers due to the unrealistic modeling of
3 potential pathogen releases from the facility.
4 Regardless, NBAF will not be a threat to the
5 community, just as the CDC isn't a threat to
6 Atlanta nor is USAMRIID to Frederick, Maryland.

7 Are there occupational risks working in
8 these facilities? Yes, but occupational risks
9 don't translate to local community risk or
10 production community risk. The threat to Kansas
11 livestock producer is not NBAF being built in
12 Manhattan, the threat to Kansas livestock
13 producers is NBAF not being built in Manhattan.
14 Their bottom line will improve if NBAF locates
15 here. The solutions to diseases will be found
16 much more quickly, and with that, thank you.

17 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you very
18 much.

19 Kathleen Huttman, Bob Marcusse and Tracy
20 Taylor will be the next three folks to come to the
21 microphone, please.

22 MS. HUTTMANN: On behalf of the 3,000
23 professionals at Burns and McDonnell, I'm Kathleen
24 Huttman, representing the Health Care and
25 Research Facilities Architecture and Engineering

2 cont.|244

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1 Practice. I'm here today to present facts about
 2 three things: Building layout, construction and
 3 maintenance costs, and site development costs.
 4 I'd like to provide a brief but imperative
 5 discussion about the building layout. You have
 6 copies before you.

7 The Draft EIS indicates that a radial
 8 floor plan was appropriate for five of the sites.
 9 The sixth of which, the Manhattan site, showed the
 10 linear configuration. We've done the work, you
 11 can see by the -- we overlaid the site plan with
 12 the radial configuration. Our professionals would
 13 like to submit respectfully that by going to a
 14 radial configuration on this particular site,
 15 we'll accomplish three things: It will make more
 16 efficient use of this particular site; it will
 17 substantially reduce the site preparation costs;
 18 and as importantly, it will bring our costs in
 19 line with our competition. So again,
 20 respectfully, we'd like to submit that information
 21 to you.

22 The next topic I'd like to talk about is
 23 briefly again construction cost and the area
 24 adjustment factors. We contend that the use of
 25 area cost adjustment factors from major

1|27.0

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 27.0

DHS notes the information provided by the commentor and the commentor's concern with the design criteria and the information used in deriving the cost analysis for the design, construction, installation and maintenance of the NBAF operations at the different site alternatives. DHS prepared the NBAF EIS in accordance with the provisions of NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and CEQ's regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500 et seq.). As such, the conceptual criteria for the NBAF design specifications and cost analysis for site alternatives is outside the scope of the NBAF EIS. The conceptual design plans, available from the NBAF website, include the NBAF Conceptual Design and Feasibility Study, Site Characterization Study, and Site Cost Analysis. More detailed design plans would be developed as the project moves into the final design phase.

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1 metropolitan areas far away from Manhattan are not
2 an accurate way -- accurate method of calculation.

3 On two recent projects, and one you've
4 heard about several times, the BRI locally,
5 \$54 million dollar project, the second at Fort
6 Riley which I'm personally knowledgeable about my
7 firm's participation as program managers at Fort
8 Riley which is an ongoing BRAC's Program, just shy
9 of \$150 million dollars, gives us good indication
10 that a large portion of the contract volume in
11 terms of subcontractors has actually been from
12 smaller, local, nearby communities, which
13 substantiates the fact that the adjustment factors
14 are important to use for local nearby communities.

15 The next -- construction cost and
16 maintenance costs, and the escalation related to
17 that, the percentages used by DHS are, in our
18 opinion, not a good method of comparing
19 escalations between cities. Using data from the
20 previous five years to predict the escalation for
21 the next five years we believe is flawed. Only an
22 in-depth city-by-city comparison is valid for this
23 kind of forecasting. In the absence of a detailed
24 study such as this, a national -- single,
25 national, escalation should be applied to every

Comment No: 2

Issue Code: 23.0

DHS notes the information provided by the commentator and the commentator's concern with the design criteria and the information used in deriving the cost analysis for the design, construction, installation and maintenance of the NBAF operations at the different site alternatives.

2|23.0

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1 site equally.

2 I think the same discussion could be made
3 with maintenance costs. That we believe a uniform
4 escalation factor should be used for maintenance
5 costs as well.

6 And lastly, site development costs, the
7 true cost of the facility indicates the --
8 includes, excuse me, includes the in kind
9 contributions and site specific contributions.
10 The final cost decision should take these things
11 into consideration.

12 So in summary, we recommend using the
13 radial floor plan for all sites, use area
14 adjustment factors from nearby smaller cities,
15 using a single escalation factor for all sites
16 and, lastly, consider the value added significance
17 of the Manhattan site.

18 Thank you so much.

19 MODERATOR COGHILL: Mr. Marcusse, Bob
20 Marcusse, please come to the microphone.

21 MR. MARCUSSE: Good afternoon, ladies
22 and gentlemen, I want to thank you for being here
23 with us here in Kansas, and thank you for the work
24 that you are doing.

25 Unlike some, I find it comforting that

Comment No: 3

Issue Code: 23.0

DHS notes the commentor's questions regarding the criteria for final site selection. Several factors will affect the decision on whether or not the NBAF is built, and, if so, where. The EIS itself will not be the sole deciding factor. The decision will be made based on the following factors: 1) analyses from the EIS and support documents; 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. A Record of Decision that explains the final decisions will be made available no sooner than 30 days after the NBAF Final EIS is published.

3|23.0

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1 we're going through this process at a time when
2 our nation is facing some questions about our
3 economy, about our security, about our future.
4 I'm personally glad that we're going through this
5 process and that we're working to protect the
6 American food supply.

7 I'm president of the Kansas City Area
8 Development Council. This is a regional bi-state
9 economic development organization based primarily
10 in the Kansas City area, but stretching from
11 Columbia, Missouri, to here in Manhattan, Kansas.

12 You've heard comments before about why
13 this area makes so much sense. You've heard about
14 the term, the Animal Health Corridor. You have
15 some very complex decisions to make. You have a
16 lot of facts to evaluate, and yet at another
17 level, this is a very simple decision. We heard a
18 quote earlier from Satchel Paige. I want to add
19 one from perhaps the greatest American
20 intellectual to ever live, and that was Albert
21 Einstein. Albert Einstein said, let's make things
22 as simple as possible, but no simpler. You have
23 some complex decisions to make, but at another
24 level, it is a very simple decision. The simple
25 decision is where is the best possible place in

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1 America to site this facility for all of the many
2 reasons that you must evaluate, and for all those
3 reasons that do not have to be restated here, the
4 answer is: Here in Manhattan, Kansas.

5 Let me just add a couple of specific
6 details to some of the things that have been said
7 earlier. You've heard about the fact that this is
8 America's center of animal science research
9 production, and other aspects related to the
10 industry. That is true. You heard that there are
11 120 companies here in the animal health space.
12 Since that number was gathered, I'm happy to tell
13 you that we are now at about 130. You've heard
14 that five companies have moved here from outside
15 this area. That number is about to increase and
16 it'll increase by quite a bit before this year is
17 over.

18 The reason this is all happening is
19 because of the breadth and depth of the
20 intellectual capacity, the production capacity,
21 the research capacity, that is here where we are
22 sitting today in the Animal Health Corridor.
23 There could be no better place for the premier
24 center of research in this country to be than to
25 be in this area where we already have an existing

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.4

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

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1 critical mass.

2 If you had to find the best place in

3 America, it would be here, but gentlemen, if you

4 had to find the best place in the world, it would

5 also be here, so we ask you, on behalf of the

6 business leadership of Kansas City, the companies

7 that make up the Animal Health Corridor, to site

8 this facility here. Now is the time, and Kansas

9 is the place. Thank you.

10 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you.

11 Tracy Taylor.

12 MR. TAYLOR: I'm Tracy Taylor,

13 President and CEO of the Kansas Technology

14 Enterprise Corporation. It is our belief that

15 Kansas is exceptionally well suited to be the new

16 home for the National Bio and Agro-Defense

17 Facility.

18 More than 20 years ago, the State of

19 Kansas statutorily created KTEC to lead technology

20 based economic efforts. KTEC's primary goal is

21 the creation of a wealth of higher paying jobs

22 through the support of strategic research and

23 development, business assistance incubators,

24 capital formation, and entrepreneur's support

25 efforts such as the KTEC Pipeline Program and

1 cont.|24.4

1|24.4

Comment No: 1

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1 Entrepreneurial Fellowship.

2 In 2003, KTEC began work on research,
3 creation and writing of the Kansas Economic Growth
4 Act that embodied the Kansas Bioscience Authority
5 and the Kansas Bioscience Initiative which will
6 create more than \$580 million dollars for
7 bioscience infrastructure without a tax increase.
8 KTEC collaborated with the legislature, the
9 administration, and private sector leaders to see
10 the legislation to fruition.

11 In addition to our work with the
12 bioscience initiative, KTEC was also responsible
13 for the founding and continued support of Kansas
14 Bio, the trade association, and a voice of the
15 biosciences in Kansas. You heard from Jennifer
16 Brandt earlier. Given our role, we cannot be more
17 supportive of the recruitment of NBAF to Manhattan,
18 Kansas. As a direct supporter of Kansas State
19 University recruitment of NBAF and the Advanced
20 Manufacturing Institute, KTEC works closely with
21 the University in focusing on commercialization
22 and intellectual property. In that role, we have
23 significant respect for K-State's abilities in the
24 field of technology commercialization.

25 To give insight to Kansas' technology

1 cont.|24.4

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1 economy, Kansas recently received a third in the
2 nation ranking in high tech wage growth from 2001
3 to 2006, by ADA, the largest U.S. high tech trade
4 association. Kansas' tech wages have grown 15 and
5 a half percent the past five years through focused
6 efforts by KTEC and the Kansas Bioscience
7 Authority.

8 In 2007, Lending Tree reported Kansas
9 ranked 19th in the nation in terms of at-risk
10 venture capital dollars which were obviously
11 following commercialization. Again, this is as a
12 result of collaborative efforts by KTEC and the
13 Kansas Bioscience Authority and shows significant
14 progress of Kansas technology and bioscience
15 economy.

16 KTEC is an advocate of the NBAF efforts
17 and we look forward to supporting and working with
18 the Kansas Bioscience Authority and its
19 leadership, Tom Thornton. I have no doubt that
20 Tom Thornton's leadership would provide -- would
21 be very -- would add a great deal of value as
22 Manhattan, Kansas, if it is selected as the site
23 for NBAF.

24 Thank you for your time.

25 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you,

1 cont.|24.4

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1 Mr. Taylor.

2 Melvin Neufeld, Myron Calhoun, and Judy

3 Wagner are the next three folks to speak.

4 MR. NEUFELD: Good afternoon. I'm

5 Melvin Neufeld, Speaker of the Kansas House of

6 Representatives. It is my honor to be here today

7 to represent the Kansas House of Representatives,

8 and also my legislative district, the 115th, where

9 I live and I'm a farmer stockman in southwest

10 Kansas.

11 The Kansas legislature unanimously

12 supports the building of the National Bio and

13 Agro-Defense Facility here in Manhattan and on the

14 Kansas State University campus because we strongly

15 believe it is the best location choice to meet the

16 needs of our country and the facilities' needs,

17 and it is critically needed to protect the

18 nation's food supply.

19 I am proud of the legislation that the

20 Kansas legislature has approved during the last

21 two years in support of NBAF, including more than

22 \$100 million dollars in infrastructure

23 improvements if the facility is awarded to

24 Manhattan and to Kansas State.

25 As a third generation Kansas farmer, I

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

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1 cont| 24.4

1 have a long history with Kansas State University
2 in cooperative agriculture research, and I'm very
3 familiar with the University's longstanding
4 expertise in animal health and food safety, solid
5 research background, and agricultural roots. It
6 is this background that I draw upon when I say
7 that Kansas, Manhattan, Kansas State University
8 and the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility are
9 a perfect fit.

10 Kansas State University has a proven
11 track record of solid agriculture related research
12 that has been done safely and securely. From the
13 beginning of its establishment, Kansas State
14 University has been the home to nationally
15 recognized expertise in livestock medicine,
16 infectious disease, and zoonotic diseases.

17 At the turn of the 20th century, Kansas
18 State scientists had already advanced vaccines to
19 halt the spread of animal diseases. That laid the
20 foundation for Kansas State College of Veterinary
21 Medicine.

22 A century later, and years before the
23 terrorists' attacks on September 11th, K-State's
24 attention was already focused on protecting the
25 nation's food supply with the Homeland Defense

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1 Food Safety Security and Emergency Preparedness
2 Program.

3 In 2006, with strong support of this
4 community and the Kansas legislature, K-State
5 built a quality bio-containment facility in the
6 BRI.

7 Today, more than 750 K-State researchers
8 are active in the food safety and animal health
9 areas and more than \$70 million dollars has been
10 invested in related research since 1999.

11 For all these reasons I have mentioned,
12 and because of the synergy with the Animal Health
13 Corridor that we have heard about, Manhattan and
14 Kansas State University are the logical place to
15 put NBAF.

1 cont. | 24.4

16 I'd like to thank you for coming to
17 Kansas today, and on behalf of the Kansas
18 legislature, I want to thank you for the
19 opportunity to express our support for NBAF in
20 Kansas.

21 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you,
22 Mr. Neufeld.

23 Myron Calhoun, please.

24 MR. CALHOUN: My name is Myron
25 Calhoun. I'm a K-State College of Engineering

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1 retiree some years ago, and while I think we need
 2 an NBAF facility somewhere, I don't think we need
 3 it here in Kansas, in Manhattan, and I want to
 4 speak against it.

1|25.4

5 We've heard how good this facility will
 6 be for Manhattan and K-State. We've been assured
 7 that nothing can go wrong, and last August's
 8 hearing, when anyone even suggested that something
 9 might go wrong, the response was always, no
 10 problem. If that happens, we have a procedure to
 11 cover it. We've even heard that once today. But
 12 accidents do happen. Last year I named several of
 13 them but I won't repeat them today for lack of
 14 time, but it's fairly easy to find them in
 15 newspaper reports.

2|21.4

16 For example, when Hurricane Bob hit Plum
 17 Island in 1992, a backup electrical generator
 18 failed and caused a failure of the negative air
 19 pressures systems which insured bio-containment,
 20 but we were assured last August that our facility,
 21 being much newer, would have backup systems that
 22 wouldn't fail.

3|23.0

23 However, just two weeks ago, the Atlanta
 24 Journal Constitution reported that the Atlanta CDC
 25 lab which experiments on smallpox, Ebola, anthrax,

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 25.4

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

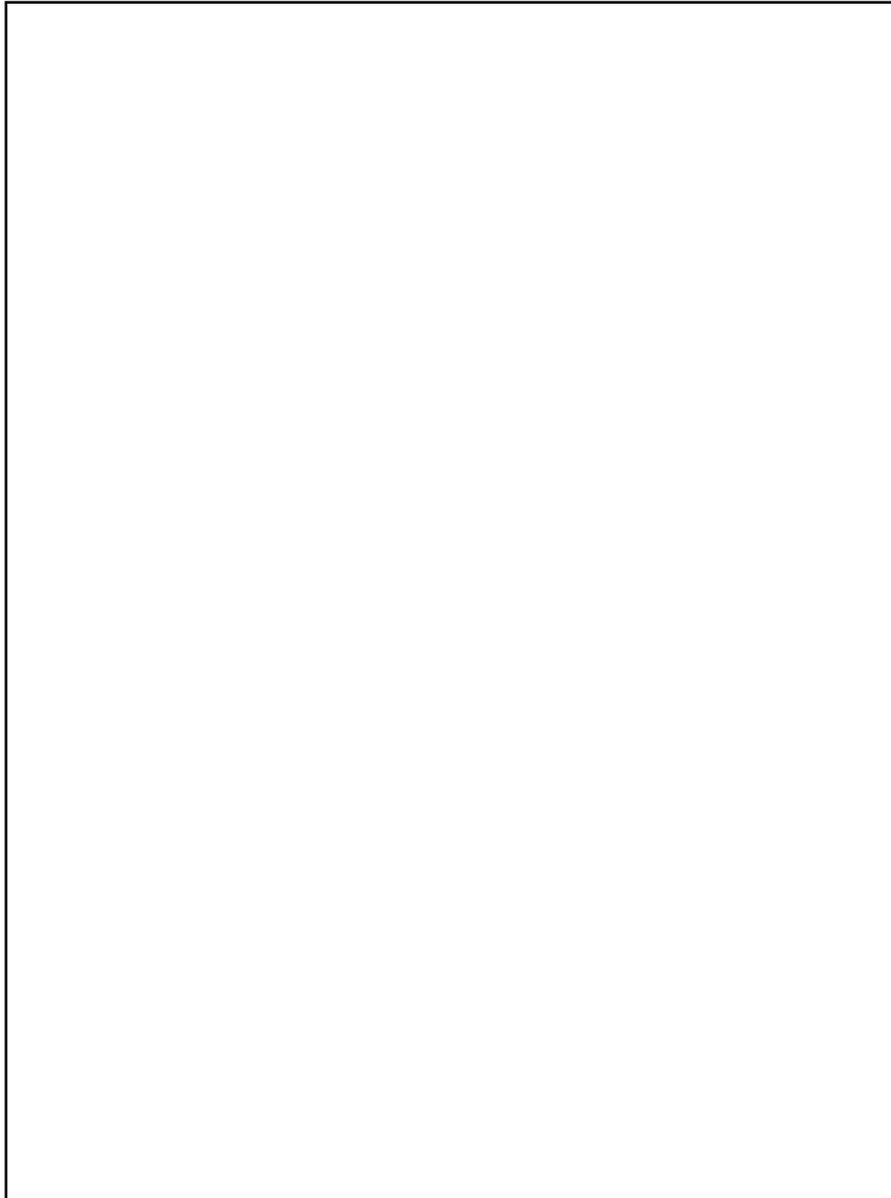
Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 21.4

DHS notes the commentor's concerns regarding an accident. 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. Section 3.14 investigates the chances of a variety of accidents that could occur with the proposed NBAF and consequences of potential accidents, Accidents could occur in the form of procedural violations (operational accidents), natural phenomena accidents, external events, and intentional acts. Although some accidents are more likely to occur than others (e.g., safety protocol not being followed), the chances of an accidental release are low. Should the NBAF Record of Decision call for the design, construction, and operations of the NBAF then site specific protocols would be developed, in coordination with local emergency response agencies. Appendix B to the EIS 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 operations 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 NBAF.

Comment No: 3 Issue Code: 23.0

DHS notes the commentor's concern. The NBAF critical safety and biocontainment operational systems would have 100% redundancy as described in Section 2.2.1.1 of the NBAF EIS. Additional information on the utility infrastructure specific to each site is located in Section 3.3 of the NBAF EIS.

DHS also notes the commentor's concern regarding potential hurricane impacts to the NBAF. Sections 3.4, 3.6, and 3.14.3.2 and Appendix E of the NBAF EIS, address NBAF design criteria and accident scenarios associated with weather-related events such as tornadoes, hurricanes, and flooding. DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding potential tornado impacts to the NBAF. The NBAF would be designed and built to withstand the normal meteorological conditions that are present within the geographic area of the selected site (hurricanes, tornados, etc.). Given the nature of the facility, more stringent building codes are applied to the NBAF than are used for homes and most businesses, regardless of which NBAF site is chosen. The building would be built to withstand wind pressures up to 170% of the winds which are expected to occur locally within a period of 50 years. This means the building's structural system could resist a wind speed that is expected to occur, on the average, only once in a 500 year period. In the unlikely event that a 500-year wind storm strikes the facility, the interior BSL-3Ag and BSL-4 spaces would be expected to withstand a 200 mph wind load (commonly determined to be an F3 tornado). If the NBAF took a direct hit from an F3 tornado, the exterior walls and roofing of the building would likely fail first. This breach in the exterior skin



would cause a dramatic increase in internal pressures leading to further failure of the building's interior and exterior walls. However, the loss of these architectural wall components should actually decrease the overall wind loading applied to the building, and diminish the possibility of damage to the building's primary structural system. Since the walls of the BSL-3Ag and BSL-4 spaces would be reinforced cast-in-place concrete, those inner walls would be expected to withstand the tornado.

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1 and other bad stuff, lost power and their whole
2 backup generator system shut down for the second
3 time in 13 months.

4 Along this line, I'd like to add another
5 line to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
6 The table on Page 3-69 needs to list another Riley
7 County tornado, an EF4 that hit Manhattan on June
8 11th. Based on K-State's estimates and data from
9 the appraiser's office, the total cost may reach
10 \$50 million.

11 Now something that scares the bejeebee's
12 out of me. If the new facility will be designed
13 and built with the same quality of people who
14 produce this big book, we're in trouble. For
15 example, the Manhattan campus site visual
16 receptors map on Page 3-15 shows, for example, the
17 Aggieville Shopping Center as part of K-State
18 campus, but maybe that's just wishful thinking.

19 It shows Bluemont Elementary School south
20 of Bluemont Avenue, but when my daughter attended
21 Bluemont, the building was north of Bluemont and
22 I'm sure that big stone building hasn't been
23 moved.

24 It also shows Lee Elementary School south
25 of Anderson Avenue, but when I was a bus driver

Comment No: 4 Issue Code: 9.4

DHS notes the commentor's suggestion. Section 3.4.4.1.1 of the NBAF EIS has been updated to include this information.

Comment No: 5 Issue Code: 26.0

DHS notes the commentor's suggestion. Section 3.4.4.1.1 of the NBAF EIS has been updated to include this information.

4|9.4

5|26.0

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5 cont. | 26.0

1 delivering kids to this school it was north of
2 Anderson and I'm also pretty sure that building
3 hasn't been moved, although it was damaged a
4 little by the tornado.

5 It shows Westloop Shopping Center where
6 the old Farm Bureau building, now called The
7 Foundation Center is, instead of more than a mile
8 further west, near Seth Child Road.

9 It shows Riley County Hospital but the
10 last time we had a Riley County Hospital, which
11 was later called Memorial Hospital, was in 1996.

12 And then the big one, Finney State
13 Fishing Lake and Wildlife area is on the K-State
14 campus, but it's actually about 245 miles
15 west-southwest of Manhattan in Finney County,
16 about 30 minutes this side of Garden City.

