

August 5, 2008, Flora, MS, Flora Evening

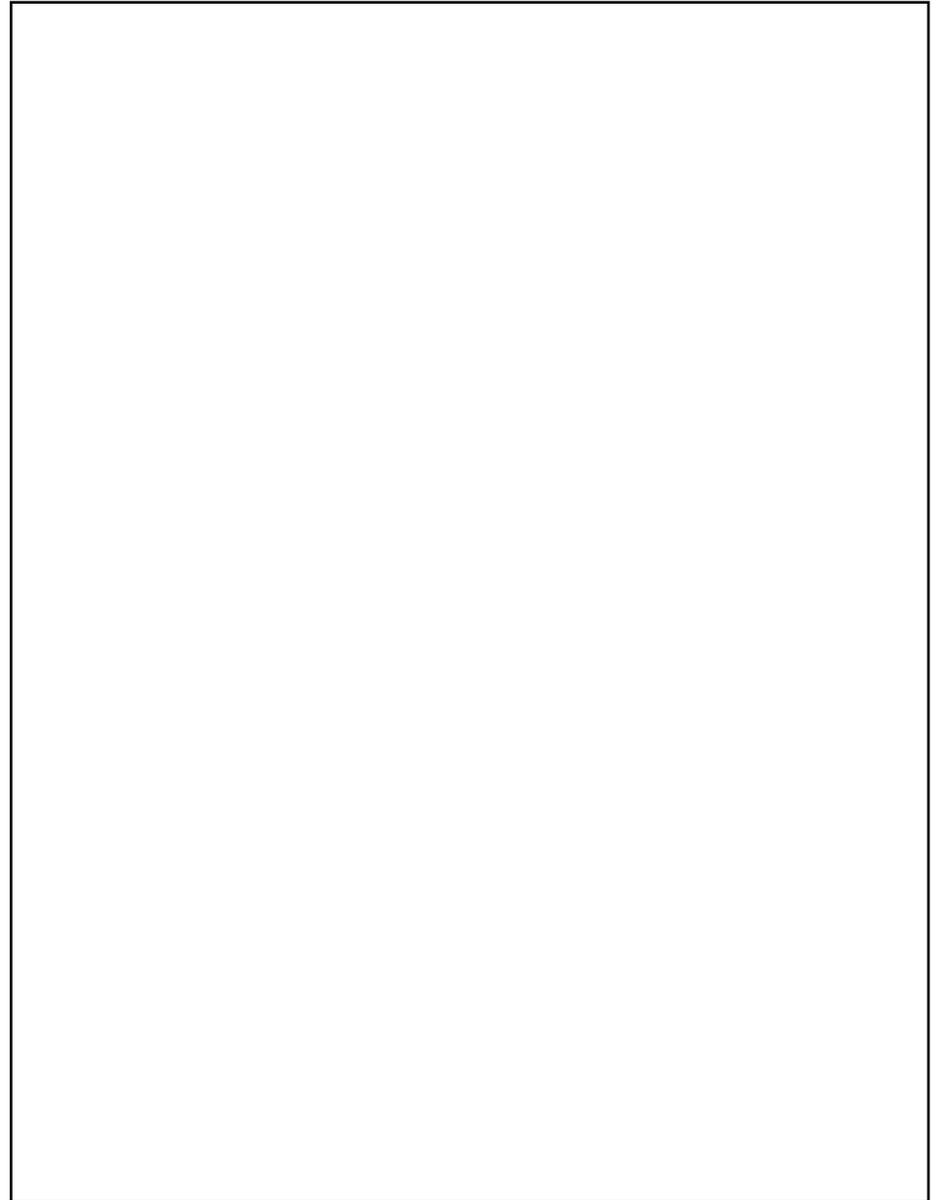
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1 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
2
3
4 NATIONAL BIO AND AGRO-DEFENSE FACILITY
5 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
6 (NBAF DRAFT EIS)
7 PUBLIC MEETING
8
9 DATE: AUGUST 5, 2008
10
11 7:00 p.m.
12
13 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
14 121 CENTER STREET
15 CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER
16 FLORA, MISSISSIPPI 39071
17
18 Catherine Coghill, Moderator
19
20 PANEL MEMBERS:
21
22 Mr. James Johnson, U. S. Department of Homeland
23 Security
24 Dr. Steve Kappes, U.S. Department of Agriculture
25 Mr. Chuck Pergler, Tetra Tech, Inc.