17 The last mistake I found is on Page 3-103
18 where it says, and I quote, the Manhattan campus
19 site is approximately 604 miles west of Topeka.

6 | 20

20 If this is an example of the level of fail safe
21 rigger we can expect with an NBAF facility, then
22 when something does happen, apparently the
23 clean-up crew will be sent to the western slope of
24 the Rocky Mountains.

25 I once had security clearance and worked

Comment No: 6Issue Code: 2.0

DHS has corrected the typographic errors and incorrect information that were identified in the NBAF Draft EIS. Public and agency comments on the Draft EIS were important to ensure the NBAF Final EIS presents an accurate assessment of human health and safety and environmental impacts.

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1 on atomic bomb testing at the Jackass test site
 2 about 70 miles west of Las Vegas, and I believe
 3 they put the test site that far away for a very
 4 good reason. If something had gone wrong, there
 5 wouldn't have been many people around to be hurt.
 6 Likewise, I believe that NBAF facilities should be
 7 built a long way from population and animal
 8 centers, and we definitely don't need one right
 9 here in Manhattan.

7|5.0

1 cont|25.4

10 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you, sir.
 11 MS. WAGNER: Good afternoon. My name
 12 is Judy Wagner, vice president at Mercy Regional
 13 Health Center, and a Manhattan resident.
 14 Mercy Regional Health Center is a fully
 15 accredited acute care hospital located in
 16 Manhattan. Mercy Regional's leadership is
 17 prepared to work with the NBAF team to ensure
 18 appropriate capabilities are in place to support
 19 the facility.

1|15.4

20 Specifically, Mercy Regional, in
 21 anticipation of NBAF, as well as to support
 22 community needs, recently recruited a full time
 23 infectious disease physician. Dr. Moman (sp) has
 24 already been in contact with the leadership at the
 25 existing K-State Biosecurity Research Institute

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 15.4

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

Comment No: 7 Issue Code: 5.0

As described in Section 2.3.1 of the NBAF EIS, DHS's site selection process including site selection criteria that 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 sem-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 NBAF.

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1 known as BRI in order to design appropriate
2 support programs and will do the same if Manhattan
3 is chosen as the new site for NBAF.

4 In addition, Mercy is an active
5 participant in the statewide emergency response
6 program and works closely with appropriate
7 emergency response assets throughout the State to
8 ensure capabilities are in place to effectively
9 address a broad range of disasters, either natural
10 or manmade.

11 The regional team, through participation
12 in the Kansas Hospital Association's Emergency
13 Preparedness Subcommittee, and the Kansas
14 Association Hospital Emergency Preparedness
15 Subcommittee, and the Northeast Kansas Regional
16 Hospital Preparedness Committee would work closely
17 with State and federal officials to design an
18 appropriate plan of intervention in the likelihood
19 of an unplanned incident involving this facility.

20 This effort would be further bolstered by
21 Mercy's existing and ongoing collaborative efforts
22 with Fort Riley and the Irwin Army Community
23 Hospital.

24 Thank you for this opportunity to
25 respond. As you can see, we do not believe our

1 cont| 15.4

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1 cont| 15.4

1 regional healthcare capability should be a
2 detriment to our state's effort in securing this
3 bid. Thanks.

4 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you,
5 Miss Wagner.

6 Mr. Henry, Steve Henry.

7 DR. HENRY: Hello, I'm Steve Henry.
8 I'm a veterinarian, private practitioner, near
9 Abilene, Kansas, off to the southwest about 40
10 miles.

11 Along with my partners, I spend my time
12 in the barns and on the farms, so I'm a user of
13 FADDL, Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab,
14 NBAF, at Plum Island, and as such, I want to
15 comment that the primary mission for us out there,
16 the boots on the ground, is this intelligence
17 service that covers our livestock production
18 industry.

19 We rely on the word from FADDL when we
20 trip a ire, that things are dying, things are not
21 good, that one of the things we're not faced with
22 is one of the bad deals. It isn't that the FADDL
23 tells us what it is, it tells us what it isn't,
24 and that's a very important distinction. We rely,
25 in livestock production, on knowing that our

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1 intelligence is good, that we've received that
 2 intelligence in a very rapid and efficient
 3 fashion, and that we can proceed forward without
 4 disruption to production flow, animal movement,
 5 and danger to our operations.

6 I'm fortunate or unfortunate to have had
 7 four experiences where we had to trip that wire,
 8 two in Kansas, two outside of Kansas. I work in
 9 the State of Kansas as well as Nebraska, Colorado,
 10 Oklahoma, and in foreign countries as well, within
 11 the last few years.

12 It's a comfort when the system works
 13 well. Today, the system doesn't because as you
 14 have recognized, Plum is not mission capable to
 15 meet the demands of contemporary livestock
 16 production. It does a good job. It doesn't do it
 17 well enough, fast enough, or efficiently enough to
 18 really protect the livestock industry. So I'm
 19 really happy that DHS and USDA are looking at
 20 updating, not just bricks and mortar, but the
 21 criticality of the mission of FADDL to take us
 22 forward.

23 Hopefully, this will be built in
 24 Manhattan, Kansas, and I say that because of where
 25 I work. Where did these hundreds of samples a

1|25.1

2|24.4

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 25.1

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

Comment No: 2Issue Code: 24.4

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

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1 year come from that go to FADDL? Most of them
2 come from a 300 mile circle around Manhattan. We
3 aren't sending them from some exotic location.
4 The disease problems and the questions we have
5 come from where you'd expect them to be, where the
6 animals are.

7 We're not moving something out, we're
8 in -- we are trying to very efficiently determine
9 that the bad guys aren't here, that we can proceed
10 forward and mitigate the problems, and take
11 appropriate action. Locating NBAF in Manhattan
12 serves the purpose of efficiency, I believe it
13 will allow critical intelligence mission of the
14 organization to go forward, and really support the
15 U.S. livestock production industry.

16 Thank you for the attention here, and I
17 hope it goes forward and hope to see it here very
18 soon.

19 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you,
20 Mr. Henry.

21 Sandy Cravens.

22 MS. CRAVENS: Well, I've had to cut
23 my wording in half due to the three minute time.
24 I really don't understand how you can't afford to
25 put another lab on Plum Island and you can put one

2 cont|24.4

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1 out here in the midwest, yet continue to carry on
2 at Plum Island. That, to me, one and one equals
3 two, and costs the same.

4 The DHS assertions that a Level 4 NBAF
5 lab poses little measurable threat to our local
6 environment and industry scares me. It must scare
7 them, too, because they have countermeasures in
8 the event of a pathogenic release from this type
9 of lab, yet they still will not guarantee
10 100 percent safety to our families and community
11 from this proposed NBAF laboratory.

1|21.4

12 There is only one solution. If a Level 4
13 NBAF lab is not placed here, there will be
14 100 percent certainty that no pandemic animal to
15 human pathogen release will occur from it. If it
16 is not here, it cannot release anything dangerous.

17 Let's thoroughly consider the
18 consequences of microorganisms that cause
19 devastating illnesses that jump from animals to
20 humans. Rift Valley Fever Virus, prion related
21 diseases, and their cross-species transmits, will
22 be especially to humans.

2|19.0

23 It has been stated that prions and mad
24 cow disease cannot be destroyed by fire,
25 chemicals, not anything. Where will the bodies of

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 21.4

DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding the potential consequences from a NBAF accident or pathogen release as the result of human error and acknowledges commentor's statement that safety at the NBAF is not guaranteed. DHS also notes that the risk of an accidental release of a pathogen from the NBAF is extremely low. 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. Although some accidents are more likely to occur than others (e.g., safety protocol not being followed), the chances of an accidental release based on human error are low in large part due to the design and implementation of biocontainment safeguards in conjunction with rigorous personnel training. 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. For example, as described in Section 2.2.2.1 of the NBAF EIS, all laboratory staff would receive thorough pre-operational training, as well as ongoing training, in the handling of hazardous infectious agents, understanding biocontainment functions of standard and special practices for each biosafety level, and understanding biocontainment equipment and laboratory characteristics. While human errors are inevitable, training and inherent biocontainment safeguards reduce the likelihood of a release. Oversight of NBAF operations, as described in 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 APHIS Animal Research Policy and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. Should the NBAF Record of Decision call for the design, construction, and operations of the NBAF, site specific protocols would then be developed in coordination with local emergency response agencies and would consider the diversity and density of populations residing within the local area. The need for an evacuation under an accident conditions is considered to be a very low probability event. DHS would have site-specific standard operating procedures and emergency response plans in place prior to the initiation of research activities at the proposed NBAF.

Comment No: 2Issue Code: 19.0

DHS notes the commentor's concern that human health effects from exposure to NBAF pathogens are not provided in the NBAF EIS. Section 3.14.1 and Appendix E of the NBAF EIS provide information on the human health effects from exposure to NBAF pathogens.

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3| 18.4 | 1 these animals -- where will these experimented
2 prions be disposed of? Maybe cooked a little and
3 ground up and put down the sewer as KSU's
4 Biosecurity Research Institute does now with its
5 disease and infected remnants of their
6 experimental tissue.

7 Has anyone ever had a sewage backup in
8 their home before it reaches the wastewater
9 treatment plant?

10 Now let's do a "what if" there is an
11 accidental escape of some terrible, contagious,
12 pandemic animal to human virus. It will certainly
13 put KSU and Manhattan on the world's map forever.

14 How can you all put a dollar and price
15 amount in exchange for our safety, as a cost of
16 our community and the state's industry and lives?

4| 6.4 | 17 How many elementary schools are within
18 five miles of this proposed facility? May God
19 help our children.

5| 24.1 | 20 Please keep this NBAF monster isolated at
21 the Plum Island location, one with a 15 mile no
22 fly zone and surrounded by water to help diffuse
23 some of the mistakes and accidents that are sure
1 cont.| 21.4 | 24 to come. Anywhere there's humans, there will be
25 human mistakes made.

Comment No: 3 Issue Code: 18.4

Chapter 1, Section 1.1 of the NBAF EIS lists the pathogens encompassed by the NBAF research mission. None of these pathogens, including the the pathogen that causes Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), is transmitted by prion infection. Consequently, unless the NBAF mission changes, it would not generate prion-infected animal carcasses or pathological waste needing disposal.

Comment No: 4 Issue Code: 6.4

DHS notes the commentor's statement. Chapter 3, Section 3.2.4 of the NBAF EIS identifies schools in the area of the proposed facility.

Comment No: 5 Issue Code: 24.1

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Plum Island Site Alternative.

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6|21.4

1 What of some danger of a lazy or
2 disgruntled scientist or worker, as well as a
3 planted terrorist is involved. It is said that
4 there's only minute amount of pathogenic material
5 that will come here. I stated before that I've
6 been informed that 30,000 cold germ viruses can
7 live on the head of a pin. What is minute?

7|21.4

8 I don't think any place can be terrorist
9 proof or nature proofed. Right now, the bio
10 center that's here is only able to withstand 175
11 mile an hour winds. An F4 or F5 tornado is over
12 200. Nature will take back their own.

8|5.0
5 cont.|24.1

13 Everyone on the mainland of the United
14 States should be making a stand of no NBAF in our
15 backyard. I am for the research, I just want it
16 at Plum Island and not on the mainland.

17 God help us all if there is an outbreak.

18 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you, ma'am.

19 Bob Rowland, followed by Dennis McKinney.

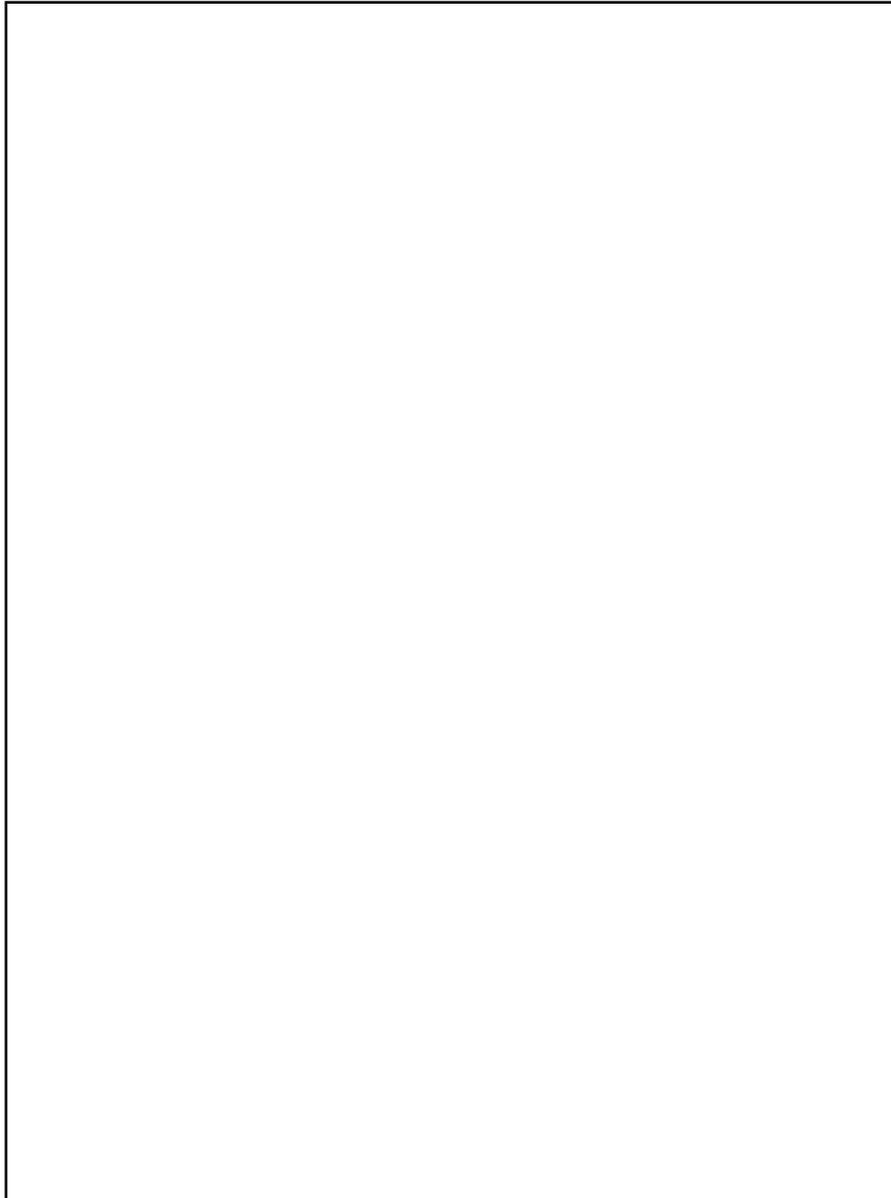
20 MR. ROWLAND: Hi, my name is Bob
21 Rowland. I come to you as a Professor of
22 Diagnostic Medicine with 14 years experience in
23 the study of emerging diseases in swine. I'm also
24 a resident of the community with my house located
25 about two miles away.

Comment No: 6Issue Code: 21.4

DHS notes the commentor's concerns regarding the risk of a potential accident or terrorist event. 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. As described in Chapter 3 and summarized in Section 2.5 of the NBAF EIS, the impacts of activities during normal operations at any of the six site alternatives would likely be minor. Sections 3.8.9, 3.10.9, and 3.14 (Health and Safety), and Appendices B, D, and E of the NBAF EIS, provide a detailed analysis of the consequences from an accidental or deliberate pathogen release. Should the NBAF Record of Decision call for the design, construction, and operations of the NBAF then site specific protocols would be developed, in coordination with local emergency response agencies that would consider the diversity and density of 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 NBAF. Section 3.14 of the NBAF EIS, addresses accident scenarios, including external events such as a terrorist attack. A separate Threat and Risk Assessment (designated as For Official Use Only)(TRA) was developed outside of the EIS process in accordance with the requirements stipulated in federal regulations. The TRA is "For Official Use Only" and is not available for public review. The purpose of the TRA was to identify potential vulnerabilities and weaknesses associated with the NBAF and are used to recommend the most prudent measures to establish a reasonable level of risk for the security of operations of the NBAF and public safety. Because of the importance of the NBAF mission and the associated work with potential high-consequence biological pathogens, critical information related to the potential for adverse consequences as a result of intentional acts has been incorporated into the NEPA process. Security would be provided by a series of fencing, security cameras, and protocols. In addition, a dedicated security force would be present on-site. Additional security could be provided via cooperation with local law enforcement agencies.

Comment No: 7Issue Code: 21.4

DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding potential tornado impacts to the NBAF. The NBAF would be designed and built to withstand the normal meteorological conditions that are present within the geographic area of the selected site (hurricanes, tornados, etc.). Given the nature of the facility, more stringent building codes are applied to the NBAF than are used for homes and most businesses, regardless of which NBAF site is chosen. The building would be built to withstand wind pressures up to 170% of the winds which are expected to occur locally within a period of 50 years. This means the building's structural system could resist a wind speed that is expected to occur, on the average, only once in a 500 year period. In the unlikely event that a 500-year wind storm strikes the facility, the interior BSL-3Ag and BSL-4 spaces would be expected to withstand a 200 mph wind load (commonly determined to be an F3 tornado). If the NBAF took a direct hit from an F3 tornado, the exterior walls and roofing of the building would likely fail first. This breach in the exterior skin would cause a dramatic increase in internal pressures leading to further failure of the building's interior and exterior walls. However, the loss of these architectural wall components should actually decrease the overall wind loading applied to the building, and diminish the possibility of damage to



the building's primary structural system. Since the walls of the BSL-3Ag and BSL-4 spaces would be reinforced cast-in-place concrete, those inner walls would be expected to withstand the tornado.

Comment No: 8

Issue Code: 5.0

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

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1 Currently I'm the Project Director for
2 the USDA funded Coordinated Agricultural Project
3 on Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome
4 Virus. This is a \$4.8 million dollar program that
5 puts Kansas State at the forefront of battling one
6 of the most severe diseases ever to face the swine
7 industry.

8 In 2005, we were contacted by Steve
9 Henry, who spoke previously, to address a unique
10 disease problem on swine farms. We were the first
11 to identify the unique Circovirus as the
12 etiological agent; the first to develop diagnostic
13 tests to track this virus; and the first to test
14 vaccines to show effectiveness of this -- of these
15 vaccines in the field.

16 These types of activities have
17 demonstrated that K-State is one of the premier
18 food and animal infectious disease programs in the
19 United States. Much of the work that we perform
20 on the domestic side is the same type of work
21 that's performed on the foreign animal disease
22 side, and I think for us, this is an opportunity
23 for us to develop some synergy between both
24 research programs.

25 Thank you very much.

1|24.4

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.4

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

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1 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you.

2 Dennis McKinney.

3 MR. MCKINNEY: Thank you. I'm Dennis
4 McKinney, I'm the House Minority Leader in the
5 Kansas House of Representatives and both in my
6 role as a legislative leader and as a farmer and
7 beef producer from southwest Kansas, I support the
8 proposal to locate the NBAF research facility at
9 Kansas State University.

10 Kansas farmers have long been committed
11 for many generations to producing the safest and
12 most abundant food supply in the world and now we
13 see that role is expanding to help meet our
14 nation's energy requirements with renewable
15 sources of energy.

16 The nation aims to protect our food and
17 energy supply from major threats, whether man made
18 or natural, is essential to protect this vital
19 engine in our nation's economy. The role -- risk
20 created by our own research we believe are far
21 outweighed by the risk created when we fail to
22 prepare to meet the threats to our food supply.
23 The risks in our laboratories are outweighed by
24 the risks being created in the laboratories of a
25 potential enemy.

1|24.4

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.4

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

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1 Locating the new research facility in
2 Kansas makes sense for several reasons. First,
3 the proposed facility enjoys bipartisan support
4 from state and local leaders in this State.
5 Second, the concentration of crop production,
6 livestock feeding, and animal health industries
7 create major economies to facilitate our
8 agro-defense research. The large number of people
9 with specialized knowledge in these fields
10 facilitates the flow of good information into the
11 design and research and multiplies the
12 opportunities to employ beneficial applications
13 of the research.

14 This should especially be true in the
15 animal health fields. The concentration of
16 scientists, both public and private, offer a
17 wealth of views and information to help design the
18 research model and critique reports. The large
19 presence of research and development monies, both
20 public and private, offer sources to compliment
21 federal research outlays, and the massive presence
22 of the industry in this region offers the best
23 opportunities in the world for field trials for
24 the later stages of project development.

25 The example I thought of was over 20

1 cont|24.4

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1 cont.|24.4

1 years ago when Adams-Forrester developed feed
2 additives to increase efficiency -- feed
3 efficiency in ruminant animals. Because those
4 were first employed in our livestock industry
5 which regularly -- which documents -- measures and
6 documents animal performance and health, we found
7 out very quickly that there was a 85 to 90 percent
8 decline in incidents of feedlot oxidosis, which
9 gave us many ideas for new applications of that
10 product. The same applies for other research in
11 the animal field.

12 There's an existing research facility at
13 Kansas State University that would give
14 agro-defense research a head start while the new
15 building's under construction. We understand that
16 agricultural defense research is imperative to
17 protect our State's number one industry. We also
18 understand that federal and state efforts located
19 together in the setting that we offer here
20 provides a long-term synergy beneficial to our
21 economy and our security, to our nation as well as
22 our state. Thank you.

23 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you.

24 Steve Warren is next, followed by Dusti
25 Fritz and Senator Stephen Morris.

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1 MR. WARREN: Thank you. I'm Steve
2 Warren. I'm the Vice Provost for Research and
3 Graduate Studies for the University of Kansas,
4 Lawrence, about 90 minutes to the east.

5 I'm here on behalf of the KU Chancellor,
6 Robert Hemenway, who could not be present today.
7 He is a member of the state NBAF task force, and
8 I'm here also representing the entire bioscience
9 community and the Lawrence campus and the KU
10 Medical Center campus in Kansas City.

11 We are strongly in support of this
12 initiative, has our unqualified support, and we
13 look forward to being a partner with Kansas State
14 and scientists in this region in any way we can to
15 support this initiative.

16 It's been noted by others that it's
17 essential to site a facility like this in the
18 university community because of the opportunities
19 it provides for collaboration, and in the case of
20 our State, it's not just in Manhattan, it's the
21 research corridor as people have pointed out that
22 goes all the way to Columbia and includes the
23 Lawrence and Kansas City community also where
24 there's a great deal of collaboration.