ANGELA DAWN DILLARD, CSR 1763

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1 the facility, site characterization, security and
2 feasibility will all be factors.

3 I chair the DHS/USDA Steering Committee
4 that will evaluate this information and make
5 recommendations to the decision force under
6 Secretary Jay Cohen. We expect a record of decision
7 to be in December of 2008. The site selected and
8 construction will begin in 2010. The facility will
9 be operational at 2015.

10 Your comments are important to us. I said
11 before the comment period ends August 25, 2008.
12 There are many ways for you to submit comments. Any
13 comments received by August 25 will be addressed in
14 the final EIS. Please keep in mind, again, you do
15 not have to make your comments tonight. You can
16 provide comments at a later date with any of the
17 methods you see here on the slide as long as they're
18 received by August 25. Thank you.

19 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Okay, that
20 concludes the presentation portion of the agenda for
21 this evening. What we'd like to do now is turn it
22 over to question and answers. If no one has any
23 questions and answers we'll go ahead and start with
24 the comment period, but I'd like to offer up the
25 opportunity if someone in the audience has a

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1 question about what was presented and needs further
2 clarification, please come up to the microphone.

3 Yes, sir, come on.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You mentioned that
5 you limited the study to three diseases; is that
6 correct?

7 MR. CHUCK PERGLER: Yes, we carried our
8 portion of the analysis to three.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is there any reason
10 to believe that the listed diseases in these
11 documents will be the only thing studied at this
12 facility?

13 MR. JAMES JOHNSON: Right now based on the
14 current threats that we have those are the eight
15 diseases that we plan to study and research.
16 Certainly without saying those diseases could
17 change. They will be in the animal mission section.
18 They will be in either the foreign animal diseases
19 or the zoonotic diseases. At this point in time
20 that's the plan.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I mean, my point is
22 that there is no -- there really isn't any limit to
23 what you can study as long as it's related to
24 animals and animal disease.

25 MR. JAMES JOHNSON: They're based on

31

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 21.0

DHS notes the commentor's concern that all possible pathogens to be studied at the NBAF are not listed in the NBAF EIS. The pathogens to be studied at the NBAF as provided in Chapter 2, Section 2.2.1 of the NBAF EIS include Foot and Mouth Disease virus, Classical Swine Fever virus, Vesicular Stomatitis virus, Rift Valley Fever virus, Nipah virus, Hendra virus, and African Swine Fever virus. Should the NBAF be directed to study any pathogens not included in the list of pathogens included in the NBAF EIS, DHS and USDA would conduct an evaluate of the new pathogen(s) to determine if the potential challenges and consequences were bounded by the current study. If not, a new risk assessment would be prepared and a separate NEPA evaluation may be required.

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1 threats that -- based on what we're seeing in the
2 world. That is what we really focus our research
3 on. It could change down the road.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay, thank you.

5 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Anyone else have a
6 question? Yes, ma'am.

7 MS. TUPPER ENGLAND: I was reading about
8 your meeting that you had in Butner, North Carolina,
9 they're very concerned about what's going to happen
10 to the waste water. I talked with a counselman this
11 morning, they're having their meeting tonight to see
12 if they want to recommend or not recommend y'all
13 coming up to North Carolina. I heard y'all may be
14 voted against it, and their concern is waste water
15 and what you're going to do with it and how you're
16 going to say you're going to purify it. What is
17 that going to do to our water system here in Flora?
18 What are y'all planning on doing with it and how do
19 you plan on making it safe for us? Where is it
20 going in our water system?

21 MR. JAMES JOHNSON: The water that we have
22 at the facility will be treated before it's
23 released. It's a requirement that it has to be
24 sterile before we release it. We don't release
25 waste water off site, we treat it on site.

32

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 12.5

DHS notes the commentor's wastewater treatment concerns. The NBAF EIS Section 3.3.5.1.4 describes the Town of Flora's wastewater treatment process and capacity. On average the system is at approximately 33% of its total capacity and a 10-inch gravity sewer line servicing the Flora Industrial Park has 100% excess flow rate capacity. The EIS Section 3.13.1 describes the NBAF's solid and liquid waste management methodologies. Section 3.3.5.3.1 describes Flora's proposed municipal potable water upgrades including additional groundwater well(s) with 720,000 gpd capacity and a 300,000-gallon on site elevated storage tank.