25 I think the other point that should be

1|24.4

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 24.4

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

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1 made about that is, as other researchers generally
2 know, is they like to hang around with other
3 researchers and they're attracted to communities
4 that have a strong research infrastructure in
5 terms of graduate training, undergraduate training
6 and so forth. I think that is one of the primary
7 reasons that this really should be sited in
8 Manhattan. It's the availability of the work
9 force, but also in terms of recruiting the top
10 scientists into a USDA facility, the availability
11 of the community that's going to be attracted to
12 them in terms of other colleagues and the other
13 amenities that go with that.

1 cont|24.4

14 We also, on the Lawrence campus, have --
15 and at the medical center campus, have some
16 additional assets that could potentially be
17 valuable to this. For example, we have the number
18 one ranked school of pharmacy in the United States
19 in terms of NIH funding per faculty member.

20 We also have at our medical center quite
21 a large ability to conduct clinical trials of
22 drugs, and drug discovery and development, in
23 fact, is probably one of the -- I think it's fair
24 to say one of the research priority right now at
25 the University of Kansas, and that, of course, is

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1 highly relevant in the long run to the work of
2 this endeavor.

3 We also, ourselves, enjoy a very close
4 working relationship with Fort Leavenworth and a
5 standing relationship with them.

6 We have individual researchers also who,
7 I think, would be assets, particularly in the area
8 of vaccine development, Professor Russ Midoff, for
9 example, and in the area of predicting the spread
10 of pathogen, Chris Cristock and his colleagues,
11 and others.

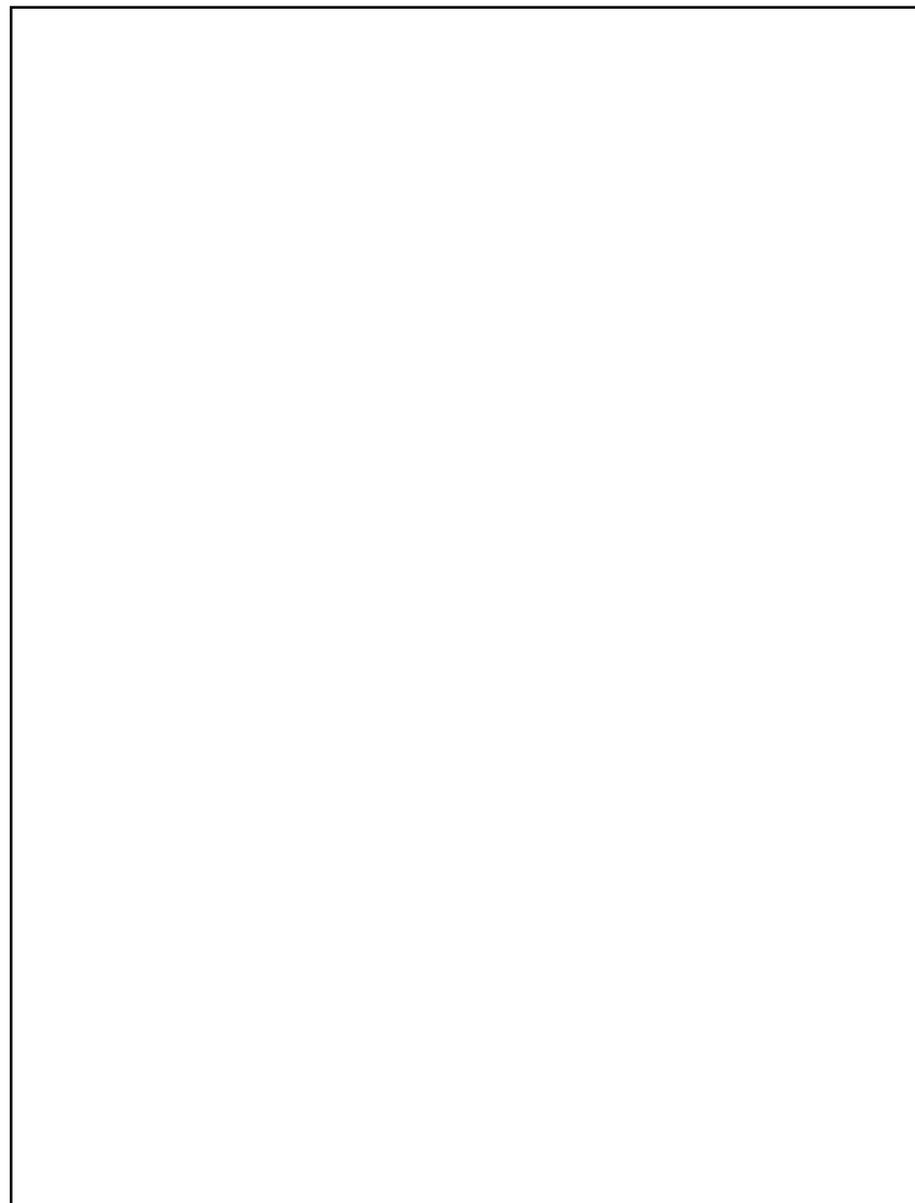
12 I think -- the point I'm trying to make
13 is that we add to the resources in this area,
14 we're completely supportive of the K-State
15 initiative in this area and in any way we possibly
16 can. I think it'd be a great thing for the
17 region, but most importantly, I think this is
18 exactly the kind of environment that would support
19 a really generative, successful, long-term impact
20 for a program like this for the State and nation,
21 and frankly, for the world. Thank you.

22 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you very
23 much.

24 Dusti Fritz.

25 MS. FRITZ: Good afternoon, thank you

1 cont| 24.4



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1 for this opportunity. My name is Dusti Fritz.
2 I'm the CEO of the Kansas Wheat Commission and the
3 Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, and we
4 support the NBAF facility located here in Kansas
5 on the campus of Kansas State University.
6 Wheat and other cultivated and native
7 plants and grasses are the foundation for our
8 state and our country. As a source of food, feed,
9 fiber and fuel.
10 While the NBAF facility will focus on
11 foreign animal diseases, we feel that there are
12 tremendous opportunities for that benefit to
13 expand into plant science research.
14 You've heard about BRI and the potential
15 collaboration between the two facilities. Let me
16 offer just one example. In the heart of Africa, a
17 strain of wheat rust called Ug99 quickly destroys
18 any wheat field in its wake. It's one of the most
19 destructive diseases in wheat history. It is on
20 the move and expected to arrive in North America
21 at any time. This pathogen could destroy the
22 entire United States wheat crop, currently valued
23 at about \$20 billion dollars.
24 At a time when our world feed and food
25 stocks are at all time lows, we cannot afford to

1|24.4

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.4

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1 let this disease progress into the United States
2 and continually impact our animal health and
3 nutrition and crop production in our country.

4 Consumers in this country and around the
5 globe depend on the United States to -- for a safe
6 and affordable food and feed supply. Kansas is
7 very uniquely positioned to supply this. We've
8 already heard today about all of the
9 internationally renowned scientists in the area of
10 plant science and animal science. We've also
11 heard about the collaboration that occurs among
12 those scientists, but one additional unique
13 position in the community of Manhattan is our
14 longstanding history of agricultural leadership.

1 cont. | 24.4

15 And while we may have facilities located in
16 Kansas, it's this agricultural leadership that
17 provides the resources and the support to make
18 these facilities sustainable.

19 Some in this room may choose to
20 concentrate on the small risks associated with a
21 facility of this type. However, we choose to
22 focus on the potential reward for our industry,
23 our state and our nation. The rewards clearly
24 outweigh the small risks, particularly in the case
25 of Ug99, and this is merely one example of many

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1 cont|24.4

1 that Kansas is the right place for NBAF. Page 105

2 Thank you.

3 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you,

4 Miss Fritz.

5 Senator Stephen Morris, followed by Jeff

6 Levin, and Don Gudenkauf.

7 SENATOR MORRIS: Good afternoon, and

8 thank you for being here. I'm State Senator

9 Stephen Morris from Hugoton, Kansas. Have the

10 pleasure of being President of the Kansas Senate.

11 Kansas State University has decades of

12 commitment to food safety and security, animal

13 disease prevention, and cures, as well as plant

14 disease diagnostics.

15 Early 1999, K-State officials launched

16 the Homeland Defense Food Safety Security and

17 Emergency Preparedness Program. That plan

18 demonstrated the university's historical

19 commitment to the best in animal and agricultural

20 health and then took K-State's vision to the next

21 level.

22 The plan called for several things,

23 including the construction of a new

24 bio-containment research facility. Today,

25 K-State's BRI is the only Biosafety Level 3

1|24.4

Comment No: 1

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1 bio-containment research and training facility in
2 the U.S. that can accommodate high consequence
3 pathogen research on food animals, food crops and
4 food processing under one roof.

5 The entire Kansas legislature met at
6 K-State in January of 2000 to review plans for a
7 one of a kind in this nation research and training
8 facility, and I might note that's the only time in
9 our history that the legislature's met outside of
10 our capitol in Topeka.

11 Kansas legislature enacted the University
12 Research and Development Act later that year to
13 fund the construction of Pat Roberts Hall on
14 K-State campus. This significant piece of
15 infrastructure is a testament to Kansas and
16 K-State's expertise and vision, and serves as a
17 resounding reminder of the State and University's
18 commitment to addressing high consequence
19 agriculture disease.

20 The State of Kansas and Kansas State
21 University are known worldwide for its
22 University's faculty expertise in food safety and
23 security and have attracted millions of dollars in
24 government and private support to continue this
25 important work.

1 cont.| 24.4

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1 University faculty representing Kansas
2 and Kansas State advised the European unit on
3 plant diseases and the diagnosis of these
4 diseases. Back in this country, the Great Plains
5 Diagnostic Network is one of five regional
6 networks that feed into the national plant
7 diagnostic network created by the USDA. The
8 national network has labs in all 50 states and
9 U.S. territories in the Pacific and Caribbean. It
10 ensures that if plant diseases or petulance hits,
11 the nation has the ability to quickly diagnose the
12 problem and take action.

13 Team of Kansas State faculty was recently
14 awarded and \$375,000 grant from USDA to help
15 eradicate bovine respiratory disease, a disease
16 that costs the beef industry more than
17 \$600 million dollars every year.

18 Finally as I stated, the University is
19 focused on food safety and security. K-State has
20 more than 150 scientists dedicated to the food
21 safety and animal health arenas and has invested
22 more than \$70 million dollars in related research
23 since 1999.

24 I'm very proud to support K-State's bid
25 to host NBAF. Thank you.

1 cont.|244

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1 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you,
2 Senator.

3 Jeff Levin.

4 MR. LEVIN: Hi, my name is Jeff
5 Levin. I'm a local business owner, resident,
6 family here, and also Chairman of the Manhattan
7 Chamber of Commerce. My background, I have
8 degrees in chemistry and grain science and did
9 graduate work for the cereal industry and worked
10 for a while with Nestle Foods.

11 I was personally responsible for such
12 things as aflatoxin testing with live cultures and
13 others, worked with a group that did work around
14 the nation, Canada, Puerto Rico, Mexico, with
15 listeria, E. Coli, et cetera. I was also trained
16 in HACCPs, Hazardous Analysis and Critical Control
17 Point Studies and looking at risks factors.

18 Taking that in mind and the fact that I
19 was given the privilege of going to the BRI and
20 look at it, I went in with a jaded eye and a
21 critical eye to look at what we have here and what
22 we could be having with this new lab, the NBAF
23 lab.

24 I'm giving my whole hearted support for
25 it. What I've seen, compared to 20 years ago when

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Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.4

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

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1 I was doing this type of work, it's a phenomenal
2 type of laboratory.

3 I know there are concerns in the
4 community. I'm a community member with children
5 here, and I can definitely say that what they've
6 done and what you are planning and what I've seen
7 within the EIS study, impact study, it's the right
8 thing. Of course, there's always the minimal
9 risk, but I think that's far outweighed by the
10 things that are going in terms of mitigation and
11 the fact that there are plans at both the federal
12 level, state level, local level, everyone working
13 together.

14 I think you've seen already quite a bit
15 of support at the different levels within this
16 state, so I'm simply saying that I'm here to help
17 support and stand as a business owner, as someone
18 who sees this as a great way to leverage what we
19 do well at K-State and in Kansas, and I'm here to
20 support it. Thank you.

21 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you.

22 Don Gudenkauf.

23 MR. GUDENKAUF: My name is Don
24 Gudenkauf. I managed a business here in Manhattan
25 for 20 years, and it was a cooperative here in

1 cont.|24.4

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1 Manhattan. I worked close with the University all
 2 the time, and Manhattan's a great place, the
 3 University's a great place, and I would hate to
 4 see this place come in here unless it was
 5 100 percent guaranteed that this thing is not
 6 going to get out. We know it escaped Plum Island
 7 and we definitely don't want it to escape some
 8 place on the mainland.

9 And I also heard today from you up here
 10 that it was going to cost more to build a new
 11 facility -- I mean less to build a new facility
 12 than to repair the facility on Plum Island and I
 13 guess I can't -- being where I've been, I can't
 14 believe that can be true. I think that there's
 15 got to be something that could be used on Plum
 16 Island that would make it cheaper with the
 17 building expense that we have today, so I guess I
 18 support to keep the thing on the island and put
 19 some money on the island and keep it there, even
 20 though I like the facilities in Manhattan. Thank
 21 you.

22 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you, sir.

23 Donn Teske is next, followed by Paul
 24 Irvine, and Tracy Brunner.

25 MR. TESKE: Good afternoon. You better

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 21.4

DHS acknowledges commentor's statement that safety at the NBAF is not guaranteed. DHS also notes that the risk of an accidental release of a pathogen from the NBAF is extremely low. 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. Although some accidents are more likely to occur than others (e.g., safety protocol not being followed), the chances of an accidental release based on human error are low in large part due to the design and implementation of biocontainment safeguards in conjunction with rigorous personnel training. 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. For example, as described in Section 2.2.2.1 of the NBAF EIS, all laboratory staff would receive thorough pre-operational training, as well as ongoing training, in the handling of hazardous infectious agents, understanding biocontainment functions of standard and special practices for each biosafety level, and understanding biocontainment equipment and laboratory characteristics. Oversight of NBAF operations, as described in 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 APHIS Animal Research Policy and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 24.1

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Plum Island Site Alternative.

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1 point that yellow thing out here (indicating).

2 MODERATOR COGHILL: I'll be out, sir.

3 MR. TESKE: My name's Donn Teske, and

4 our operation is about 35 miles northeast here,

5 and I currently have the pleasure of serving as

6 the President of Kansas Farmers' Union. I'm here

7 speaking today in opposition to it in Kansas, and

8 that's going to offend many, and I apologize for

9 that, but I'm concerned for the safety of my

10 family and I'm concerned for the safety of my

11 farm.

12 Modern technology is wonderful, it's done

13 marvelous things, but to think that there will

14 never, ever, be an act of human error, natural

15 disaster, or intentional sabotage is in the words

16 of Spock, illogical.

17 I understand very much that we need this

18 research facility and it needs to be somewhere,

19 and I very much understand the economic impact it

20 could have for the State of Kansas, and the

21 prestige it could bring to Kansas State

22 University, but it's just not worth the risk in my

23 opinion.

24 You're welcome to call me an NIMBY, Not

25 in My Back Yard, I think the site should be in a

1|25.4

2| 19.4
3| 15.4

4|21.4

1 cont.| 25.4

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 25.4

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

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 19.4

DHS notes the commentor's concern. The NBAF would provide state-of-the-art operating procedures and biocontainment features to minimize the potential for laboratory-acquired infections and accidental releases. As examined in Section 3.14 and Appendix E of the NBAF EIS, the risk of an accidental release of a pathogen from the NBAF is extremely low.

Comment No: 3 Issue Code: 15.4

DHS notes the commentor's concern. The risk of an accidental release of a pathogen is extremely low, but DHS acknowledges that the possible economic effect would be significant for all sites. Section 3.10.9 presents estimates of the possible economic effect of an accidental release.

Comment No: 4 Issue Code: 21.4

DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding the siting, construction and operation of the NBAF at the Manhattan Campus Site. 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.

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7|5.0

1 remote spot, preferably an island and with the
 2 parameters and barriers, rather than in the heart
 3 of the campus of a major university with over
 4 20,000 students.

8|5.0

5 So I would like to bring to the attention
 6 of those in attendance today testimony by our own
 7 government's general accounting office that was
 8 given in May of 2008 in regards to this, and their
 9 concerns about the safety of doing it on the
 10 mainland. In it they said, and I quote, the
 11 Department of Homeland Security has neither
 12 conducted nor commissioned any study to determine
 13 whether work on Foot and Mouth Disease can be done
 14 safely on the U.S. mainland.

15 I would assume that what we got today
 16 earlier would be an answer to this testimony, but
 17 I still am sorry that low risk just doesn't
 18 satisfy me.

19 What it also states is that faced with
 20 the decision today of whether to replace aging
 21 infrastructure on the island versus building a new
 22 facility on the mainland, Denmark and Germany have
 23 both decided to keep Foot and Mouth Disease work
 24 on their islands, given the non zero risk of
 25 release and the serious economic consequences of

Comment No: 7 Issue Code: 5.0

DHS notes the commentor's concern. As described in Section 2.4.3 of the NBAF EIS, other potential locations to construct the NBAF were considered during the site selection process but were eliminated based on evaluation by the selection committee. It was suggested during the scoping process that the NBAF be constructed in a remote location such as an island distant from populated areas or in a location that would be inhospitable (e.g., desert or arctic habitat) to escaped animal hosts/vectors; however, the evaluation criteria called for proximity to research programs that could be linked to the NBAF mission and proximity to a technical workforce. The Plum Island Site is an isolated location as was suggested while still meeting the requirements listed in the expressions of interest.

Comment No: 8 Issue Code: 5.0

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the five mainland site alternatives. The conclusions expressed in Section 3.14 show that even though Plum Island has a lower potential impact in case of a release, the probability of a release is low at all sites. The lower potential effect is due both to the water barrier around the island and the lack of livestock and susceptible wildlife species.

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1 an outbreak on the mainland.

2 Finally, the argument that the facility
3 needs to be here in the heartland and the heart of
4 the cattle industry just doesn't hold any water in
5 my mind. In today's modern jet age, the coast is
6 three hours away.

7 Thank you for your time.

8 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you very
9 much. Appreciate it.

10 Paul Irvine.

11 MR. IRVINE: Thank you for the
12 opportunity to speak to you today. I'm Paul
13 Irvine. We have a family cattle operation about
14 two miles northeast of the proposed site.

15 We agree that it is important to do
16 research and develop countermeasures against
17 foreign animal diseases affecting agriculture and
18 the general population. This is the greatest
19 country in the world and we need to do everything
20 we can to protect and secure it.

21 However, we think it is absolutely absurd
22 to bring one of the most dangerous pathogens in
23 the world here into our town, near livestock, and
24 in close proximity to residential areas. Foot and
25 Mouth Disease is very transmittable and it can be

9|5.0

1|25.4

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 25.4

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

Comment No: 9Issue Code: 5.0

DHS notes the commentor's statement. 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 NBAF, would enable NBAF to be safely operated anywhere on the mainland. As described in Section 2.3.1, DHS's site selection process including site selection criteria that 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 livestock producing 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 NBAF.

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2| 21.4 | 1 carried on a person's breath, on clothing, on
 2 vehicles, and in many ways. An accidental release
 3 of this pathogen would result in government action
 4 that would restrict transportation, animals would
 5 be killed, and there would be quarantines that
 6 could last for a long period of time.

7 Escapes of pathogens do occur. According
 8 to the GAO report, there have been 14 accidental
 9 releases of pathogens from laboratories throughout
 10 the world since 1960, including Plum Island in
 11 1978.

12 In England in 2001 and 2007, Foot and
 13 Mouth Disease escaped causing a \$10 million dollar
 14 loss in economy to tourism, to exports, and to the
 15 farmers involved. Over 4 million head of
 16 livestock were destroyed. If that happened here,
 17 it could be much worse.

3| 15.4 | 18 How would the producers be compensated
 19 for their livestock? There are many breeders in
 20 this area who have animal breeding stock that is
 21 valued in the thousands of dollars each.

4| 21.4 | 22 Technology and operating procedures alone cannot
 23 ensure against a release since human error can
 24 never be completely eliminated and since the lack
 5| 23.0 | 25 of long-term commitment to the proper maintenance

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 21.4

DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding the impact from a release of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in Kansas. 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. The risk of an accidental release of a pathogen is extremely low, but the economic effect would be significant for all sites. 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 than 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.

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

Comment No: 3 Issue Code: 15.4

DHS notes the commentor's question regarding compensation; however, it is not within the scope of the NBAF EIS, which evaluates the environmental impact of the no action alternative and the alternatives for constructing and operating the NBAF. However, DHS would have site-specific standard operating procedures and emergency response plans in place prior to the initiation of research activities at the proposed NBAF. Emergency response plans will include the current USDA emergency response plan for foot and mouth disease (FMD) which includes compensation for livestock losses.

Comment No: 4 Issue Code: 21.4

DHS notes the commenter's concern regarding the potential consequences from a NBAF accident or pathogen release as the result of human error. 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. 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, including releases due to weather events. The chances of an accidental release are low. Although some accidents are more likely to occur than others (e.g., safety protocol not being followed), the chances of an accidental release based on human error are low in large part due to the design and implementation of biocontainment safeguards in conjunction with rigorous personnel training. For example, as described in Section 2.2.2.1 of the NBAF EIS, all laboratory staff would receive thorough pre-operational training, as well as ongoing training, in the handling of hazardous infectious agents, understanding biocontainment functions of standard and special practices for each biosafety level, and understanding biocontainment equipment and laboratory characteristics. Appendix B to the EIS describes biocontainment lapses and laboratory acquired infections. Laboratory-acquired infections have not been shown to be a threat to the community at large. As set out in Section 3.14.3.4 of the NBAF EIS, employees and contractors will be screened prior to employment or engagement and monitored while working, among other security measures. In addition, oversight of NBAF operations, as described in 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 APHIS Animal Research Policy and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. Should the NBAF Record of Decision call for the design, construction, and operations of the NBAF, site specific protocols would then be developed in coordination with local emergency response agencies and would consider the diversity and density of populations, including institutionalized populations, residing within the local area. The need for an evacuation under an accident conditions is considered to be a very low probability event. DHS would have site-specific standard operating procedures and emergency response plans in place prior to the initiation of research activities at the proposed NBAF.