112.5

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1 Everything is treated on site before it's released.
2 The air is filtered, the water is boiled and
3 sterilized, or sterilized. The issue of releasing
4 off site is moot, and we communicated that to the
5 site in North Carolina in the past. They make their
6 own decisions, but everything is treated on site,
7 we're all self contained.

8 MS. TUPPER ENGLAND: Can I have a follow up
9 question?

10 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: I'm sorry.

11 MS. TUPPER ENGLAND: Can I have a follow
12 up?

13 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Yes, if you could
14 please come to the microphone. Thank you.

2|12.1 15 MS. TUPPER ENGLAND: Is that what you do at
16 Plum Island now?

17 MR. JAMES JOHNSON: Yes.

18 MS. TUPPER ENGLAND: And you release it
19 where, in the water around the island?

20 MR. JAMES JOHNSON: We treat it on site on
21 Plum Island and we release it back out.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Have you ever had a
23 problem with that?

24 MR. JAMES JOHNSON: No.

25 MS. TUPPER ENGLAND: You haven't had a

33

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 12.1

DHS notes the commentor's discharge and release concerns. The NBAF EIS Section 3.3.6.3.4 describes the potential options for providing NBAF wastewater treatment on Plum Island. The NBAF EIS Section 3.12.6.1 describes a Phase One Environmental Site Assessment conducted in 2007 and through state and federal environmental databases research; the primary environmental concerns involve former waste management practices and the potential for contamination from the island's extensive fuel storage and distribution system. The EIS Section 3.13.7 describe the methodologies for liquid and solid waste management.

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2|12.1 (cont.)

1 problem with that?

2 MR. JAMES JOHNSON: No.

3 MS. TUPPER ENGLAND: Because I know y'all
4 had a leak that had not reported for a couple years
5 and it upset some of the senators up there. I
6 didn't know if you had problems with the water.

7 MR. JAMES JOHNSON: Well, we're
8 scientifically checked, not only by ourselves but by
9 the State of New York. We are frequently monitored
10 and will be at NBAF. --

11 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Any other questions
12 from the audience at this time?

13 Okay, what we would like to do is next on
14 our agenda is formal comments here today at the
15 meeting, and just to let you know the parameters
16 that we all like to work together on for this
17 portion of the meeting. And, again, to accommodate
18 everyone who signed in and would like to speak.

19 First of all, each person has three
20 minutes, and I will help you, guide you as to where
21 you are on the clock. We time it at three minutes a
22 piece for speaking, would you please respect that.
23 If you have some point in time where you have not
24 finished your comment and your three minutes are up,
25 please do take a seat because we want to make sure

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1 everyone has a chance to speak.

2 As a point of process and clarification, I
3 would just like to state that where we are in this
4 process, if you pose a question in your statement,
5 under the National Environmental Policy Act we're
6 not going to answer those now because what we have
7 to do is to take all those comments and all those
8 questions and respond to them with a scientific
9 analysis if that's appropriate, and put those
10 responses in writing in a final response document.

11 So anyone, if you pose a question it's that
12 we're being disrespectful, we're following the
13 process.

14 Okay, at this point in time I will call for
15 a certain speaker, and that is Mr. Mike Kent, if you
16 could please come up to the microphone. Okay, I
17 will keep an eye out, if Mr. Kent comes back we will
18 let him speak. We'll continue with Ms. Nell Wade.

19 MS. NELL WADE: Okay, I live in Flora,
20 Madison County. And I was questioning, Plum Island
21 is only proposed site that has low risk when she
22 said that -- issues. And it's colder climate and
23 isolation, that's a direct contrast to us here in
24 Flora.

25 I question potentially, also, economic and

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 9.5

DHS notes the commentor's climate concerns. Each alternative site's climate was described in Section 3.4 of the NBAF EIS. Site specific climatic conditions were considered in developing infrastructure criteria such as fuel and water usage. Quality of life factors such as emergency response capabilities to potential climatic events are described in Section 3.10.5.

19.5

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2|15.5;
3|23.0

1 environmental damage to Flora with all said being
2 short term, high cost from construction on the
3 island, which I understand is one of the questions
4 that y'all are going to answer later.

4|21.5

5 The Rift Valley Fever that you introduced
6 to -- could potentially introduce to all those
7 receptive hosts of mosquitoes could be much worse
8 than West Nile, which we certainly have a problem
9 with now. How would you stop the spreading of that
10 to mosquitos? And wildlife interact directly with
11 domestic animals here, and what effect if
12 contaminated, because they're in and out of pastures
13 all the time.

5|13.5

14 Whitetail deer were eradicated on Plum
15 Island, I understand, and that is the way y'all took
16 care of it over there. Could not some of these
17 agents be studied more safely at their port of
18 origin. -- in to here and to introduce this in the
19 country is going to mean problems with containers
20 with them coming in. I would hate to see us bring
21 them in on purpose.

3|23.0
(cont.)

22 What cost is borne by Mississippi citizens
23 up from emergency responses. We have a volunteer
24 fire department here in Flora currently.

2|15.5
(cont.);
3|23.0
(cont.)

25 And does the railroad track with shipments

36

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 15.5

Specifically, DHS would offer coordination and training to local medical personnel regarding the effects of pathogens to be studied at the NBAF. Emergency management plans would also include training for local law enforcement, health care, and fire and rescue personnel

Comment No: 3 Issue Code: 23.0

As described in Section 2.3.1 of the NBAF EIS, DHS's site selection criteria included, but were not limited to, such factors as proximity to research capabilities and workforce. As such, some but not all of the sites selected for analysis as reasonable alternatives in the NBAF EIS are located in suburban or semi-urban areas. Nevertheless, it has been shown that modern biosafety laboratories can be safely operated in populated areas. An example is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in downtown Atlanta, Georgia, where such facilities employ modern biocontainment technologies and safety protocols, such as would be employed in the design, construction, and operation of the NBAF.

Comment No: 4 Issue Code: 21.5

DHS notes the commenter's concerns regarding safe facility operations. The NBAF would be designed, constructed, and operated to ensure the maximum level of public safety and to fulfill all necessary requirements to protect the environment. An analysis of potential consequences of a pathogen (e.g., Rift Valley fever virus) becoming established in native mosquito populations is addressed in Sections 3.8.9, 3.10.9, and 3.14.

Comment No: 5 Issue Code: 13.5

DHS notes the commenter's concern regarding potential adverse effects of an accidental release on domestic animals in the vicinity of the Flora Industrial Park Site. The potential impacts of an accidental release on wildlife are addressed in Section 3.8.9. The NBAF EIS acknowledges the potential susceptibility of domestic cats and dogs, and the potential for significant impacts on wildlife in the event of an accidental release. However, the risk of such a release is extremely low (see Section 3.14). It has been shown that modern biosafety laboratories can be safely operated in populated areas and in areas with abundant wildlife. State-of-the-art biocontainment facilities such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in downtown Atlanta, Georgia, employ modern biocontainment technologies and safety protocols, such as would be employed in the design, construction, and operation of NBAF. Furthermore, the purpose of NBAF is to combat diseases that could have significant effects on doestic animals and. wildlife. Research at the NBAF would include the development of vaccines that could prevent adverse impacts from a foreign introduction.

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	1	in close proximity may be additional risk.
6 3.0	2	Reporting of contamination in -- facilities
	3	has been faulty and transparency has been lacking.
	4	So I wonder what y'all are going to do to address
	5	that in the future.
4 21.5 (cont.)	6	And, also, the question whether the
	7	proliferation of having this research on facilities,
	8	if that actually increases the risk?
2 15.5 (cont.)	9	Currently, our economic impacts -- for by
	10	wildlife contamination then that is certainly a
	11	local issue. Thank you.
	12	MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Sammy Blossom.
	13	MR. SAMMY BLOSSOM: Good evening. I'm
	14	Sammy Blossom, I work for the Mississippi
	15	Cattlemen's Association, serving as Executive Vice
	16	President. I'm here tonight representing the
	17	officers of our association. We appreciate
	18	certainly the Government's efforts on our behalves
	19	in protecting the health of our herds. It's most
	20	important to us. As you know, agriculture is the
	21	largest part of the US economy, and the cattle
	22	industry is the largest part of agriculture. It's
	23	our livelihood.
1 24.5	24	In Mississippi cattle are grown in all of
	25	our 82 counties, and there are 20,000 beef producers