Comment No: 5 Issue Code: 23.0

DHS notes the commenter's statement regarding the importance of long term maintenance to the safety of the NBAF operation. DHS would maintain the NBAF and ancillary facilities in compliance with applicable environmental, safety, and health requirements and provide adequate funding for safe operation and long-term maintenance.

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1 of bio-containment facilities and their technology
2 can cause releases as in Pirbright, England.

3 The majority of the local people
4 supporting this are intoxicated with the allure of
5 jobs, economic development and prestige. Most
6 have limited vested interest in the livestock
7 industry. The effort to get this facility in
8 Manhattan is motivated by politics, greed and
9 short-term gain with no regard for the possible
10 consequences of a potential economic disaster.

11 Many producers I have visited with have
12 little knowledge concerning this issue, and many
13 are concerned when they learn more about it and
14 back my position 100 percent.

15 My family has been in this area since the
16 1850's. My great grandfather was an Irish
17 stonemason and helped build Fort Riley. Many
18 people in this area have been here an equally long
19 time. When things go wrong, we have ties to the
20 land and are left to deal with the consequences.
21 The people in Butner, North Carolina, had it
22 right. We don't want the NBAF located in
23 Manhattan here in the heartland, in the middle of
24 livestock country, with cattle, swine and sheep.
25 We need to join forces with those people and stop

1 cont | 25.4

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1 this attempt to stick a dagger in the heart of the
2 United States. Thank you very much.

3 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you,
4 Mr. Irvine.

5 Tracy Brunner, followed by John Hook and
6 Franklin Spikes.

7 MR. BRUNNER: My name is Tracy
8 Brunner, I'm a cattleman and here today as
9 president of the Kansas Livestock Association.
10 I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to
11 provide comments today.

12 In general, we have three points for your
13 consideration. Number one, we feel it is
14 imperative as a nation we conduct the research
15 necessary to protect agriculture and public health
16 from high consequence biological threats involving
17 human, zoonotic, and foreign animal diseases.

18 Our national security, from the
19 perspective of human health and food security,
20 depend on this type of research. We must have the
21 proper facilities to conduct this field of
22 research.

23 Secondly, regardless of where the NBAF is
24 located, the Department of Homeland Security must
25 absolutely ensure safety protocols are in place to

1|21.0

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 21.0

DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding safety protocols. Text in Section 3.14, states 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. Should the NBAF Record of Decision call for the design, construction, and operations 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 NBAF.

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1 prevent the introduction of the very diseases
2 being researched. The safety protocols must
3 address measures to prevent both unintentional or
4 intentional, such as bioterrorism, release of
5 diseases. It is safe to say that none of the six
6 proposed sites would want NBAF if this assurance
7 cannot be obtained.

8 Number three, the proposed site in
9 Manhattan, Kansas, does have several unique
10 aspects that make the Kansas site distinctively
11 qualified. First, the Biosecurity Research
12 Institute already located at Kansas State
13 University would complement the research to be
14 conducted at NBAF.

15 Second, locating NBAF in Manhattan,
16 Kansas, would place it within the existing Animal
17 Health Corridor that includes the headquarters of
18 more than 100 animal health companies, other major
19 research facilities, and related institutions.

20 Third, broad coalition of public and
21 private organizations supports Manhattan, Kansas,
22 as the NBAF site. One of the key members of this
23 coalition is Kansas State University. University
24 administration and scientists have earned a great
25 deal of respect and trust from the agricultural

1 cont.|21.0

2|24.4

Comment No: 2

Issue Code: 24.4

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

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1 community internationally for staying on the
2 cutting edge of research.

3 In closing, Kansas livestock producers
4 live and work and provide wholesome food using
5 state of the art techniques and technologies of
6 animal science. We understand the risk and
7 benefit.

8 Our perspective, however, could be a
9 little more unique than some. You look a little
10 closer when you own the cows. Local livestock
11 producer concerns on NBAF may be answered by
12 clearer communication of the interlocking
13 safeguards that a Level 4 facility would have.
14 Paramount to our position is that no plan should
15 proceed without adequate protection of the very
16 industry and public that it seeks to serve.

17 The 6,000 members of the Kansas Livestock
18 Association gives strong, confident, but
19 conditional support to NBAF.

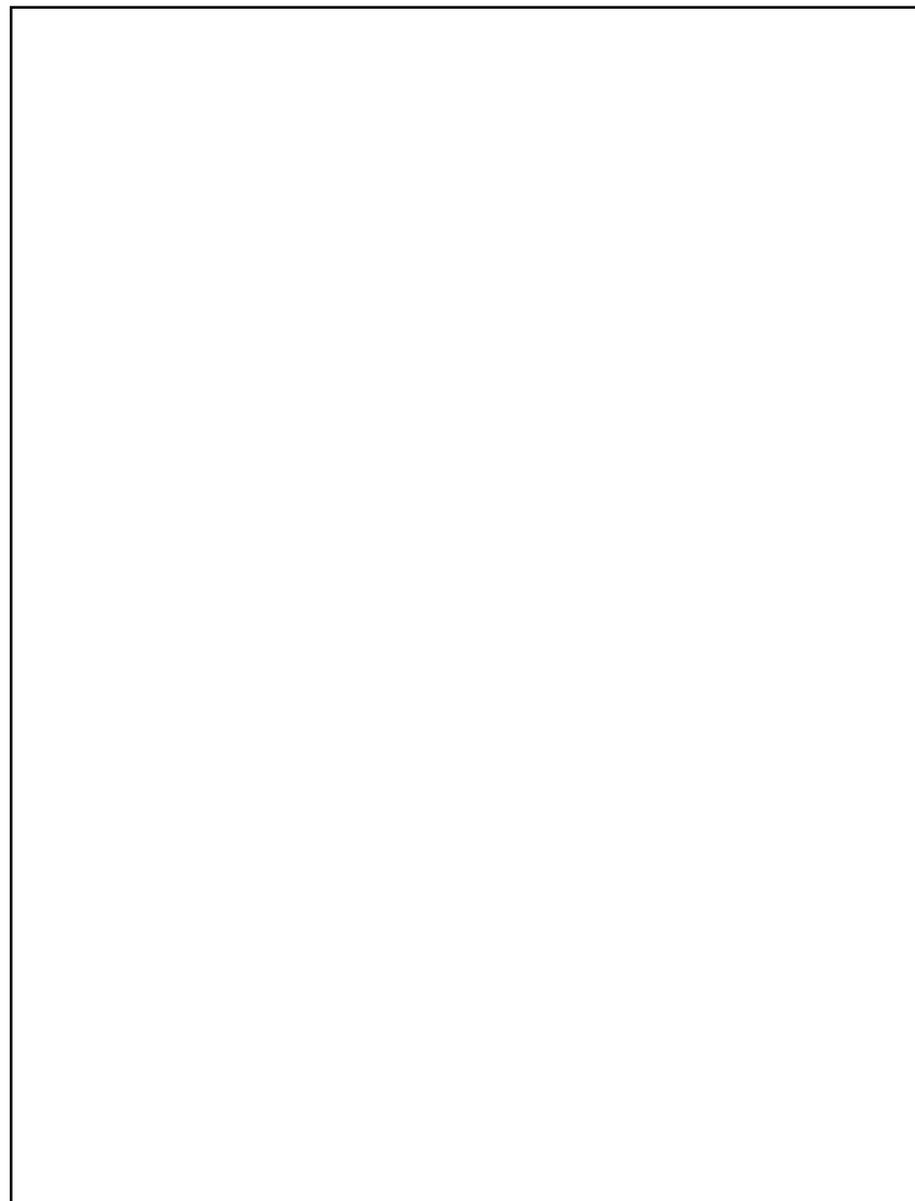
20 We appreciate the opportunity to provide
21 these comments.

22 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you very
23 much.

24 John Hook.

25 MR. HOOK: My name is John Hook, I'm

2 cont | 24.4



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1 a local Kansas cattleman, third generation
2 cattleman, and a Kansas State graduate. My
3 comments will be brief.

4 First of all, I would like to compliment
5 Paul Irvine on his thoughts. I think it sums up
6 what a lot of people like myself would like to say
7 but can't say it, but I will say this to you:
8 Where has your common sense gone?

9 Anybody in their right mind would not
10 introduce hoof and mouth disease in cattle
11 country.

12 Thank you for your time.

13 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you,
14 Mr. Hook.

15 Franklin Spikes.

16 MR. SPIKES: Good afternoon, welcome
17 to Manhattan again. Seems like you come in
18 August, along with the summer and the beginning of
19 school, and we welcome you.

20 My name is Frank Spikes. I am the
21 Immediate Past President of the Kansas State
22 University Faculty Senate, and I've been a
23 Professor of Educational Leadership here since
24 1990.

25 I'm offering comments today because I

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Comment No: 1Issue Code: 25.4

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

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1 spoke to you last August, and at the request of
2 our current Senate President, Professor Fred
3 Fairchild who's here in the audience, and I'm
4 appearing before you again today.

5 Our Senate is an organization that
6 represents about 2,500 employees here at Kansas
7 State University, our faculty members, and our --
8 what we call unclassified professional employees.

9 About this time last year I spoke
10 strongly to you about my support of having NBAF
11 located on our campus at the scoping meeting that
12 was held here in Manhattan. It is still clear, as
13 it was then, that the establishment of NBAF
14 addresses a critical national security priority:
15 The protection of animal and public health through
16 the development of sustainable integrated research
17 initiatives.

18 Here at Kansas State we too have a broad
19 based and continuing interest in, and a historical
20 commitment to ensuring animal health and safety in
21 the United States and abroad. Over the years this
22 commitment has grown. It has grown since we saw
23 you last and now results in more than 160 of our
24 faculty scientists being actively engaged in basic
25 and applied research programs which are directly

1|244

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.4

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

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1 related to the mission of NBAF.

2 Scientific exploration of emerging and
3 reemerging infectious diseases in animals,
4 livestock medicine, zoonotic disease research form
5 the basis for many of our high priority research
6 endeavors on our campus.

7 In addition, this continuing commitment
8 has resulted in the development of the BRI, much
9 of what you've heard about today and read about in
10 our submissions, the nation's most modern BL3 lab
11 for agricultural research, as well as the national
12 agricultural bio-security center.

13 Obviously, it seems to me there are many
14 environmental issues under consideration. You
15 produced a thousand page report and spoke about
16 them well today. I would like to argue, however,
17 that one of the most important of these matters
18 relates to examining and understanding the
19 intellectual and research related capacity of the
20 proposed NBAF partners. We here at Kansas State
21 have a long-term commitment to being engaged in
22 the process of understanding the issues and
23 problems facing the nation around these matters,
24 and will continue to do so in the future.

25 As I close, I'm absolutely sure that I

1 cont.|24.4

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1 never -- I learned my political lesson well, never
2 will I speak for the 1,200 or 1,300 faculty
3 colleagues that I have about any one matter, but
4 what I can say is this: Many, many of us will be
5 delighted to be involved in meaningful and
6 important research projects and partnerships that
7 NBAF will bring us, and we thank you for your
8 consideration of our application, and welcome you
9 again to Manhattan.

1 cont. | 24.4

10 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you, sir.

11 Carroll Lange is our next speaker,
12 followed by Lydia Peele, and then Scott Rusk.

13 MR. LANGE: Yes, thank you. I'm a
14 certified wildlife biologist, and I've been
15 thinking about this in a different depth. Do any
16 of you remember a little thing like the AIDS
17 virus, spread by the Rhesus monkeys? Probably
18 through the vaccine, one bottle of impure vaccine
19 probably touched off the AIDS virus in three other
20 continents. I'd rather have the medicine here,
21 than over there. Sorry. But let's do the work.
22 Thank you.

1 | 24.4

23 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you, sir.

24 Lydia Peele.

25 MS. PEELE: Good afternoon, my name

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.4

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

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1 is Lydia Peele. I'm a senior in mathematics
2 education and I'm from Olathe, Kansas. I
3 currently serve as the student body president.
4 Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you
5 today.

6 It is my privilege to be the voice of
7 K-State students, and as such, express our ongoing
8 support for Kansas State University and the State
9 of Kansas in their bid to secure the National Bio
10 and Agro-Defense Facility.

11 On March 8th, 2007, our Student Senate
12 passed Resolution 060743 expressing the support by
13 unanimous consent.

14 Similar to what has been said about the
15 unprecedented cooperation between our State's top
16 political leaders, it is also not often that every
17 member of our Student Senate with a representative
18 from every college come together to support cause.

19 Quoting the resolution, it is clear that
20 housing the NBAF at K-State would provide students
21 the opportunity for world class internships and
22 part time jobs in cutting edge agricultural
23 research.

24 The unique relationship that exists
25 between our community and K-State students can

1|24.4

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.4

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

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1 only be made stronger by our partnership with a
2 facility such as this. Our University already has
3 a history of providing the best and brightest
4 agricultural research, including the Biosecurity
5 Research Institute, and our highly respected
6 school of veterinary medicine. Our students set
7 high academic goals and are extremely motivated to
8 reach them. It only makes sense to continue this
9 history of excellence by housing NBAF right here
10 in Manhattan.

11 Students would benefit enormously, as
12 well as the world class scientists and researchers
13 that will become part of our opportunity.
14 Students are excited about the opportunity to work
15 hand in hand with such esteemed professionals and
16 welcome the unquestioned impact such work would
17 have on our undergraduates, graduates or doctoral
18 education.

19 As an integral part of the Manhattan
20 community, we also appreciate the positive
21 economic impact that will result in the influx of
22 new scientists, engineers, technology specialists
23 and construction jobs.

24 K-State students are ready. We see no
25 better place in America to house NBAF than Kansas

1 cont| 24.4

2| 15.4

1 cont| 24.4

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 15.4
DHS notes the commentor's statement.

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1 cont.|24.4

1 State University, and will be proud to respond to
2 some of our nation's most pertinent security
3 challenges. Thank you.

4 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you,
5 Miss Peele.

6 Scott Rusk. Sydney Carlin will follow
7 Mr. Rusk.

8 MR. RUSK: Hi, my name is Scott Rusk,
9 and I'm the Director of Pat Roberts Hall, home of
10 the Biosecurity Research Institute you've heard so
11 much about today in several other comments.

12 My background is 25 years of operational
13 experience in, on and around bio-containment
14 facilities, handling and managing high consequence
15 pathogens. That background has provided me with
16 an extremely in-depth, in the weeds, if you would,
17 understanding of how these facilities work. How
18 they need to work, the technology, the equipment,
19 procedures that go along with it.

20 I understand how safe they are. I
21 understand how safe they are through the training
22 and the policies and procedures that we implement
23 in those facilities. Just like the staff that we
24 have at the BRI, we have buy-in, we have
25 ownership, we have understanding and pride in what

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1 we're doing, and the efforts to assure safety and
2 security of the work that goes on in there.

3 I support the NBAF. I support that it is
4 actually sited here, and I think Manhattan makes a
5 lot of sense. Past experience, having been in
6 Ames, Iowa for 20 years, I can see and understand
7 and clearly understand the benefits of an
8 institution, infectious disease research
9 community, that it actually improves the quality
10 of the University, quality of the research that's
11 going on, and so on.

12 I'm a community member here in Manhattan,
13 been here for two years, and I have a child, 10
14 year old child. I go to work every day. I live
15 in the BRI the vast majority of my day. I'm
16 confident of the facilities. I'm confident of the
17 technologies, and the safety of the NBAF and how
18 it will be constructed. Thank you very much.

19 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you.

20 Sydney Carlin.

21 MS. CARLIN: Good afternoon. I am
22 Sydney Carlin, and I welcome you to Manhattan on
23 behalf of myself. I'm State representative for
24 this district, and also on behalf of the Kansas
25 legislature.

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 24.4

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

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1 I want to represent the entire State of
2 Kansas when I say that we want to be recognized
3 for leadership in scientific research, and we want
4 to remind our citizens of the -- we want to remind
5 you of our well known work ethic of Kansans.

6 Kansas people always give more than a full day for
7 every day of their work.

8 We understand the importance of bio and
9 agro-security. Kansas State University has been
10 seen as a national leader in large animal research
11 since the cattle drives of the 1860's that brought
12 Texas Fever into our herds. Kansas State was
13 asked to help farmers control and deal with the
14 disease and the influx of Texas cattle was stopped
15 and the Kansas cattle industry was saved.

16 Five universities with strong animal
17 science or veterinary medicine research are
18 located within a 300 mile radius.

19 With its agricultural heritage and
20 expertise, Kansans fully understands why NBAF is a
21 top priority for the nation. We need to identify
22 ways to prevent and treat diseases that affect
23 public health, animal health, and our food supply.

24 Kansas has demonstrated unprecedented
25 legislative commitment to biosciences through the

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 24.4

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

1|24.4

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1 creation of the Bioscience Authority in 2004,
2 which is investing heavily in animal health
3 research and commercialization.

4 The Kansas legislature also established a
5 new math and science academy that will accept
6 students each year, the brightest and best
7 students, for advance studies at Fort Hays State
8 University. It is our intention to provide these
9 bright young people with the highest level of
10 scientific education possible, and following that,
11 career opportunities in the scientific community.

12 I see NBAF as an exceptional career
13 opportunity for our future scientists. A career
14 where they can achieve great things, become highly
15 respected and renowned, while enjoying the quality
16 of life that we know in Kansas. With NBAF as a
17 Kansas facility creating job opportunities for
18 them and keeping our young scientists in Kansas
19 can become a reality.

20 The Kansas legislature has made other
21 commitments to NBAF as well, such as the bonding
22 authority for \$100 million dollars for capital
23 improvement projects and for infrastructure
24 related projects, and we sent a resolution to
25 President Bush, members of his cabinets, and the

1|24.4
cont.

2|8.4

Comment No: 2

Issue Code: 8.4

DHS notes the information provided by the commentor

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1 Kansas congressional delegation.

2 The State of Kansas and the community of
3 Manhattan offer a strong agricultural heritage of
4 a dedicated and well trained work force, and
5 leadership that is united and unprecedented for
6 this project. We have the State, the
7 technological resources and the central location
8 for the new NBAF. Thank you very much.

9 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you.

10 Wayne Bailie, to be followed by Brandy
11 Carter and then Tom Hawk.

12 Is Wayne here?

13 What we'd like to do then is I'll keep an
14 eye out if a gentleman comes back in the room.

15 At this point in time, we'll proceed with
16 Miss Carter.

17 MS. CARTER: Thank you, my name is
18 Brandy Carter. I have the privilege of serving as
19 the CEO of the Kansas Cattlemen's Association.
20 You've heard many people here today, many
21 professionals, many from the academia departments,
22 but the Kansas Cattlemen's Association is a
23 producer's group. We try to keep the producers
24 sustainable, we keep the rural communities alive
25 here in Kansas.

1 cont.|24.4

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1 The Kansas Cattlemen's Association does
 2 support a National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility,
 3 and the organization strongly promotes insular
 4 biosecurity measures to prevent the release of
 5 animal disease agents in the environment. We do
 6 understand that no matter where this facility will
 7 be built, it would be built with the most secure
 8 facility possible, as current technology allows.

9 However, as heard here today, we
 10 understand that producers have concerns, and we
 11 share those concerns regarding the proposed
 12 Manhattan site. The proximity to the livestock
 13 industry is critical, and unfortunately, it can be
 14 critical in a negative impact.

15 Evaluating three different scenarios,
 16 researchers here at the Kansas State University
 17 have found that a greater number of animals
 18 infected in the operation with Foot and Mouth
 19 Disease had longer outbreaks and would last longer
 20 and would spread more likely.

21 Kansas has consistently been a top three
 22 cattle producing, cattle holding state, in the
 23 country. We have 1.5 million calves; we market
 24 5.5 million head of fed cattle; and we slaughter
 25 7.5 million head every year.

1|25.4

2|21.4

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 25.4

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

Comment No: 2Issue Code: 21.4

DHS notes the commentor's concern that the impact from a release of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is underestimated in the NBAF EIS. Specifically, it is the commentor's contention that the duration of a FMD outbreak would last longer than reported in the EIS cited study thereby significantly increasing the impacts associated with the release. 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. 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. As set out in Section 3.14.3.4 of the NBAF EIS, employees and contractors will be screened prior to employment or engagement and monitored while working, among other security measures. In addition, oversight of NBAF operations, as described in 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 APHIS Animal Research Policy and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. While the risk of an accidental release of a pathogen is extremely low, the economic effect would be significant for all sites. 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 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 foreign bans on U.S. livestock products. Should the NBAF Record of Decision call for the design, construction, and operations of the NBAF at the Manhattan Campus Site, site specific protocols would then be developed in coordination with local emergency response agencies and would consider the diversity and density of populations residing within the local area, to include agricultural livestock. DHS would have site-specific standard operating procedures and emergency response plans in place prior to the initiation of research activities at the proposed NBAF. DHS's site selection process is described in detail in Section 2.3.1 of the NBAF EIS.

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3|15.4

1 When we talk about the economic impact,
 2 we're talking about dollars, but we are not
 3 looking at consumer confidence as it relates to
 4 hitting the heart of cattle country. We need to
 5 look at food safety, again, in the heart of cattle
 6 country.

7 The emotional impact that this will have,
 8 and not just the economic impact that this is
 9 going to have, on the producers in the area. And
 10 we also have to look about how this is going to be
 11 sustainable for those producers. Just because you
 12 reimburse them for money does not mean they do not
 13 have another impact and losing their livelihood as
 14 producers, as well as in the cattle industry.

4|50

15 The Kansas Cattlemen's Association
 16 believes that the building of a new facility in
 17 the area with natural barriers has more of an
 18 advantage than that in proximity of farms and
 19 ranches on the mainland. We hope you will take
 20 that into consideration when you evaluate this
 21 proposal for the National Bio and Agro-Defense
 22 Facility.