37

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 24.5

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

Comment No: 6 Issue Code: 3.0

DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding transparency. NBAF would incorporate modern biocontainment technologies and safety protocols, as further discussed in Chapter 2, Section 2.2.1.1. A discussion of human health and safety is included in Chapter 3, Section 3.14 and Appendix E of the NBAF EIS. A description of potential safeguards can be found in the NBAF Engineering Technical Feasibility Study. DHS is aware of previous biosafety lapses and will continue to analyze these events in order to provide improvements to the structural and engineered safety in the final NBAF design, and in the operating procedures, monitoring and other protocols that will further reduce the chances of an inadvertent or intentional release of pathogens. As noted in Section 2.2.2.6, community representatives will serve on the IBC.

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1|24.5
(cont.);
2|15.5

1 in our state. -- on the extensive education program
 2 about the NBAF lab to educate our producers and our
 3 members about the effects and what it might mean to
 4 our state. I can tell you tonight that of those
 5 20,000 producers, after hearing presentation and
 6 learning about it, I can count on one hand the
 7 number that still have reservations about siting in
 8 our state. And I think that our embracing this is
 9 almost totally. We certainly appreciate your
 10 efforts here.

11 On a personal note, my wife and I live in
 12 Flora and we look forward to having a lot of great
 13 new revenue when the lab gets here.

14 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you, sir.
 15 Stanley Simpson.

16 MR. STANLEY SIMPSON: First of all I would
 17 like to thank y'all for including Flora in the
 18 process.

1|24.5;
2|15.5

19 The economic and social and the heavy
 20 impact that this facility will have on this town is
 21 just unmeasurable.

22 Back in the 1940s we had a Ordnance plant
 23 come to Flora. It was built by a private company
 24 that was working for the federal government for the
 25 United States Department of Defense. It closed.

38

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.

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 When that facility closed a lot of jobs, a lot of
2 people went away.

3 I think we have a great opportunity to be
4 able to take a giant leap forward for the town if we
5 are successful in getting this facility here, and I
6 just hope that the people in the town of Flora and
7 the surrounding area will listen with open hearts
8 and be more receptive to the idea of this facility
9 becoming a reality. Thank you.

10 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you, Mr.
11 Simpson. Dr. Lester Spell.

12 DR. LESTER SPELL: Good afternoon, my name
13 is Lester Spell, I'm a veterinarian by trade, and I
14 presently serve the Mississippi Commission of
15 Agriculture and Commerce. This is my fourth year as
16 a state elected official. I understand the need for
17 research in all phases of agriculture, whether it be
18 plant or animal.

1|24.5

19 I want to say that we're excited to have
20 you here to look at our state and consider our
21 state. As I talk to people involved in all phases
22 of agriculture, people who really come to know and
23 understand what this facility is about, the
24 safeguard that's built into this facility, think
25 this is a wonderful asset to our state.

39

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.5

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

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1|24.5
(cont.)

1 The Mississippi Veterinary Medical
2 Association has wholeheartedly endorsed this
3 project. The Mississippi Board of Animal Health, of
4 which I'm a member, has stood and wholeheartedly
5 endorsed its decision, and from looking at your
6 Environmental Impact Study I think the potential of
7 eight counties in this area could be affected by the
8 billion dollars in agriculture in those eight
9 counties.

10 And speaking on behalf of the Department of
11 Agriculture and Commerce, I can tell you talking
12 with farmers that I've talked to, we support this
13 project 100 percent.

14 I think the governor of our state, our
15 state legislature, all the state elected officials,
16 city, county, and all the counties joining -- all
17 join. We welcome this facility. We -- a year ago
18 we could build a safe facility would be better
19 served not only our state but the whole nation.
20 Thank you for this opportunity.

21 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you, sir.
22 Floretta Coleman.

23 MS. FLORETTA COLEMAN: My name is Floretta
24 Coleman. I'm here as a mother and a grandmother. I
25 don't have cattle, but I do understand the economic

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1|24.5;
2|15.5

1 impact that this lab is going to have on our town,
2 as well as the surrounding towns. I'm looking
3 forward to the bio lab coming. I'm looking forward
4 to something to give our town a boost. We are
5 losing our children because we don't have -- there
6 are no jobs here, and I really think that the bio
7 lab is going to be a good thing for us.

8 I've been here all my life, and I knew
9 Flora when Flora boomed. It was a bang here. And
10 now it's not what it used to be here, and I really
11 think that this is going to be a good thing. And I
12 think we as citizens of Flora should grab hold of
13 this and not let it go. Thank you.

14 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you. Tupper
15 England.

16 MS. TUPPER ENGLAND: Somehow I don't think
17 I'm going to get applause like she did. I do have a
18 lot of concerns and I tried to be open minded about
19 this in the beginning. My daughter lives in North
20 Carolina. That stuff they gave up there, they're
21 into the golden research triangle. She told me,
22 mom, you're not going to get it we're going to get
23 it because that's what we do. And then all of a
24 sudden every time I go up there there is more on the
25 news, they're concerned, they're worried, they don't

41

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 21.5

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 a 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 and Appendix E 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: 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 Alternative are included in Section 3.10.5 of the NBAF EIS.

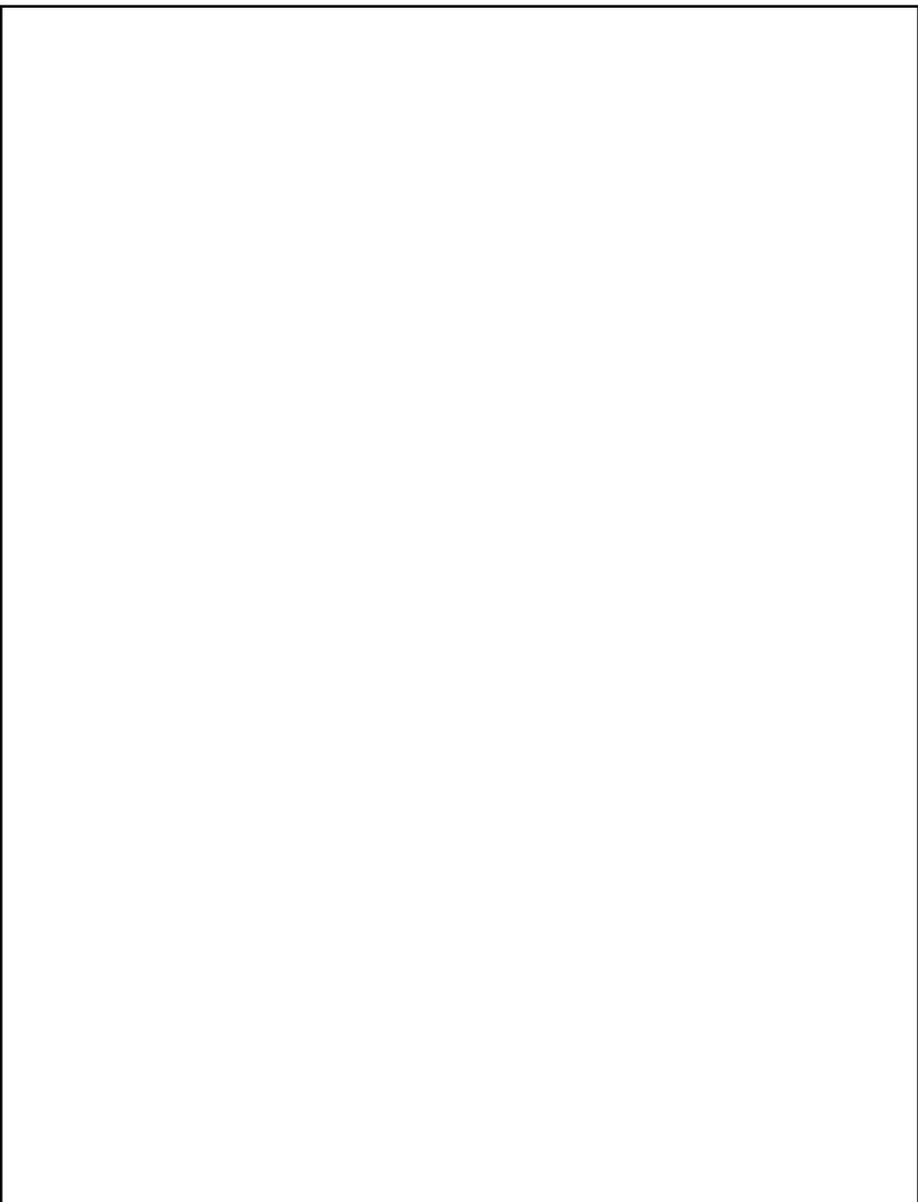
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1 want it.
2 I studied a lot of stuff in their newspaper
3 about it, so I started doing a little more research
4 about some of the things that have happened on Plum
5 Island and some of the things -- but started to
6 concern me. Like the lady said earlier, Nell Wade,
7 that have been some leaks. They're having some
8 security problems, and y'all have missed some dead
9 lines on some of the security requirement. The
10 Senators from Connecticut and north New York have
11 been concerned, and one had moved away because they
12 thought it was a huge terrorist target. And so
13 that's my concern, so if you move it over here into
14 Flora what level of terrorist target are we now once
15 you're moved into the middle of our dear state. So
16 that concerns me now. A lot of the leaks concern me
17 because being right most of the time is okay --
18 because it effects our lives, you just have to
19 evacuate the state.
20 It can effect our lost dog, our children,
21 and now that you're putting 10 percent of this
22 research on animals to human, it could effect us.
23 So those concerns do worry me. Another
24 thing that concerns me that a lot of us have worked
25 forever on trying to get this Highway 22 project