23 We appreciate you hearing our voices, and
 24 as producers, we hope you take our concerns
 25 genuinely. Thank you.

Comment No: 3 Issue Code: 15.4

DHS notes the commentor's concern. The potential effects to livestock-related industries is discussed in Section 3.10.9 and Appendix D of the NBAF EIS. The major economic effect from an accidental release of a pathogen would be a ban on all U.S. livestock products until the country was determined to be disease-free. Other economic impacts were considered negligible in comparison to the foreign trade ban impacts.

Comment No: 4 Issue Code: 5.0

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the five mainland site alternatives and preference for a site with natural barriers.

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1 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you,
2 Miss Carter.

3 Tom Hawk.

4 MR. HAWK: Thank you. I am a State
5 Representative from Manhattan, Tom Hawk. I
6 represent west Manhattan and the rural parts of
7 Riley County, and I would like to welcome you as
8 many have before, to our town, which I think is
9 the friendliest, hardest working city in America,
10 and I think we have that based for many of the
11 things you heard here today from all the speakers.

12 I want to speak particularly from my role
13 as a legislator and the legislature's support for
14 this proposal. I also want to talk about my
15 personal experience in touring the BRI facility,
16 and also our response to the community to the
17 tornado that was in June.

18 Our legislature has a very strong,
19 bipartisan effort made by passing five total
20 pieces of legislature, three in 2007 and two in
21 2008, that cover the range that other speakers
22 have talked about. But I think it shows a
23 unanimous support on three of those bills --
24 actually, four of them. One of them an
25 overwhelming majority of 114 votes on certainly

¶24.4

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.4

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

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1 the money part of it, which we're always a little
2 more split when it comes to the money issues. But
3 the interest of our State, which has been said by
4 many speakers before, has been in this area.

5 President Wefald made testimony to
6 Congress in 1999 on the biological threat to one
7 of those congressional committees on emerging
8 threats, and subcommittee there. It showed that
9 we had an advanced start, and other speakers have
10 spoken about the history of all of the research
11 things that have been done.

12 I'm a K-State graduate and I'm proud of
13 my University's work and foresight in this
14 particular area and particularly in protecting our
15 food supply.

16 We have, also, strong commitments as a
17 State when we have other major things that we need
18 to address. We have the BRAC' situation with Fort
19 Riley particularly in our area. Lieutenant
20 Governor Moore and Governor Sebelius formed a task
21 force and we had a very strong, again, bipartisan
22 effort, in making sure that this community was
23 friendly, that we were prepared to keep Fort Riley
24 here, and handle the growth that we have had since
25 then.

1 cont.|24.4

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1 I also think getting the BRI facility
2 here was a major coup and a major thoughtful
3 initiative on our part. I had a chance to make
4 two extensive tours of the facility. Have been in
5 the facility four times. Most recently in May we
6 had a tour with the Secretary of Health and
7 Environment, Rod Bremby, showing him what the
8 facility was, and that was great.

9 The other big thing that I think we did,
10 and it shows the character of our community, when
11 we had that June 11th tornado, it passed a quarter
12 mile from the facility, but I think you can see
13 the effort of both this community and the K-State
14 faculty, we didn't miss a beat. People were on
15 the job as soon as the tornado passed.

16 It turned out the BRI facility worked
17 with the power supply just as it was supposed to.
18 We had a freshman orientation coming up. They got
19 in, we got that clean up going, and we had that
20 occurring on schedule. That's the kind of work
21 ethic that we have in Manhattan and the kind of
22 commitment that we have.

23 I appreciate your consideration for us as
24 a site. I can't imagine a better place that would
25 work harder to make this facility successful in

1 cont.|24.4

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1 our country. Thank you.

2 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you,

3 Mr. Hawk.

4 Steven Anderson is our next speaker,
5 followed by Gary Anderson, and then followed by
6 Marty Vanier.

7 MR. ANDERSON: I'm Steven Anderson.
8 I'm just an old farmer and rancher from over by
9 Alma, Kansas, and I lack the big tongue and the
10 fat paycheck that most of the proponents of this
11 proposition have, but I do have seven generations
12 of family roots that are buried in beautiful,
13 scenic Flint Hills of Wabaunsee County, Kansas,
14 and I'm here today to oppose this proposition
15 because I don't think that intelligence is
16 measured by the length of your tongue or the
17 breath of your mouth.

18 I think that human brains are capable of
19 reason, and plain old common sense should tell us
20 that none of the five locations, none of them are
21 safe for this horrifically dangerous research
22 being conducted at a Level 4 facility.

23 This is not K-State versus four or five
24 other locations, winner take all. This is safety
25 versus insanity. Plum Island has over 800 acres

1|25.4

2|5.0

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 25.4

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

Comment No: 2Issue Code: 5.0

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

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3|24.1

1 and new facilities, if necessary and needed,
2 should be constructed at that safe location.

3 You know, I'm just incredulous that a
4 community that ostensibly takes pride in providing
5 sound science would so nonchalantly ignore the
6 most sound of all sound science, and that's
7 safety.

8 To further compound the intellectual
9 dishonesty, Kansas elected representation in
10 Washington, D.C. has consistently voted in favor
11 of every job exported free trade agreement and now
12 they hypocritically tout this bio lab as necessary
13 to provide Kansas jobs and protect consumers.

14 Does it make sense to fight a trillion
15 dollar war on terror thousands of miles from the
16 United States, and then plant a prime terrorist
17 target in the center of our heartland?

4|21.4

18 You know, a former world bank president
19 once suggested that we move all of our most toxic
20 industries to third world nations. You know, if
21 we can outsource most of our manufactured
22 necessities of life, why not outsource this

5|5.0

23 horrific research, devastating to our economy and
24 all U.S. human life, when the inevitable accident
25 occurs?

Comment No: 3Issue Code: 24.1

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Plum Island Site Alternative.

Comment No: 4Issue Code: 21.4

DHS notes the commentor's concern that the NBAF would be a prime terrorist target. Section 3.14 of the NBAF EIS addresses accident scenarios, including an employee initiated event. A separate Threat and Risk Assessment (designated as For Official Use Only)(TRA) was developed outside of the EIS process in accordance with the requirements stipulated in federal regulations. The purpose of the TRA was to identify potential vulnerabilities and weaknesses associated with the NBAF and would be used to recommend the most prudent measures to establish a reasonable level of risk for the security of operations of the NBAF and public safety. Because of the importance of the NBAF mission and the associated work with potential high-biocontainment pathogens, critical information related to the potential for adverse consequences as a result of intentional acts has been incorporated into the NEPA process.

Comment No: 5Issue Code: 5.0

DHS notes the commentor's suggestion. However, as described in NBAF EIS Chapter 1, the purpose and need for the proposed action encompasses the need for integrated, BSL-4 laboratories in the United States necessary to conduct research and develop countermeasures for zoonotic and foreign animal diseases.

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6|20 1 How can I -- finally, how can I trust a
2 government that can't correctly identify
3 salmonella infected food?
4 How can I trust a government that
5 provides unsafe, contaminated housing for
6 hurricane victims?
7 And I'm going to redirect your attention
8 to this book, where on Page 3-103, and I quote:
9 Manhattan, Kansas is 604 miles west of Topeka. If
7|26.0 10 they can't correctly -- our government and
11 Homeland Security can't correctly identify the
12 site of this facility, how in the hell can I
13 believe the other 950 pages in this book to be
14 accurate?
15 We know the inevitable accident happens
2 cont|5.0 16 and common sense should tell us, put it in a safe
17 location. Thank you for this opportunity.
18 MODERATOR COGHILL: Gary Anderson.
19 MR. ANDERSON: Good afternoon, I'm
20 Gary Anderson, and I'm a veterinarian, Professor
21 in the Department of Diagnostic Medicine and
22 Pathobiology. I'm also the Director of the Kansas
23 State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, and I'm
1|24.4 24 here to speak to you about value added aspects of
25 locating an NBAF at K-State, particularly in

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.4

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

Comment No: 6Issue Code: 2.0

DHS notes the commentor's lack of trust in the US government.

Comment No: 7Issue Code: 26.0

DHS acknowledges the typographical error in Section 3.6.4.1 identified by the commentor. The statement has been corrected and now reads "Manhattan is 64 miles west of Topeka."

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1 regard to research, animal diagnostics, and
2 training capabilities.

3 Research, diagnostic test development,
4 and training that will take place in the NBAF
5 would be substantially enhanced by having the
6 facility associated with K-State. I am confident
7 that we would not only be a better University by
8 partnering with our federal scientists assigned to
9 the NBAF, but that K-State scientists would
10 greatly assist NBAF colleagues and enhance their
11 productivity as well.

12 An example of the partnering that would
13 occur might be demonstrated by a very recent
14 cooperative project undertaken by Kansas State,
15 the USDA Veterinary Services Laboratory, and the
16 Plum Island Animal Disease Center. The project
17 was just completed last week and it included
18 scientists from the three entities who together
19 developed and validated high input diagnostic
20 technology and then deployed that technology and
21 capability to 39 other diagnostic labs across the
22 nation over the past three months. All
23 laboratories now trained are in the National
24 Animal Health Laboratory Network and are capable
25 of detecting foreign animal diseases.

1 cont. | 24.4

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1 Specifically, Foot and Mouth Disease, "high path"
2 Avian Influenza and Classical Swine Fever.

3 The deployment and training actually took
4 place at Kansas State in our BRI. This project
5 has been integral to increasing the capabilities
6 of the NAHLN, or the National Animal Health
7 Laboratory Network, as well as expanding our
8 surveillance and diagnostic capacity as a nation.
9 This is just one example of the type of partnering
10 and program expansion that would be facilitated by
11 having the NBAF located in Manhattan.

12 It would be a tremendous advantage to
13 leverage resources that will enhance research and
14 training programs, addressing food safety,
15 infectious disease research, and diagnostics, as
16 well as national security.

17 Tremendous value will be added to NBAF
18 through co-location at K-State and access to our
19 educational pipeline and workforce development
20 initiatives. The BRI and NABC are unique
21 educational aspects capable of offering targeted
22 biosafety and bio-containment training programs
23 that not only veterinarians, scientists, lab
24 workers, and biosafety officers will use, but also
25 for facility support personnel, first responders

1 cont.|24.4

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1 and law enforcement.

2 I will hand in the rest of my remarks,
3 but I thank you for the opportunity and your time
4 to speak today. Thanks.

5 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you very
6 much.

7 Marty Vanier.

8 MS. VANIER: Good afternoon, and
9 thank you for the opportunity to present at this
10 meeting. I'm Marty Vanier. I'm the Director of
11 Operations for the National Agricultural
12 Biosecurity Center here at K-State.

13 NABC was created in 1999 as an extension
14 of K-State's significant history and expertise in
15 food safety, high consequence infectious animal
16 and zoonotic diseases, and security research,
17 education, and outreach. Our mission is to
18 coordinate academic, agricultural biosecurity
19 activities with federal, state and local agencies
20 and the public health community. We facilitate
21 strategies for prevention and rapid response to
22 agricultural and food threats.

23 We strongly support the need for the
24 National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility given the
25 potentially devastating political, social and

1|1.0

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 1.0

DHS notes the commentor's support for the NBAF.

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1 economic affects of exotic animal or zoonotic
2 diseases. The U.S. must build and operate a
3 modern, secure, high containment laboratory, with
4 the capabilities to address these threats.

5 The background of the Draft EIS clearly
6 lays out the importance of agriculture and the
7 impact to the nation of the introduction of any of
8 a number of high consequence foreign animal
9 diseases.

10 Now while it may not be within the
11 purview or the scope of this EIS, it is important
12 to recognize the threat risk mitigating effect of
13 foreign animal disease response plans developed by
14 local, state and federal officials. The State of
15 Kansas has invested considerable time and effort
16 in developing a very detailed, active and robust
17 animal disease response plan.

18 As you heard a little earlier from George
19 Teagarden, in the event of any potential or
20 documented release, the Kansas Livestock
21 Commissioner and Kansas Emergency Management would
22 take the steps deemed appropriate for the
23 situation. NABC has worked with all levels of
24 government to develop, exercise and assess
25 response plans. In the last six years, we've been

2| 15.4

Comment No: 2Issue Code: 15.4

DHS notes commentor's opinioin. Risk mitigation is discussed Section 3.15 of the NBAF EIS.

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1 involved in 13 exercises ranging in topics from
2 radiological contamination of the water supply, to
3 a national outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease, and
4 a description of all of these exercises is
5 attached to my written comments.

6 NABC personnel have also served on the
7 National Academy of Science, Transportation,
8 Research Board Project Panel that directed the
9 creation of "A Guide to Emergency Quarantine and
10 Isolation Control of the Roads in Rural Areas,"
11 and we participated in the FEMA steering committee
12 for the target capability list, implementation
13 project, for animal disease emergencies.

14 The possibility that agricultural or
15 public resources will be impacted by the
16 introduction of a foreign animal disease is a
17 reality that K-State's NABC has been facing head
18 on for years. We've been sought out and are
19 considered by many to be a valuable resource.
20 This resource provides a significant mitigation
21 step against the impact of a release at the NBAF.
22 Thanks for your attention.

23 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you.

24 Dale Askey is next.

25 MR. ASKEY: My name is Dale Askey.

2 cont. | 15.4

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1 I'm a faculty member here at Kansas State.
 2 Government has a history of underestimating or
 3 trivializing risks. For example, the Rocky
 4 Mountain Arsenal and Yucca Flats as a prime
 5 example, and I would ask the EIS not perpetrate
 6 that trend. Reading the EIS, it's clear that the
 7 University is downplaying the tornado that passed
 8 by the BRI that was just mentioned was a weak F1
 9 that had lifted off the ground. It's a question
 10 of whether any facility can withstand an F4 or F5
 11 tornado.

1|21.4

12 People make mistakes, corners get cut,
 13 accidents happened. NBAF is a new type of
 14 facility for BSL for large animals and it will be
 15 a learning by doing experience. When things go
 16 wrong with this facility, as they will, who will
 17 deal with it?

2|21.4

18 The Manhattan fire department?
 19 FEMA?

20 It would take hours, if not days for
 21 sophisticated systems to arrive. Our local
 22 hospital, due to its size and scope, is incapable
 23 of dealing with complex medical issues and people
 24 will have no choice but to go else for treatment.
 25 I have limited confidence in the ability to cope

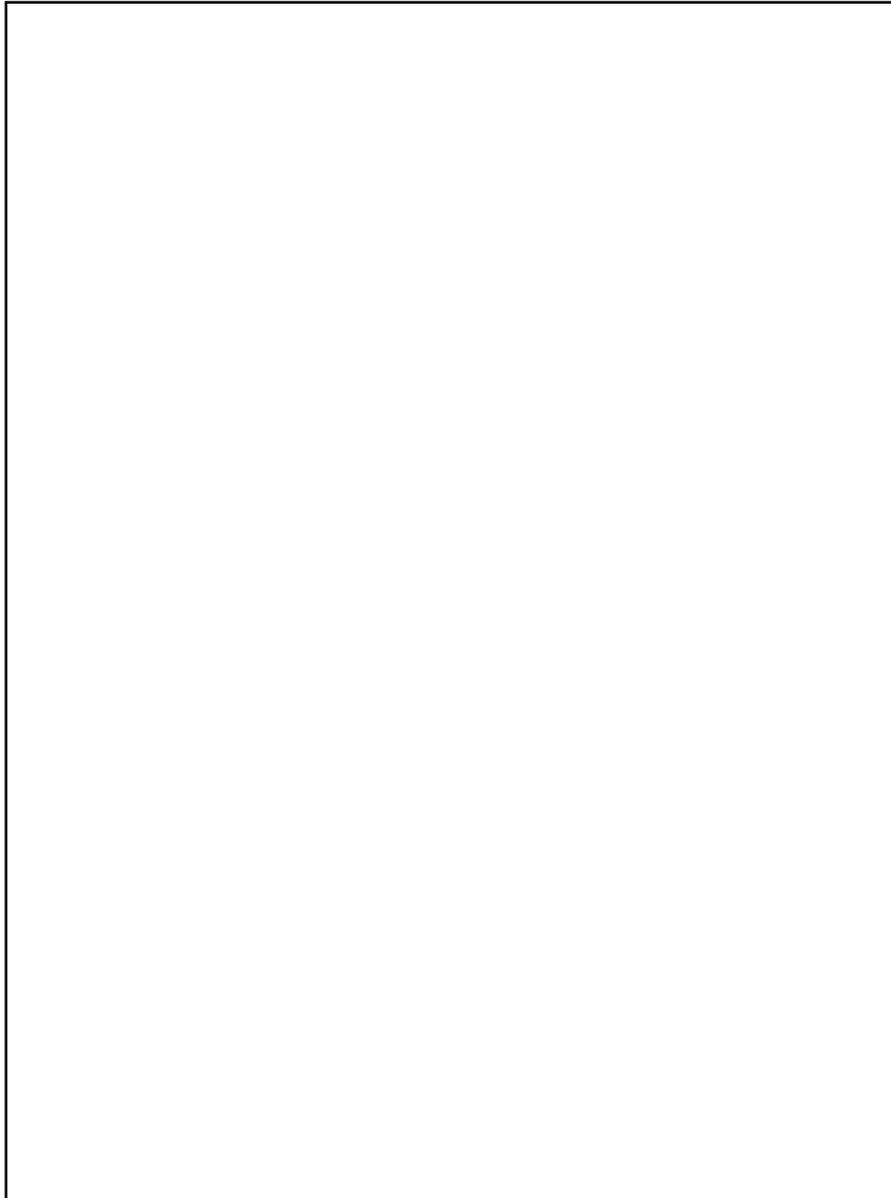
3|15.4

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 21.4

DHS notes the commenter's concern regarding potential tornado impacts to the NBAF. The NBAF would not be designed to withstand a direct hit from an F4 or an F5 tornado. The NBAF would be designed and built to withstand the normal meteorological conditions that are present within the geographic area of the selected site (hurricanes, tornados, etc.). Given the nature of the facility, more stringent building codes are applied to the NBAF than are used for homes and most businesses, regardless of which NBAF site is chosen. The building would be built to withstand wind pressures up to 170% of the winds which are expected to occur locally within a period of 50 years. This means the building's structural system could resist a wind speed that is expected to occur, on the average, only once in a 500 year period. In the unlikely event that a 500-year wind storm strikes the facility, the interior BSL-3Ag and BSL-4 spaces would be expected to withstand a 200 mph wind load (commonly determined to be an F3 tornado). If the NBAF took a direct hit from an F3 tornado, the exterior walls and roofing of the building would likely fail first. This breach in the exterior skin would cause a dramatic increase in internal pressures leading to further failure of the building's interior and exterior walls. However, the loss of these architectural wall components should actually decrease the overall wind loading applied to the building, and diminish the possibility of damage to the building's primary structural system. Since the walls of the BSL-3Ag and BSL-4 spaces would be reinforced cast-in-place concrete, those inner walls would be expected to withstand the tornado.

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 21.4

DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding the potential consequences from a NBAF accident as the result of human error. As described in Section 2.2.2.1 of the NBAF EIS, all laboratory staff would receive thorough pre-operational training, as well as ongoing training, in the handling of hazardous infectious agents, understanding biocontainment functions of standard and special practices for each biosafety level, and understanding biocontainment equipment and laboratory characteristics. Training and inherent biocontainment safeguards reduce the likelihood of a release. 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, including external events such as a terrorist attack. 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. Oversight of NBAF operations, as described in 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 APHIS Animal Research Policy and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.



Comment No: 3 Issue Code: 15.4
DHS notes the commentor's concern. DHS will offer coordination and training to local medical personnel regarding the effects of pathogens to be studied at the NBAF. Emergency management plans will also include training for local law enforcement, health care, and fire and rescue personnel.

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3 cont. | 15.4

1 with the issues that will arise with NBAF. This
2 aspect should definitely be addressed in the EIS.

3 For many of these reasons and for others,

4 | 25.4

4 I'm opposed to the location of the NBAF in
5 Manhattan.

6 Thank you for your patience and fortitude
7 for sitting through these six sessions.

8 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you, Dale.

9 Bruce Snead.

10 MR. SNEAD: I'm Bruce Snead,
11 Manhattan City Commissioner, former mayor, and
12 also member of the Kansas NBAF task force. I've
13 been involved in this issue since its public
14 conception in our community. My primary
15 responsibility is to serve and represent the
16 entire 50,000 plus citizens of Manhattan as a four
17 term city commissioner and consider what is in the
18 best long-term interest of our people and this
19 place we call home.

20 The impacts and prospects of NBAF and all
21 the dimensions addressed by the Draft EIS are
22 issues which are of highest importance for me and
23 our community. I spoke a year ago at the scoping
24 meeting and raised questions and issues that I
25 wanted addressed in the EIS. I have reviewed the

Comment No: 4Issue Code: 25.4

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

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1 Draft EIS in its entirety for the Manhattan areas
2 and the answers to the issues and questions I
3 raised I found reasonable and comprehensive
4 responses addressing my concerns.

5 I've monitored public comment and opinion
6 from all available resources throughout the NBAF
7 project process, including the city wide election
8 in 2007, public meetings last year, and media
9 coverage here and across the State.

10 I have colleagues and friends here at the
11 University who I've spoken with about this issue,
12 those who are concerned are opposed to NBAF and
13 those who are in support of NBAF being located
14 here.

15 I've listened carefully to local
16 expertise and those who would be on the front
17 lines for our community in their knowledge and
18 responsibility of NBAF related issues and
19 operations. I have heard from those who believe
20 the risks for NBAF here are too great. I've heard
21 from those who believe this is the best place for
22 many different reasons and who find the risks
23 acceptable.

24 Overall, our community is very strongly
25 in support of NBAF being built here and as I

124.4

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.4

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

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1 cont| 24.4

1 consider all the aspects associated with this
2 decision, it is my personal belief that the
3 national priority for addressing threats to our
4 animal agriculture and public health that NBAF is
5 intended to serve, will best be accomplished by
6 setting the facility here in Manhattan, Kansas, at
7 Kansas State University. This position is
8 reinforced by the unprecedented level of local,
9 regional and statewide collaboration and
10 initiative that has been demonstrated throughout
11 this process. Thank you.

12 MS. COGHILL: Thank you, Mr. Snead.

13 Our next three speakers, Dave MacFarland,
14 Bill Chornyak, and Colonel Eric Peck.

1| 26.0

15 MR. MACFARLAND: There are two
16 important errors in Table 2.5.1-2, comparison of
17 environmental effects in Chapter 2, Page 39. This
18 is the summary comparison and it does not match
19 the facts that are elsewhere in the document, and
20 because summaries are often what get used for
21 final decision making, these errors must be
22 corrected.

23 In the next to the last paragraph, about
24 the risk of an accidental release of a pathogen,
25 the second sentence declares that the cattle and

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 26.0

DHS notes the information and errors cited in the DEIS. Errors will be corrected in the Final EIS.

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1 pork industries in southwestern Kansas and the
 2 area around the site are relatively small,
 3 resulting in less potential economic loss from an
 4 extreme Foot and Mouth Disease related event than
 5 had been previously described, unquote.

6 This rosy summary is in direct contrast
 7 to the text in Appendix D, Page 15, which states
 8 that there's a livestock population of 542,547 in
 9 the counties surrounding Manhattan, Kansas, which
 10 is by far the highest of any of the proposed
 11 sites.

12 With nuclear waste, the government has
 13 identified a storage site like Yucca Mountain in
 14 Nevada which provides some measure of safety
 15 because it's many miles from a major population
 16 center. But if the NBAF is cited in Manhattan,
 17 you'll be doing just the opposite. You'll be
 18 putting a facility in, by far, the highest
 19 concentration of livestock animals of any of the
 20 proposed sites. Any release of pathogens into the
 21 environment here is likely to have a much greater
 22 multiplying effect than at any of the other sites.

23 For the safety of the livestock industry,
 24 the NBAF should be located in a site that's not in
 25 the middle of a site, like Plum Island.

1 cont. | 26.0

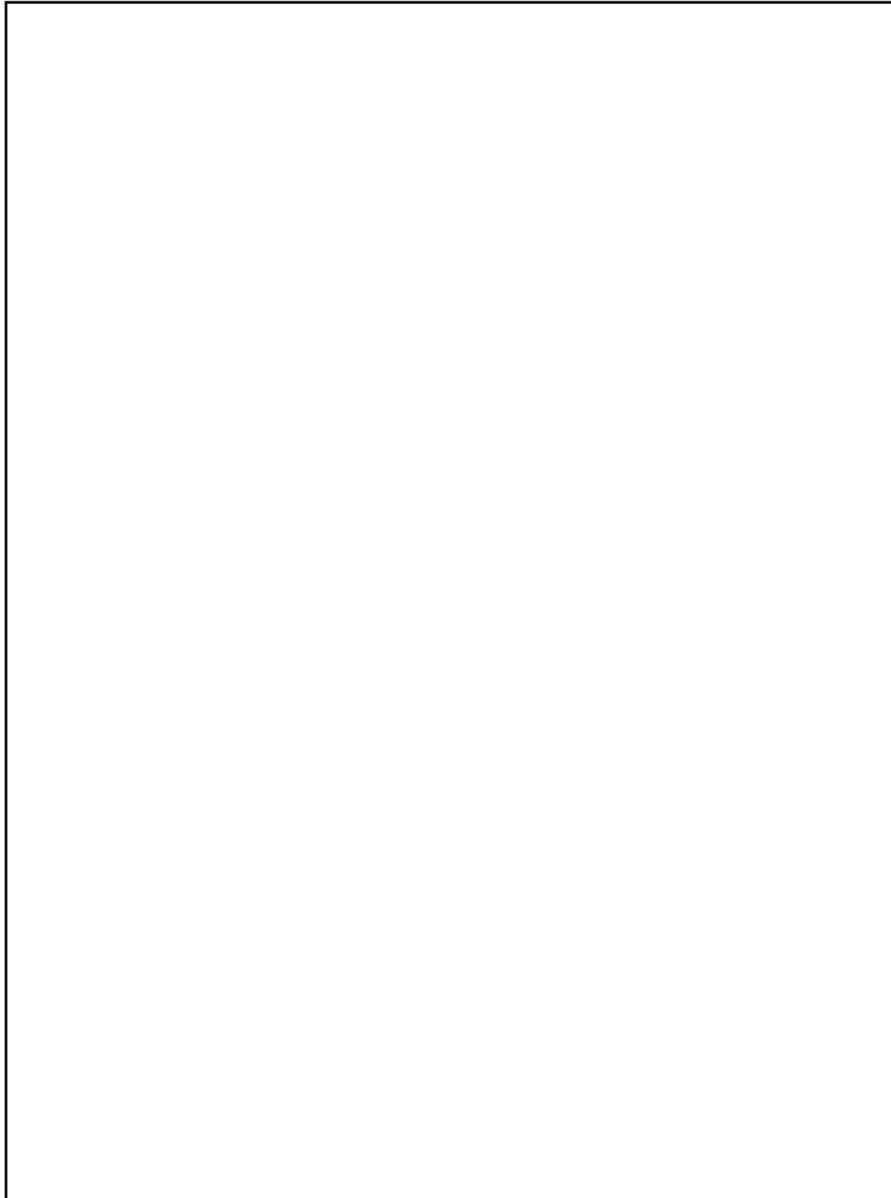
2 | 21.4

3 | 5.0
4 | 24.1Comment No: 2Issue Code: 21.4

DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding the impact from a release of a pathogen, such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), from the NBAF operation at the Manhattan Campus site. 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. 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. As set out in Section 3.14.3.4 of the NBAF EIS, employees and contractors will be screened prior to employment or engagement and monitored while working, among other security measures. In addition, oversight of NBAF operations, as described in 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 APHIS Animal Research Policy and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. While the risk of an accidental release of a pathogen is extremely low, the economic effect would be significant for all sites. Section 3.14 and Appendix E of the NBAF EIS investigate the chances of a variety of accidents that could occur with the proposed NBAF and consequences of potential accidents, DHS cannot guarantee that the NBAF would never experience an accident. However, the risk of an accidental release of a pathogen from the NBAF is extremely low. The economic impact of an accidental release, including the impact on the livestock-related industries, is presented in Section 3.10.9 and Appendix D of the NBAF EIS. The major economic effect from an accidental release of a pathogen would be a potential ban on all U.S. livestock products until the country was determined to be disease-free. Should the NBAF Record of Decision call for the design, construction, and operations of the NBAF at the Manhattan Campus Site, site specific protocols would then be developed in coordination with local emergency response agencies and would consider the diversity and density of populations residing within the local area, to include agricultural livestock. DHS would have site-specific standard operating procedures and emergency response plans in place prior to the initiation of research activities at the proposed NBAF. Emergency response plans will include the current USDA emergency response plan for foot and mouth disease (FMD) which includes compensation for livestock losses.

Comment No: 3Issue Code: 5.0

DHS notes the commentor's concern. 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 potential accidents, and mitigative measures to prevent potential foreign animal disease outbreaks is included in Section 3.14. The conclusions expressed in Section 3.14 show that even though Plum Island has a lower potential impact in case of a release, the probability of a release is low at all sites.

Comment No: 4 Issue Code: 24.1

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Manhattan Campus Site Alternative in favor of the Plum Island Site Alternative.

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5|26.0

1 The other error is in the next to the
 2 last sentence in the paragraph. It says, the
 3 climate at the site would not be hospitable to
 4 mosquitos species to breed, and the likelihood
 5 that the Rift Valley Fever would establish a
 6 sustainable reservoir is low.

7 The climate at my house is definitely
 8 hospitable to breeding mosquitos species every
 9 spring and summer. The statement is just plain
 10 false.

11 Throughout the document, there are
 12 assurances that the accidental release of
 13 pathogens would be extremely low. The containment
 14 systems are built with fail safe redundancies,
 15 fine, but to take those severe climatic risks in
 16 Riley County that's in Chapter 3, Page 69, does
 17 not list the F4 tornado that's been mentioned here
 18 because this document was submitted prior to that
 19 event.

6|21.4

20 In Chapter 3, on Page 426, in the
 21 paragraph about Natural Phenomena Accidents, the
 22 recommendation is to increase the design basis so
 23 NBAF can withstand winds from 90 miles per hour to
 24 119-miles per hour. The tornado that passed
 25 through here last month had wind speeds between

Comment No: 5Issue Code: 26.0

DHS notes the information and errors cited in the DEIS. Errors will be corrected in the Final EIS.

Comment No: 6Issue Code: 21.4

DHS notes the commenter's concern regarding potential tornado impacts to the NBAF. The NBAF would be designed and built to withstand the normal meteorological conditions that are present within the geographic area of the selected site (hurricanes, tornados, etc.). Given the nature of the facility, more stringent building codes are applied to the NBAF than are used for homes and most businesses, regardless of which NBAF site is chosen. The building would be built to withstand wind pressures up to 170% of the winds which are expected to occur locally within a period of 50 years. This means the building's structural system could resist a wind speed that is expected to occur, on the average, only once in a 500 year period. In the unlikely event that a 500-year wind storm strikes the facility, the interior BSL-3Ag and BSL-4 spaces would be expected to withstand a 200 mph wind load (commonly determined to be an F3 tornado). If the NBAF took a direct hit from an F3 tornado, the exterior walls and roofing of the building would likely fail first. This breach in the exterior skin would cause a dramatic increase in internal pressures leading to further failure of the building's interior and exterior walls. However, the loss of these architectural wall components should actually decrease the overall wind loading applied to the building, and diminish the possibility of damage to the building's primary structural system. Since the walls of the BSL-3Ag and BSL-4 spaces would be reinforced cast-in-place concrete, those inner walls would be expected to withstand the tornado.

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1 166 and 200-miles per hour.

2 Even at those speeds, we have no local
3 human fatalities because people went to their
4 basements. When quite a few came back up, there
5 was nothing left on the ground floor. To me, that
6 says the only safe way to build an NBAF in
7 Manhattan is to put all of it under ground.

8 The June 11 tornado smashed hundreds of
9 roofs and walls and blew tens of thousands of
10 pieces of yellow fiber insulation like this all
11 over our town. Suppose these were pathogens?

12 I say if you aren't going to put NBAF
13 entirely underground, you shouldn't build it here.
14 Thank you.

15 MODERATOR COGHILL: Bill Chornyak.

16 COLONEL PECK: I'm going to speak on
17 behalf of Mr. Chornyak. Actually, I'm Colonel
18 Eric Peck, I'm here speaking on behalf of Major
19 General Todd Bunting, who is the commander of the
20 Army and Air National Guard, and the Director of
21 Kansas Emergency Management, and the Director of
22 Kansas Homeland Security who supports the NBAF
23 location here in Kansas, and the capabilities it
24 presents for us to collaborate on planning,
25 preparing, mitigating and responding to foreign

7|5.4

1|24.4

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.4

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

Comment No: 7Issue Code: 5.4

As stated in Section 2.4.3, one of the alternatives that was considered was constructing the NBAF under a mountain, which would be similar in concept to putting the facility under ground. This alternative was considered impractical and cost prohibitive, although some of the NBAF structure could be constructed under ground. The determination of specific construction requirements would be determined in the final design phase.

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1 animal disease and zoonotical type incidents.

2 Thank you.

3 MODERATOR COGHILL: Thank you, sir.

4 I'd like to double check, there was a
5 gentleman that we called earlier, wanted to see if
6 he was here and would still like to speak, and
7 that's Mr. Wayne Bailie, I believe is the last
8 name. Is the gentleman here?

9 At this point in time, this concludes the
10 formal comment process of this evening -- this
11 afternoon. I'd like to personally thank everyone
12 for the level of respect that was shown to one
13 another so everyone had a chance to speak.

14 At this point in time, I'd like to turn
15 it back over to Jamie.

16 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Catherine.

17 I want to thank you again for your
18 comments, taking time out of your busy schedule to
19 attend this meeting, providing input to us to help
20 us ensure the EIS factors are addressed, and
21 helping us make the final decision whether or not
22 to build the NBAF, and if so, where.

23 If you think of a comment later, you can
24 again submit it by August 25th, 2008, for it to be
25 addressed to and responded to in the final EIS, so

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1 thank you again so much for your time. Appreciate
2 everyone's participation, and with that, we'll
3 adjourn the meeting. Thank you.
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Page 152

1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3

4 STATE OF KANSAS)

5 SALINE COUNTY) ss:

6

7

8 I, Donna M. Lytle, a Certified

9 Shorthand Reporter within and for the State of

10 Kansas, certify that the foregoing is a full and

11 correct transcript of all of the oral evidence and

12 oral proceedings had in this matter at the

13 aforementioned time and place.

14 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto

15 set my hand and official seal at Salina, Saline

16 County, Kansas this _____ day of _____,

17 2008.

18

19

20

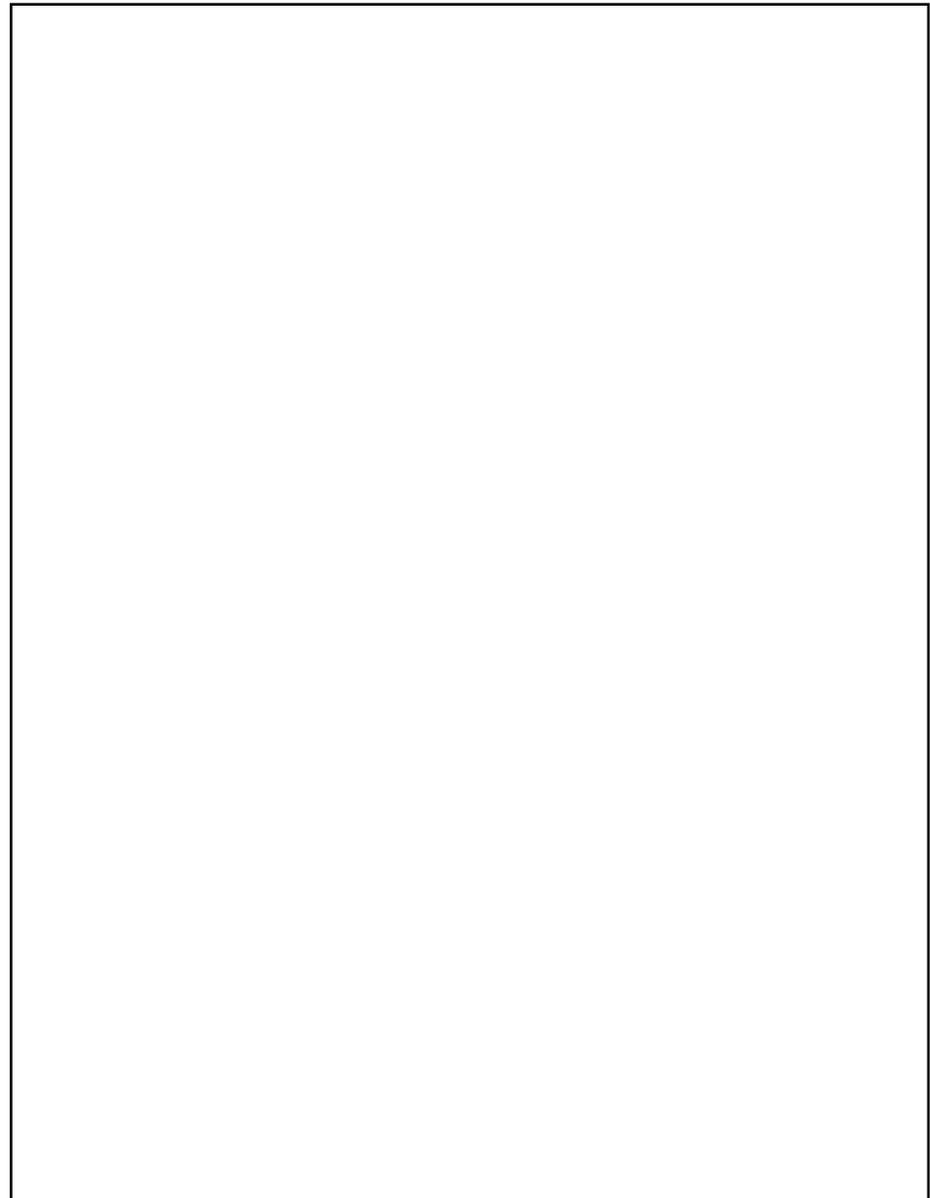
21 Donna M. Lytle, CSR, RPR, CRR

22 OWENS, BRAKE & ASSOCIATES

23 234 N. 7th Street, Suite E

24 Salina, Kansas 67401

25



August 5, 2008, Flora, MS, Flora Afternoon

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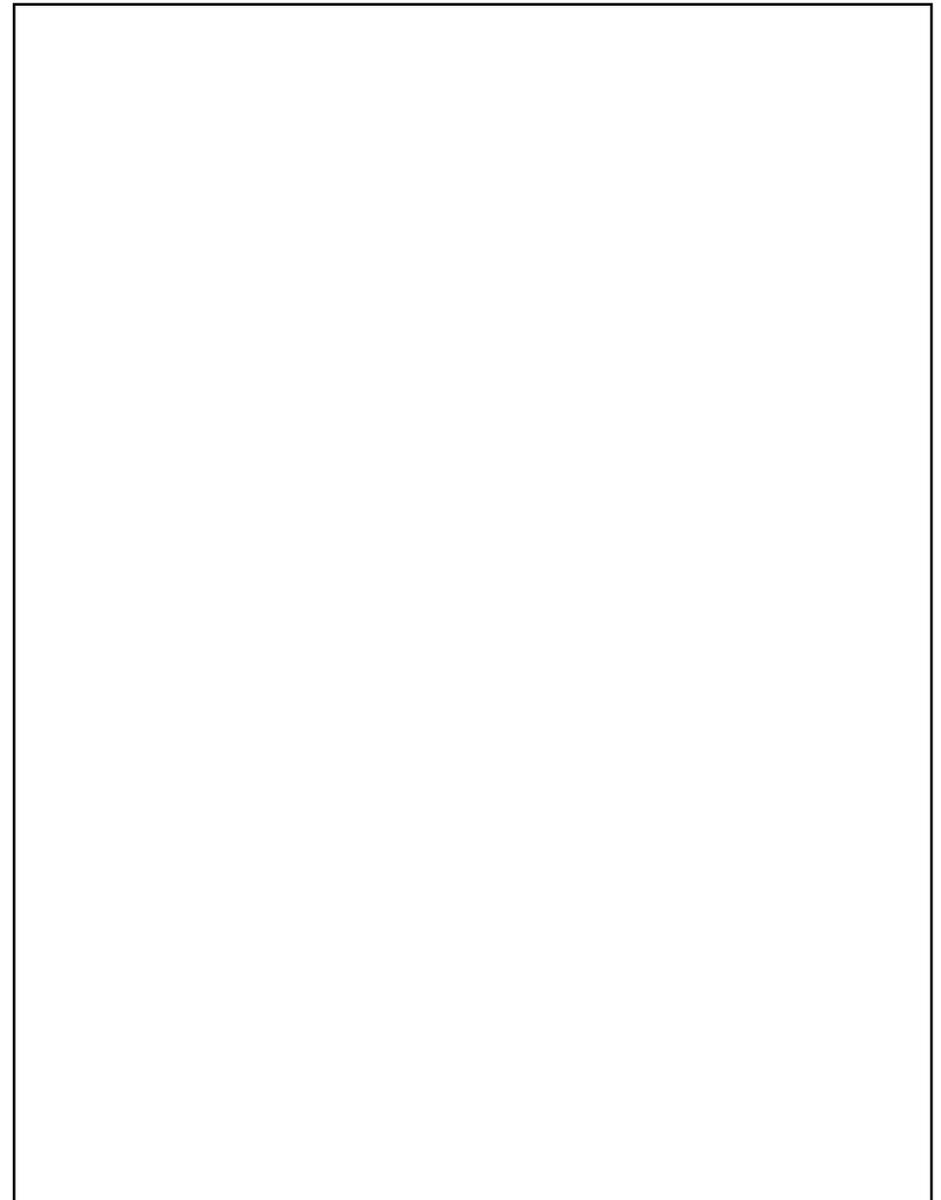
1 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
2
3
4 NATIONAL BIO AND AGRO-DEFENSE FACILITY
5 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
6 (NBAF DRAFT EIS)
7
8 PUBLIC MEETING
9
10 DATE: AUGUST 5, 2008
11
12 1:30 p.m.
13
14 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
15 121 CENTER STREET
16 CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER
17 FLORA, MISSISSIPPI 39071
18
19 Catherine Coghill, Moderator
20
21 PANEL MEMBERS:
22 Mr. James Johnson, U. S. Department of Homeland Security
23 Dr. Steve Kappes, U.S. Department of Agriculture
24 Mr. Chuck Pergler, Tetra Tech, Inc.
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1	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY		
2	NATIONAL BIO AND AGRO-DEFENSE FACILITY		
3	DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT		
4	(NBAF DRAFT EIS)		
5		PAGE	LINE
6	WELCOME	1	1
7	PRESENTATION	4	17
8	QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION		
9			
10	MICHAEL KELLY	30	8
10	HOWARD FLAG	31	9
11	FORMAL COMMENT SESSION		
12	GOVERNOR HALEY BARBOUR	30	9
12	CONGRESSMAN CHIP PICKERING	34	8
13	SENATOR THAD COCHRAN	36	22
13	SENATOR ROGER WICKER	39	21
14	HUGH LONG	42	17
14	E. DAVID COX	44	7
15	DR. ED THOMPSON	45	8
15	GREG HARPER	46	20
16	BRAD GRIFFIN	47	8
16	HEATHER JONES	47	17
17	S. A. WILLIAMSON	48	18
17	BARBARA GRAY	49	2
18	DAVID J. DZIELAK	50	9
18	WEBB BOZEMAN	50	22
19	STAN JOHNSON	51	13
19	GRAY SWOOPE	52	5
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20	MICHAEL KELLY	54	25
21	LEIGH ANN ROSS	56	8
21	LYNDA HAYS	57	12
22	PAUL PANELLI	58	21
22	KERMIT HARVEY	59	13
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24			
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1 mechanisms you see here on the screen. Thank you.
2 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Okay, that concludes
3 the presentation portion of the agenda. At this point in
4 time we'd like to turn it over to the question and answer
5 period. And again, I'd just like to reiterate that's just
6 if you have a question pertaining to the presentation that
7 was just given, if you need any information to be
8 clarified. For that process, so we all can hear you we're
9 asking that if you have a question to please come to one
10 of the two microphones at the front of the room, state
11 your name and organization if you'd like, for the record,
12 and pose your one question. We are looking for your
13 assistance here to keep it to one question, so we can get
14 through what everybody else needs to address this
15 afternoon.

16 In the event that there aren't any questions
17 we would then go ahead and open it up to the comment
18 process, but I'd just like to ask is there anyone here who
19 would like to ask a question? Yes, sir.

20 MR. MICHAEL KELLY: Yes. My name is Michael
21 Kelly, I'm with the Kelly Group. So point of
22 clarification, I understood the final EIS would have a
23 preferred location based on the EIS, and then there would
24 a follow up process to determine in fact what they
25 determined during that. Could you clarify that? Tell me

27

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 5.0

DHS notes the commentor's statement. As summarized Section 3.1 of the NBAF EIS, DHS analyzed each environmental resource area in a consistent manner across all the alternatives to allow for a fair and objective comparison among the alternatives. DHS has identified its Preferred Alternative in Section 2.6 in accordance with Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1502.14(e)) for implementing NEPA. The Preferred Alternative is one that an agency believes would best fulfill its statutory mission and responsibilities, giving consideration to economic, environmental, technical, and other factors. Several factors will affect the decision on whether or not the NBAF is built, and, if so, where. The NBAF EIS itself will not be the sole deciding factor. The decision 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. The DHS Under Secretary for Science and Technology Jay M. Cohen, with other department officials, will consider the factors identified above in making final decisions regarding the NBAF. A Record of Decision that explains the final decisions will be made available no sooner than 30 days after the NBAF Final EIS is published.

1150

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1 that I'm either right or wrong.

2 MR. JAMIE JOHNSON: Yeah, the -- the question
3 was that the preferred alternative in the EIS, would that
4 be a -- how that relates to the decision, and normally EIS
5 states that they're the same, they don't have to be. And
6 so what we would do is we would issue a preferred
7 alternative in the final EIS out for 30 days of
8 notification and turn around and issue a record of
9 decision. It's very unlikely those would be different
10 sites. It would be the same type. Does that answer your
11 question?

12 MR. MICHAEL KELLY: Yes, it does. Thank you.

13 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Anyone else have a
14 question?

15 MR. JAMIE JOHNSON: I want to say if
16 anybody's got -- I'm going to be here the afternoon and
17 evening meeting, so if you want to come up to me or
18 anything anybody might need I'll be happy to answer
19 questions.

20 MR. HOWARD FLAG: I have one. My name is
21 Howard Flag. I own farmhouses down the road and I just
22 want to point out, to us, I've been out there since 1967,
23 there's one nice subdivision just south of Pocahontas,
24 that's all that's been developed since '67 that I know
25 anything about it. This is an opportunity for this area

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1/24.5;
2/15.5

1 including a lot of other places to grow economically in
2 status.

3 Are you going to call for a vote? If y'all
4 want to know how you stand, call for a vote, stand up or
5 whatever.

6 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Okay, at this point
7 in time what we are going to do is turn it over to formal
8 comments. Am I being heard here? Is this working? I
9 guess that's a yes.

10 Okay, this is the formal comment period of
11 the meeting. I'd like to clarify that during this period
12 under the National Environmental Policy Act, we are here
13 to hear what you have to say. If you have a question that
14 you pose we are not going to answer it now because legally
15 we have to answer it and go back and do all the analysis
16 that is appropriate and answer it. That question may be
17 posed in the comment response document, so please don't
18 think that we're being disrespectful if you pose a
19 question at this time.

20 So having said that, each commenter will be
21 limited to three minutes. I'll help you with the time and
22 give you an indication of where you are in your three
23 minutes. And as a follow up person please be respectful
24 that each person has an opinion, regardless of what that
25 is you need to respect what that person has to say and be

29

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 support for the Flora Industrial Park Site Alternative. The economic effects of the NBAF at the Flora Industrial Park Site are included in Section 3.10.5 of the NBAF EIS.

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1 very respectful in that way.

2 And, again, speakers please keep your
3 presentation to three minutes. Again, be courteous of
4 everyone here who would like to speak.

5 At this point in time I'll go ahead and start
6 with the first person that signed up and that's the
7 Governor of Mississippi. Will you come to the microphone,
8 sir? Yes, sir.

9 GOVERNOR HALEY BARBOUR: Thank you. I liked
10 your question.

11 Catherine, thank you very much. And James,
12 Steve, Chuck, welcome back. Also want to welcome our
13 Senior United States Senator Thad Cochran, Senator Roger
14 Wicker. Congressman Chip Pickering is not only
15 congressman for this district but he lives right up the
16 road from where this plant -- where this facility would
17 be.

18 Mississippi's entry is called the Gulf Status
19 consortium because it's not only the State of Mississippi,
20 Metropolitan Jackson, Flora, Madison County, seven of our
21 institutions of higher learning of Mississippi, but also
22 Tulane University, Tulane -- Iowa State University,
23 University of Texas Medical Branch, and our partner
24 Battelle Memorial Laboratories, which is the premier
25 manager of high R & D laboratories, not just the United

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1|245

1 States but in the world. And we're very glad and people
2 here from Flora will be glad Battelle chose us. Battelle
3 hasn't chosen any of the other applicants or contestants
4 here, Battelle chose us and we think that's hugely
5 important.

6 We're here to compete on merits and we
7 understand this is a competition just like it was a
8 competition when Mississippi won the Toyota project last
9 year, and we're very proud and glad to compete on our
10 merits.

11 We have committed the state to this.
12 Normally, when we have a big economic development project
13 we do not pass bond issues and authorize the issue of
14 bonds until we've been selected. Normally, a Toyota or
15 Sarasol, they would prefer that. Y'all preferred that we
16 go ahead and authorize our bonds. Our legislature did it
17 in two hours with two votes against it out of 174. Two
18 guys that never vote for bond issues I might add. That
19 speaks volumes to the commitment of Mississippi and the
20 way that we want this project in our state.

21 We have committed 88 plus million dollars in
22 state bonds, but if you take a local contribution and
23 private contributions it would be more than 100 million
24 dollars that we've already committed for this project to
25 be in Flora. That is literally unprecedented for us to

31

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

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1|24.5
(cont.)

1 have ever passed a bond issue to bring a project that we
2 haven't already -- haven't already won.

3 Our universities, our doctoral programs, we
4 have Mississippi State Veterinary School, Pharmacist --
5 the pharmacy school at the University of Mississippi,
6 University Medical Center, Jackson State University
7 already does a service for DHS, Jamie, and also their east
8 center there would be very involved with our computer
9 technology on what's going here. As you know Tulane has
10 the premier private center in the world. And Iowa State
11 is the oldest agricultural university in the United States
12 and premier in studying animal diseases already.

13 I also should add, Steve, that I have to tell
14 you about ARS and your facility in Stoneville and
15 Starkville, Mississippi. We have professionals here,
16 literally 500 faculty members at our universities are
17 employed in teaching NBAF related subjects now, and we
18 have more than 700 graduates in NBAF related fields.

19 The US Department of Labor recently testified
20 that Mississippi has the best job placement program in the
21 nation and we commit that to this project. Holmes
22 Community College, we'll be bringing in PhD's and
23 scientists, some of which will graduate from our
24 universities, but additionally with training of your
25 technical people, the people that will work with the

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1|24.5
(cont.)

1 professionals in the facilities, we're committed to that.
2 We are ready to invest our training programs. I should
3 add, Toyota is the premier manufacturer in the world, so
4 they chose to put their new best plant in Mississippi
5 because of the quality of our workforce. They said that
6 was what one for us, we commit that workforce and our
7 training to you. We already have two BSL 3 laboratories
8 in Mississippi. One at the Medical Center, which is a
9 partner in this facility.

10 I will remind you as you will see today, our
11 poultry, our cattle and our swine producers in Mississippi
12 have already endorsed this project. They understand that
13 they're not to be afraid of this project. They understand
14 that this project will benefit their industries in
15 Mississippi and around the world for that matter.

16 We understand that this will be the CDC, the
17 Center for Disease Control for animal diseases in the
18 world. The CDC for human diseases sits in downtown
19 Atlanta, Georgia, and that's why we're so comfortable,
20 Chuck, in the safety and the security of this operation.
21 If they can put CDC in downtown Atlanta, we believe that
22 you can put the CDC for animals in Flora, Mississippi.

23 And that's our commitment to you. Our EIS is
24 very positive, our attitude is even more positive. We
25 want this, we want the R&D and the biotechnology that goes

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1|24.5 (cont.)

1 with it, and you're going to see that you have the
2 positive commitment of our state, of this community and of
3 our people. We're very glad to be able to tell you that
4 directly.

5 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you, Governor.

6 US Representative Chip Pickering next,
7 please.

8 REPRESENTATIVE CHIP PICKERING: Thank you,
9 and it's good to be here. I do live about five minutes
10 down the road from here and for those of us who love
11 wildlife in Mississippi, which is most of us, I just live
12 down the road about five miles and I trust you with the
13 white tail deer, and our cattle, and my boys, and the
14 safety and security of this is something that we believe
15 can be achieved in your environmental impact statement
16 that shows that. But as we look at the consortium that is
17 put together at the universities we have Mississippi State
18 University, which I'm privileged to represent, one of the
19 top veterinary entities in the country. Iowa State
20 University joining that, another top veterinary medicine
21 -- medical school. And then if you look at Tulane, one of
22 the top three merits in institutions in the development of
23 vaccines, which is really the objective and mission so we
24 can protect animal and human health.

25 The consortium that we have within the seven

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1|24.5 (cont.)

1 institutions here, I represent one of the best historical
2 black colleges in the country, Tougaloo. And Congressman
3 Benny Thompson, this is a bipartisan delegation support
4 with Congressman Thompson, our two great Senators and
5 Congressman Thompson and Congressman Childress from North
6 Mississippi, we are united as a delegation. We're united
7 as a community. We've got the overwhelming support at the
8 state level. The local support for this is extremely
9 important, and we think that our support is one of the
10 advantages that we can provide you the political support
11 in Washington. We have -- the former chairman of the
12 Appropriations Committee, the Chairman of Homeland
13 Security, Senator Wicker in the Senate, Haley Barbour is
14 one of the best governors.

15 We've looked at all of our resources and
16 leadership from the local level to the national level to
17 make this is a successful operation, and to make it
18 constant for us to keep all things that this facility is
19 proposed to do for our security, for our economy, for
20 animal health, and for human health. No team is more
21 committed I don't believe. No state is more united, no
22 community more united behind this, and we do pledge our
23 full support at every level.

24 I want to recognize though the present
25 leadership team, but part of the future team is here

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1|24.5 (cont.)

1 today, Greg Harper, who is likely to be the Congressman
2 who will replace me; but is also very committed to this
3 project, both present and future.

4 I do think that if I called for a vote you'd
5 see an overwhelming standing support of this effort. I do
6 thank y'all for coming. All your extensive work and if we
7 can go through these next two months and answer any
8 questions to try again to further evidence of both the
9 merits of having the, I believe, the lowest cost, lowest
10 risk site with the highest volume, the greatest quality,
11 Madison County, Mississippi is the home of some of the
12 best schools not only in the state, public and private,
13 community college and higher -- and the Jackson Metro area
14 of Hinds and Rankin, but the schools systems are the best
15 in the state. And it gives you both private and public
16 options that can compare to any state. I'll also say that
17 we think our infrastructure, our resource and our
18 institutions are a great site and we welcome y'all's final
19 decision.

20 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you very much.

21 Senator Thad Cochran is next.

22 SENATOR THAD COCHRAN: Thank you very much.

23 Thank you all for coming and listening to this

24 presentation. We appreciate the presenters who have

25 informed us about the process and the challenges that lie

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1 ahead in making this final decision. It's a big decision
2 and has great consequences for the quality of research and
3 understanding that we bring to the challenge of insuring
4 the quality of safe healthy food for our people in this
5 country, for the herds of cattle, the flocks of poultry,
6 which is a very important industry in our state.
7 All of this points to why we're all
8 interested in the outcome of this deliberation, and we
9 know you're going about it in a very careful and cautious
10 way and we appreciate that very much.
11 What I'm here to say is that our state has a
12 rich tradition of excellence and research. I want to
13 state to you about Dr. Arthur Guyton at the University of
14 Mississippi Medical Center who led the way pioneering
15 research in cardiology, cardiovascular diseases,
16 implantation. The first implant from animal to human was
17 -- occurred here at the University of Mississippi Medical
18 Center in Jackson, Mississippi, and so transplantation at
19 it's beginning years.
20 The veterinary science at Mississippi State
21 University is serious business, and it's always been led
22 by people who were real educated, committed to the public
23 good, so our veterinarian medicine program and the
24 facility that's at Mississippi State University at
25 Starkville are world class. People come and learn and

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Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 24.5
DHS notes the Senator'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.

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1|24.5 (cont.)

1 participate and exchanges of information here are looked
2 upon as a source of excellence in that area as well.
3 Generally, overall our state couldn't be more
4 excited to be in the finals of this competition, we are
5 flattered. Our congressional delegation also has a
6 tradition of support for things that are good for
7 Mississippi and good for the country at the same time. In
8 looking back on progress in upgrading -- the facilities in
9 our state Stoneville Agricultural Research Center, where
10 Jamie Whitton, former congressman from Mississippi;
11 chairman of the House Appropriation Committee; and Senator
12 John Stennis has worked together, he on the Senate
13 Appropriations Committee to support the things that were
14 being done there that were good for America; but also good
15 for Mississippi because they were creating jobs.
16 Some people may worry about risks, but I
17 think that's being taken on, you know, head on in a fair
18 minded way. And before this is resolved I think we will
19 be assured that it is going to be a safely operated
20 facility, and it will be a state of the art facility, and
21 we will be proud in our state to be involved in
22 participating and making it a success.
23 So one last thought, we have a Senator who is
24 retiring this year from New Mexico, Pete Domenici, and we
25 were just the other day talking about the beginning of the

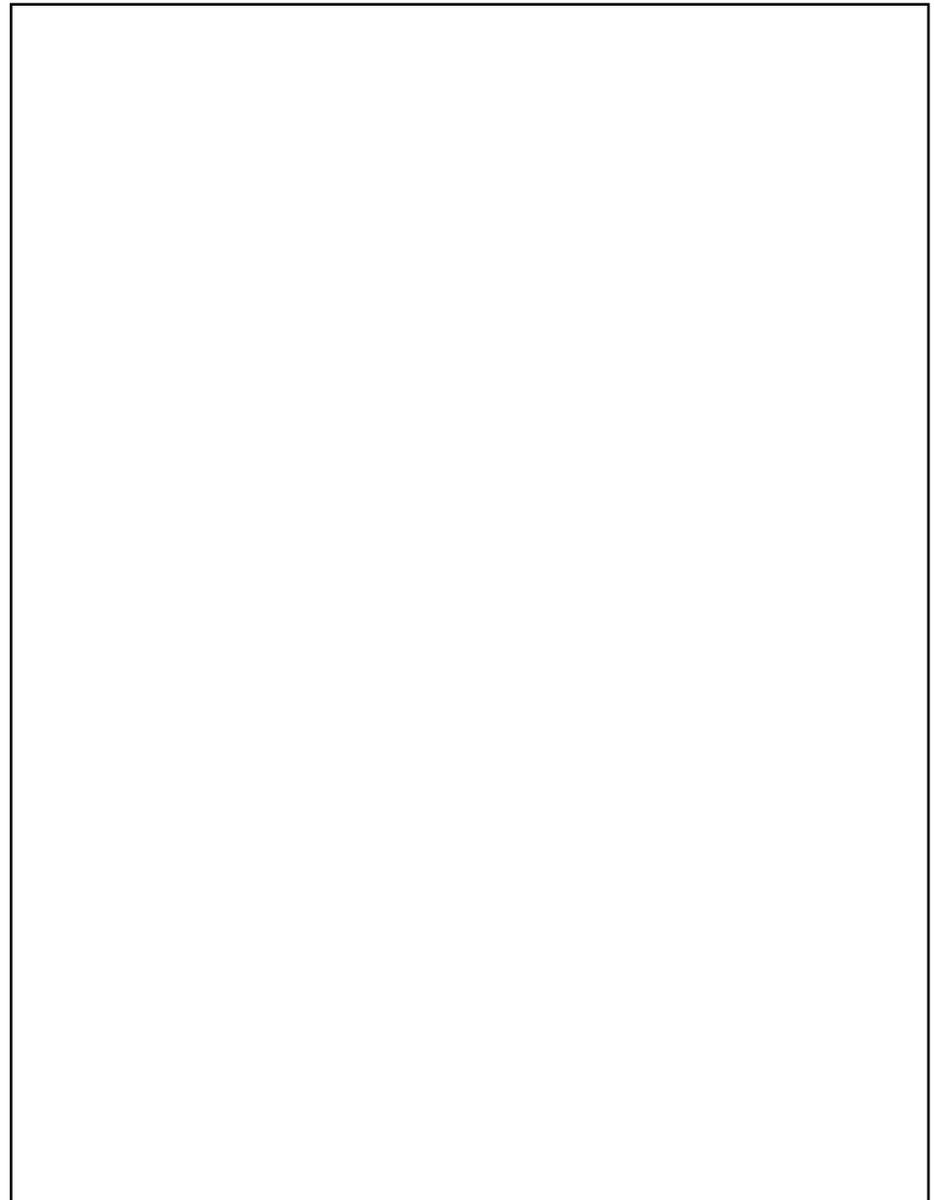
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1 nuclear weapons research that was being done at Los
2 Alamos, New Mexico; Sandia National Research Center.
3 Actually, this very -- what everybody would consider --
4 everybody considered a high risk venture, creating nuclear
5 weapons, dealing with nuclear challenges. When that was
6 first begun, people were frightened. They didn't know
7 what to think.
8 Now, there are thousands upon thousands of
9 jobs created in that area with stem off private
10 activities, public endeavors still being carried out
11 there, all for the safety of our country, protecting us
12 against terrorism, against nuclear exchange. We are at a
13 similar place in our history now with challenges to the
14 people of the United States because in the war on terror
15 this is serious business. We want to be sure we get it
16 right, and that we make a contribution here in our state
17 to protecting the security of the people of our country
18 and this is a great place to do it, Flora, Mississippi.
19 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you, Senator.
20 Senator, Roger Wicker.
21 SENATOR ROGER WICKER: Thank you, thank you
22 very much. Good to see this big crowd here. I want you
23 to know that I've been attending Baptist churches for the
24 better part of 50 years and it's -- I was telling the
25 Governor it's mighty uncomfortable for me to have to sit

1|24.5 (cont.)

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1 on the front row in a Baptist Church. Thank you for
2 choosing this setting, a beautiful community and a
3 beautiful church and I'm glad to be here and to be a part
4 of it.

5 I serve the purpose of reiterating a lot of
6 things that the delegation has already said. You now
7 realize that we have the solid support of the Mississippi
8 Congressional Delegation and Senate. You should also know
9 that this particular proposal conjoins the support of a
10 three state delegation of Senators, and I would refer the
11 panel to a letter dated May 1, 2008, to Mike Chertoff,
12 Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security signed by
13 Thad Cochran; Roger Wicker; Charles Stanley and Tom
14 Harkins, two Senators from Iowa; Mary Lanthrew and David
15 Bitters, two Senators from Louisiana. And Madam Moderator
16 I would like at this point to ask to assert a clean copy
17 of this letter to the record of comment at this point.

18 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Yes, sir.

19 SENATOR ROGER WICKER: Thank you, ma'am.

20 The letter says that we -- and it starts off
21 by saying, "we are writing to express our full support for
22 the Gulf States consortium's proposal to make Flora,
23 Mississippi the home of NBAF. We believe that Mississippi
24 and its citizens are well prepared to host this important
25 facility."

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1 And, of course, by way of just agreeing with
2 that I would point out what the Governor has already said
3 and that is that we've already been in this business. And
4 as he said we have 500 members of faculties around the
5 state in bio-defense and agro-defense related fields. We
6 graduate 700 students per year in this very field and we
7 are experienced in BSL level 3 facilities. We will not
8 have to learn from scratch. So we support it, the
9 scientific community in Mississippi will support it, and
10 also I think you can see that the public supports it.

1|24.5 (cont.)

11 Now, I would also -- there may be some people
12 here who will stand up and question this and express
13 reservation, even they will do so in a polite manner and
14 that's just the way we do things in Mississippi; but I
15 think when it's all said and done you'll see that these
16 two previous witnesses that wanted to move the previous
17 question and to have a show of hands, they probably meant
18 well in their speech.

19 We look forward as some of the most patriotic
20 people in the United States of America to yet another way
21 to provide for national security and national defense. We
22 look forward to being able to move the best minds in the
23 nation here in our neck of the woods to use their brain
24 power to think up solutions to address potential threats
25 in the United States of America.

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1 One other point about the quality of life
 2 here, it should not be surprising that we love our area
 3 and that people feel good about their own local
 4 communities, but don't take our word for it, take the word
 5 of Money Magazine who chose one municipality in Madison
 6 County to rank as the best bang for the buck. And take
 7 the word of Family Circle Magazine who rated another --
 8 yet another municipality in this County in the top 10 in
 9 terms of quality of life. We're prepared to embrace this
 10 facility. We're prepared to do what we can as a
 11 delegation as leaders from the federal, state and local
 12 level to make this a winner not only for Mississippi but
 13 also for the United States of America. Thank you very
 14 much.

15 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you, Senator.
 16 Hugh Long is our next speaker this afternoon.

17 MR. HUGH LONG: Thank you. I'm Hugh Long.
 18 I'm retired from the US Army with three tours in Vietnam
 19 and retired from the Mississippi Department of
 20 Transportation. I stand in strong support of locating
 21 this facility in the town of Flora. While it goes without
 22 saying that this would be a tremendous economic impact on
 23 our location by new jobs, good jobs, and -- but more
 24 importantly I think the biggest advantage would be to the
 25 NBAF facility. The town of Flora, its people, the

1|24.5 (cont.)

1|24.5;
2|15.5

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Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.5

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

Comment No: 2Issue Code: 15.5

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Flora Industrial Park Site Alternative. The economic effects of the NBAF at the Flora Industrial Park Site are included in Section 3.10.5 of the NBAF EIS.

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1 location, the infrastructure that you need would be
2 provided, and all the schools would be a tremendous asset
3 to this facility.

4 And I would also like to point out that as
5 Senator Cochran pointed out the State of Mississippi has
6 been the leading edge of new technology for many, many,
7 new years. The first heart transplant was conducted at
8 our University Medical Center. The dialysis machine was
9 developed at the University Medical Center by Dr. Dave
10 Bowers. Not only did he develop this machine, but he went
11 to Washington and worked out the -- the system to provide
12 funding for every individual that needs this type of
13 treatment.

14 Now, after I retired I looked around for a
15 hobby, I chose beef cattle, raising beef cattle over golf,
16 hunting, fishing. And I can tell you I have a tremendous
17 interest in this facility. While my herd is not too large
18 because I'm a one man operation, I cherish what you're
19 trying to do. I have absolutely no fear of this facility,
20 because I live 12 miles from an ammonium nitrate plant and
21 we know what that did to the federal building in Oklahoma
22 City. I live 70 miles from a nuclear power plant. Each
23 day in our state hazardous material is transported over
24 our waterways, highways and railways; but yet I sleep well
25 at night because I have no fear, because I know that

1|24.5 (cont.)

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1|24.5 (cont.)

1 professional people operate these facilities. There are
2 tremendous safe precautions in place and I am convinced
3 that you will do the same. So I welcome you and I
4 certainly support you and hope that you locate in the town
5 of Flora. Thank you.

6 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: David Cox.

7 MR. DAVID COX: Thank you so much for coming
8 to Madison County, Mississippi and the Town of Flora.
9 Flora is growing by leaps and bounds. One of the local
10 agencies funded a contest and the subject of the contest
11 was why I love to live in Flora. This young lady in 6th
12 grade won the contest and if I may read you her letter.

1|24.5

13 "My name is Katelin. I live in Flora,
14 Mississippi and I love it. Flora is beautiful and a
15 spectacular place. It makes me feel comfortable. I also
16 feel safe because the fireman and the policeman will
17 always protect us. I have a lot of things in this town I
18 love to do. One thing is the new magnificent library that
19 provides us with wonderful books and movies. I also like
20 the luxurious restaurants like Howards and Hastee Tastee.
21 They serve great food. I also like the beautiful houses
22 that people live in. These houses provide us with warmth
23 and care. We feel very cozy. When I get older and need a
24 place to live I'd look in Flora first."

25 We hope that you'll look at Flora first and

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1|24.5 (cont.)

1 study us strongly in the dedication that people have to
2 education, that they have to community, that they have in
3 their county, their state and nation.

4 I'd like to enter this letter in the record
5 to show the friendliness of Flora, Mississippi.

6 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you, sir.
7 Dr. Thompson.

8 DR. ED THOMPSON: Good afternoon. I'm Dr. Ed
9 Thompson. I'm the state health officer for the state
10 department of health and some say it's called the health
11 commissioner of the state of Mississippi.

12 I'm delighted to see our congressional
13 delegation of senators and congressman, our Governor here
14 in support of this. They have the broad responsibility of
15 developing economy for the state of Mississippi.

1|24.5

16 Our responsibility is much narrower. It is
17 to the health and safety to the citizens of the state of
18 Mississippi. I take that responsibility extremely
19 seriously. It is my job at the Department to insure the
20 health of all of our citizens.

21 I admire the presentation and the quality and
22 content you have given us today, but I have not relied on
23 that. I've done my own independent study. I've also got
24 a lot of experience. I'm glad to be back in Mississippi,
25 I served for three years at the Center for Disease Control

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1 in Atlanta. During that time I had the privilege of
2 occupying an office, which was approximately 200 yards
3 from a BSL 4 facility. Our agency operated BSL 3
4 facilities, and were in process of constructing one, when
5 I finish you will hear the dates. And, also, in the
6 process of building a new public health facility, which
7 would have an additional BSL 3 facilities.

8 And while at CDC I had the privilege of also
9 seeing a BSL 4 facility in operation. I had the
10 opportunity while we were constructing one to observe
11 exactly how they are built and see the safety features
12 that are built into it. Based on all of that and based on
13 25 years plus of experience in the public health sector I
14 can express my firm support for this facility to be
15 located in the City of Flora, and my firm conviction that
16 there's no realistic risk posed to the public of this area
17 or the State of Mississippi by the location of it in this
18 area.

19 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Greg Harper.

20 MR. GREG HARPER: Thank you, I'm Greg Harper
21 and I am the republican nominee for the third
22 congressional district hopefully following in the
23 footsteps of Chip Pickering and the great job he's done,
24 and I wanted to just let you know that if I am elected in
25 January that you'll have my full support for this project.

1|24.5 (cont.)

1|24.5

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

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1|24.5 (cont.)

1 You'll never find a better place, a better state or the
 2 great local leadership with Mayor Scott Greeves, he's our
 3 great Mayor here and with Governor Haley Barbour, our
 4 Lieutenant Governor Phil Bryant, the best two United
 5 States Senators in the country, you'll not find a better
 6 place to come and we urge you to come. Thank you.

7 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Brad Griffin.

1|24.5

8 MR. BRAD GRIFFIN: I'm Brad Griffin. I was
 9 part of the team that helped supply these gentleman with
 10 the supplemental information regarding the impact
 11 statement. And in our findings we found no conditions
 12 that would adversely effect this type of site development.
 13 And on behalf of that team we hope to welcome you back
 14 this fall. Thank you.

15 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you, Mr.
 16 Griffin. Heather Jones.

1|24.5;
2|15.5

17 MS. HEATHER JONES: My name is Heather Jones
 18 and I'm the 2008 President in the Flora Area Chamber of
 19 Commerce, and we're excited about the opportunity of
 20 getting the facility. It will stimulate a lot of economic
 21 growth and development and what we are all about. And, as
 22 you know, that economic growth and development can come
 23 overnight next time, so with this facility we believe that
 24 will help jump start that so that we'll be able to have
 25 opportunities that we might not otherwise get.

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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: 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 support for the Flora Industrial Park Site Alternative. The economic effects of the NBAF at the Flora Industrial Park Site are included in Section 3.10.5 of the NBAF EIS.

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1|24.5 (cont.);
2|15.5 (cont.)

1 We're also excited about the fact that it
2 might help our schools through education. It might help
3 our churches through membership. It might help our
4 businesses. And I'm also a little bit selfish in fact
5 that I work for a business here in Flora. I am branch
6 manager of Bank of Yazoo here, and so we're excited about
7 the growth and what it will do for us, benefiting from the
8 growth.

1|24.5 (cont.)

9 And I just wanted to remind anybody that's
10 concerned about the release of anything, that we are not
11 promised tomorrow and that anything can happen and we
12 shouldn't be afraid of things that have not happened, and
13 may never happen. And I am a resident here and I'm
14 excited about the fact that we may get this facility.
15 Thank you.

16 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you.

17 S. A. Williamson.

1|24.5 (cont.)

18 MR. S. A. WILLIAMSON: I hope, like I say,
19 thank you for coming and providing us this opportunity.
20 We look forward to seeing you again in November. I'm
21 looking forward to seeing that big beautiful building
22 built out there on Highway 49. I have no reservation
23 about this thing whatsoever, and I look forward to this
24 fall seeing you back. Thank you.

25 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you, sir.

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Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.5

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

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1 Barbara Gray.
2 MS. BARBARA GRAY: Thank you for allowing me
3 to speak. I'm not going to go through and tell you about
4 the educational levels because these gentleman over here
5 have already told you about our educational levels, about
6 our research levels, so I'm here to represent the
7 educational level, yes. You know that we've got it, so
8 that's a no-brainer. Mississippi is at the top as far as
9 education.
10 Now, the other thing is community service and
11 I did a little research about some of our partners and I
12 know that Battelle is a group that is one of our partners
13 and they are community service advocates. They are put
14 through our community service, and I represent a nonprofit
15 organization for Madison County and one of the things that
16 we can never lose site of is people coming in to help our
17 poor and our elderly, so I found that to be interesting in
18 not only the educational aspect of it, but also because of
19 the community service.
20 And lastly I am an owner, a land owner. We
21 have goats and we have horses, and at the front of our
22 property it says, "This property is maintained for the
23 security and the comfort of our animals. If you don't
24 like that please go away." And I had -- we don't allow
25 hunting on our property. We have deer and we have quail.

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Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 24.5
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1|24.5 (cont.)

1 But if a person like me can say bring it on,
2 you have our trust. We know that you're good stewards of
3 security for NBAF and we welcome you. I'm a strong
4 supporter. The people who come to our agency are strong
5 supporters, so all we can say is go ahead on, it's a no
6 brainer, Flora is the place to be.

7 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you.

8 David Dzielak.

9 MR. DAVID DZIELAK: Good afternoon, welcome
10 to the very warm welcome of Flora, Mississippi. I'd like
11 to -- I'm David Dzielak from the University of Mississippi
12 Medical Center, and my task was to tell all the virtues of
13 our academic consortium. That has been done much more
14 eloquently than I could have been by the Governor,
15 Senators and Congressman; so I just wanted to reiterate
16 everything that they said about our intellectual statutes
17 and researchers that support this facility. And we are
18 very supportive of it and we believe it should be in
19 Mississippi and it should be in Flora. Thank you.

1|24.5

20 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you, sir.

21 Webb Bozeman.

22 MR. WEBB BOZEMAN: Webb Bozeman, Breithaupt
23 and Company from right here in Flora, Mississippi.

24 Faith, family and Flora, that was my dad's
25 beliefs. It's my beliefs. I have faith in the Lord and I

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Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.5

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

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1|24.5

1 believe in my family and I love Flora, and I know that
2 this facility coming to Flora would do nothing but make
3 Flora better. It might put us on a little bit faster
4 track than we were used to, because we're kind of Mayberry
5 around here, but it will all be for the good. I have my
6 farm shop, which, I mean, is directly across the highway
7 from the facility. I have cattle directly across the
8 highway from the facility. It bothers me not one bit
9 whether I'm working in my shop or my cattle are there that
10 the facility will be across the street from me. I welcome
11 y'all with open arms.

12 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Stan Johnson.

1|24.5

13 MR. STAN JOHNSON: Good afternoon, my name is
14 Stan Johnson, Stanley, that is. I own Flora Dry Cleaners
15 here in Flora, Mississippi. And I would say choosing
16 Flora would kind of be like the story of the way I chose
17 my wife. A lovely lady, in her absence, she is from
18 Flora, Mississippi. We reside in Clinton, and we're in
19 the process of looking for land here. My choosing to come
20 to Flora, there were opportunities to go other places to
21 start a business, but I love the family atmosphere here;
22 and I don't think you can choose a better place than
23 Flora, Mississippi. I have an influence with a close
24 friend of mine, Senator Kenneth Williams or Kenneth Jones
25 from Mississippi, and have seen the funds that have been

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Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.5

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

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

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1|24.5 (cont.)

1 implemented, put forth and in position to take on this
2 job. We welcome you with open arms and if there's
3 anything that you can do I say take that vote.

4 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Gray Swoope.

5 MR. GRAY SWOOPE: Good afternoon, I'm Gray

6 Swoope, the Executive Director of the Mississippi
7 Development Authority, and had the great opportunity to
8 work with this team on this project and be a part of the
9 Mississippi team. We looked at this project and we talked
10 about the core-selection criteria, and I feel very strong
11 that the State of Mississippi and this site stacked up
12 better than none. We reached that in the selection
13 process, but today I'm going to take my economic
14 government hat off and set it on the side here and tell
15 you that I'm a resident of this county. This is my home.

1|24.5

16 At night when I come back from traveling all over the
17 state and working for Governor Barbour and selling this
18 state, I lay my head on a pillow less than 12, 13 miles
19 from here. We want you to put this in my backyard. We
20 want the job opportunities in my backyard. We want the
21 National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in my backyard, and
22 I'll tell you why. If you put the NBAF facility here,
23 public support is a big part of this project, we will
24 embrace you. We will embrace being part of this nation's
25 defense in bio-terrorism. We will embrace the opportunity

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1|24.5 (cont.)

1 to provide you with a world class work force. The
2 facility opens in 2015, have two daughters who are in the
3 public school system in this county, one of them we refer
4 to as the mad scientist. She will be a part of this
5 facility. She'll be one of your people -- scientists in
6 this facility. This is her dream. We want to be a part
7 of it. Unlike some of the areas you go you may hear
8 different comments, I'm telling you as a community, as a
9 leader of this state and a resident of Madison County, put
10 the CDC for animals in our backyard. Thank you.

11 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you.

12 Duane O'Neill.

13 MR. DUANE O'NEILL: Good afternoon, my name
14 is Duane O'Neill and I've had the great pleasure over the
15 last couple of years of being the coordinator of the Gulf
16 States Consortium Team. It's quite an honor as you can
17 see with the type of individuals that's been already
18 addressing this group today, and Chairman Johnson, I would
19 also like to say thank you to you and your team. It's
20 been very much a pleasure to work with you throughout this
21 entire process.

1|24.5

22 The criteria of selecting the site has been
23 pretty well covered already. One of the important factors
24 though that I believe I could still touch on that hasn't
25 been touched is that of community support. We've talked a

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1|24.5 (cont.)

1 lot about community support, but I will also tell you that
2 from our vantage point. We were the group that went out
3 and spoke to folks all over this area, primarily in Flora
4 and Madison County, but any place anybody wanted us to
5 speak to them about this project. The project that was
6 presented in some 80 meetings so far, and we're still
7 doing those types of meetings, we would speak to two
8 people if they gathered. In a lot of occasions we had 300
9 that were gathered and anywhere in between. And I can
10 tell you that there were a lot of good questions that were
11 asked, a lot of fair questions, questions that needed
12 answers for us all to feel good about the process; but
13 each and every one of those question has been answered.
14 And I can tell you that over the course of all those
15 meetings now, those some 80 meetings, that well over 95
16 percent of all those that are out there are supporting,
17 and they can't all be in this room here today, but we have
18 talked to hundreds and hundreds of people that are very,
19 very supportive of bringing this project to Flora,
20 Mississippi. So you are going to be very, very welcome,
21 and we thank you again for allowing us to get to this
22 point.

23 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you.

24 Michael Kelly.

25 MR. MICHAEL KELLY: I'm Michael Kelly from

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1|24.5

1 the Battelle Memorial Institute and thanks for the
2 opportunity to speak. In front of this audience I think
3 it's important to acknowledge the team behind the NBAF
4 itself. I don't think many people get an opportunity to
5 appreciate how hard it is to put something like this
6 concept together and then see it maybe in your lifetime
7 happen, and the folks in front of you today as well as all
8 the folks back there in Washington and other areas
9 supporting it are really doing some tremendous work to
10 bring this together. And it's hard to think about it, and
11 it's also not going to happen for another seven years, but
12 nonetheless it's hard work, they've done a great job and
13 you should be commended for it.

14 Battelle has been a member of this consortium
15 since the beginning. I think now we've heard, 15 or so
16 people speak, you can understand why we strongly believe
17 that this is the right place and in fact it's the best
18 place for you to consider and to put the NBAF facility.
19 The area has solid capabilities, but that's not as
20 important as the potential that it offers in the future,
21 and we're not talked seven years from now. We're talking
22 with decades to come because this facility is going to be
23 around for decades. You have national labs in our nation
24 that are more than 50 years old. It will be around for a
25 long time. It brings a lot and so does the area. It has

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1|24.5 (cont.)

1|24.5;
2|15.5

1 a solid team behind it. It has a solid community to
2 support it, and it has tremendous support from our labs.
3 Battelle is very, very happy and with great pride and
4 happiness say we think this is the best place. We think
5 this is the best organization to put this together for
6 you. Again, thanks for your service to us.

7 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Leigh Ann Ross.

8 MS. LEIGH ANN ROSS: Good afternoon, I'm
9 Leigh Ann Ross and I'm here today as President of the
10 Mississippi Biotechnology Association. Our organization
11 exists to provide state-wide leadership for the life
12 sciences sector, and our board is comprised with numerous
13 based run private industries but also from our leading
14 research institutions.

15 One of the positive impacts that NBAF can
16 have on the State of Mississippi is to track and retain
17 some of those with capital, and the private sector
18 research and development funding. And many of those
19 resources will go to our universities and some will go to
20 the private sector. The Biotechnology Association is
21 uniquely positioned to serve as a conduit between DHS, and
22 HHS, NBAF teams. And I hope we already have an
23 intellectual capital and funding here in the state.

24 So when the Gulf States Consortium lands NBAF
25 here in Flora we will be at the epic center for biotech

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 support for the Flora Industrial Park Site Alternative. The economic effects of the NBAF at the Flora Industrial Park Site are included in Section 3.10.5 of the NBAF EIS.

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1|24.5 (cont.);
2|15.5 (cont.)

1 development in our state, and we stand ready with
2 organization to help our local communities and our state
3 to put to use the benefits that could come from that. So
4 National Bio is a successful name, you've heard of it, and
5 having a state affiliate to show that we're committed to
6 working a sector in our state and to building a knowledge
7 based economy here in Mississippi, so we enthusiastically
8 support the addition of the NBAF facility in Flora, and we
9 look forward to working with DHS. Thank you.

10 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Our next speaker is
11 Lynda Hays.

12 MS. LYNDA HAYS: Thank you for coming to
13 answer the questions, and I still need help. This is a
14 lot to go through and a lot to comprehend. How many of
15 you have looked at this book? Raise your hand please. We
16 might, for the record, have about 15 other than those that
17 might have compiled it. Thank you for all of you who are
18 standing around in the back for answering the numerous
19 questions I've had in the past, and those that I asked
20 today. You have answered them very detailed. I still
21 have concerns and it's not so much for the safety as it is
22 for the direct impact on this community. I would like to
23 see those who are residents of Flora to please stand. We
24 have approximately 25 to 30 of the total who are here.

25 I still have concerns on how there will be an

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1|5.5;
2|17.5

1 impact on this community, and I have not had those
2 concerns answered. Note that in the book the data that is
3 provided is for the Flora area. That is Madison County,
4 Yazoo County and, I believe, Hinds County.

5 I know that this is good for the state. I
6 know this is good for our country. I am a patriot. I
7 just want to be sure that it's the right thing for this
8 community. I'm 4th generation and I would hate to see a
9 good thing gone bad. Maybe not because of the release of
10 an agent, but maybe because of not considering the impact
11 that it would have on this community from transportation,
12 other things. Mr. Holeman has answered questions, but
13 please know that I still want to know in the year 2030,
14 what will Flora be? Thank you.

15 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you. At this
16 point in time, folks, I'd like to open up the floor if
17 there is someone who hasn't signed up to speak who would
18 like to speak at this point in time. If there's anyone
19 that falls in that category, please feel free to come up
20 to the microphone.

21 MR. PAUL PANELLI: Thank you for the
22 opportunity to sign up. My name is Paul Panelli and I'm
23 an executive from Yates Construction. I actually moved
24 here, lived right up the road in Madison County, and love
25 the area, love the state.

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Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 5.5

DHS notes the commentor's concerns. The effects of construction and operation of the proposed NBAF at the Flora Industrial Park Site were evaluated on an equal basis with the other six alternatives. Socioeconomic effects including those to quality of life resources specific to the community of Flora are described in Section 3.10.5.

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 17.5

DHS notes the commentor's concern about traffic in the area of the Flora Industrial Park Site Alternative and the future impact of the NBAF operation on the area's transportation infrastructure. A discussion of the planned improvements to the area's primary transportation corridor of U.S. Highway 49 north of the intersections with Cox Ferry Road and First Street North, to alleviate current and future traffic congestion resulting from the NBAF operation at the Flora Industrial Park Site is located in Section 3.11.5.3.1 of the NBAF EIS.

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1|24.5

1 I have 30 years of experience in
2 biotechnology facilities. I have overseen the building of
3 the largest biotech facility in the United States for
4 Genentech. This facility is right -- the one thing we
5 didn't talk about today is we have all the experience to
6 build these kinds of facilities here locally. I'm
7 overseeing the Jackson Federal Courthouse, I'm principal
8 in charge of that job. We're thrilled to be here and
9 thrilled to have you here and just want you to know we can
10 build this thing for you.

11 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Is there anyone else
12 that would like to speak? Yes, sir.

13 MR. KERMIT HARVEY: My name is Kermit Harvey.
14 I'm a local veterinarian here in Flora. I've spoken at
15 the meeting during the scoping process.

1|24.5

16 Several different concepts, first from a
17 safety perspective, most of you know me here from Flora.
18 My profession is charged with dealing with types of
19 pathogens that this type of institution sees and uses.
20 And other veterinarians around the world handle or are
21 exposed to these pathogens all the time. I have full
22 faith and trust in their ability to manage and handle
23 these pathogens or diseases safely within the Flora
24 community.

25 I've thought about all the different things

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Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.5

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1|24.5 (cont.)

1 that the value of the facility may offer. Those who are
2 worried about Flora being left in the wake of urban life
3 and squall, I think it's probably where some of this is
4 coming from, they don't want to see the change. And I
5 would argue with a facility like this with the federal
6 dollars that are going to come behind this would be
7 important to a university and institution that Flora could
8 hope for in my lifetime. And that renewal of property
9 value is what's going to keep Flora what we love. It's
10 not going to hurt it, it's going to keep it what we want
11 it to be, what it's been for generations. And it's what's
12 going to be here.

13 I had plenty opportunity to go elsewhere in
14 this country and I chose here, and I love the community.
15 And you want to talk about leadership, I've never had an
16 opportunity to thank my state and federal leaders post
17 Katrina, but you talk about proud of a state and proud of
18 what we did for our people and you want to talk about the
19 cultural fabric, there's nothing better. That's it.

20 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Is there anyone else
21 who would like to speak who did not sign in?

22 It's 3:00, the meeting is open until 4:30.
23 What we'd like to do is take a break and we'll keep an eye
24 out, if anyone else comes in from after work or from
25 wherever -- other commitment and wants to speak, we will

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1 open up the meeting back to the speakers. Thank you.

2 Off the record.

3 MR. JAMIE JOHNSON: Anymore comments, come up
4 to the mic. Okay. We will officially adjourn the
5 meeting. It's 4:30. Thank you for coming, look forward
6 to seeing you this evening.

7 (Off the record.)

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