1|21.5 (cont.)

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2|17.5

1 stopped. You mentioned that a lot of the roads were
2 going to have to be expanded into four lanes around
3 this area and that threw up a red flag too because
4 we've worked so hard not to be in that four lanes
5 through a lot our farms and through an airport
6 that's been here. So where are these roads going,
7 and, you know, how is that going to effect what
8 we've been trying to stop around here.

3|25.5

9 So I'm not trying to be inhospitable, but
10 these are legitimate concerns, and I wish people
11 would get on line and read what's happening in other
12 states. In Georgia there is a huge program trying
13 to get awareness for this. I wish there was a
14 little more awareness about this. I understand
15 that's it's economical and how people want to build
16 up the economy around here, but I think when
17 actually we do it the right way and that we don't
18 sell ourselves out to a program that ends up in the
19 long run hurting us. So I think the island is a
20 good idea, -- island, you can put the Plum Island
21 stuff together and then it's contained to the island
22 and not to all of us. So thank you very much. I'm
23 glad you enjoyed the sweet tea. And I hope you go
24 somewhere like maybe Kansas.

25 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Charles England.

43

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 17.5

DHS notes the commentor's concerns regarding traffic and transportation related infrastructure issues. An evaluation of the existing road conditions and potential effects to traffic and transportation infrastructure from the NBAF construction and operation of the Flora Industrial Park Site Alternative is provided in Section 3.11.5 of the NBAF EIS.

Comment No: 3 Issue Code: 25.5

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Flora Industrial Park Site Alternative.

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1 MR. CHARLES ENGLAND: Most of my comments
 2 come in the form of questions. I'm not one to trust
 3 governments of any sort. I'm very pragmatic about
 4 placing my trust in someone that controls. There's
 5 only one person that can control me that I trust
 6 other than me very extensively. They're not sitting
 7 up front, they're not in Washington.

8 I would like questions answered like, is
 9 Homeland Security request this new facility on the
 10 mainland or did it come from politicians. Was it a
 11 political decision to do this on the mainland or a
 12 security decision to do this on the mainland.

13 I would like it on the record how the
 14 Senators from Connecticut and New York feel about
 15 moving the facility off of Plum Island. Do they
 16 want it moved or do they want it to stay there, a
 17 new facility to be built there? My understanding is
 18 they're all opposed to it being built on Plum
 19 Island. I would like to know why they're opposed to
 20 it being built on Plum Island. I would like for
 21 that to be in the record.

22 I've heard that they consider it a prime
 23 terrorist target. I'm not particularly afraid of
 24 terrorist, but if it's a target it's a target.

25 I've read that all of large wild life on

44

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 2.0

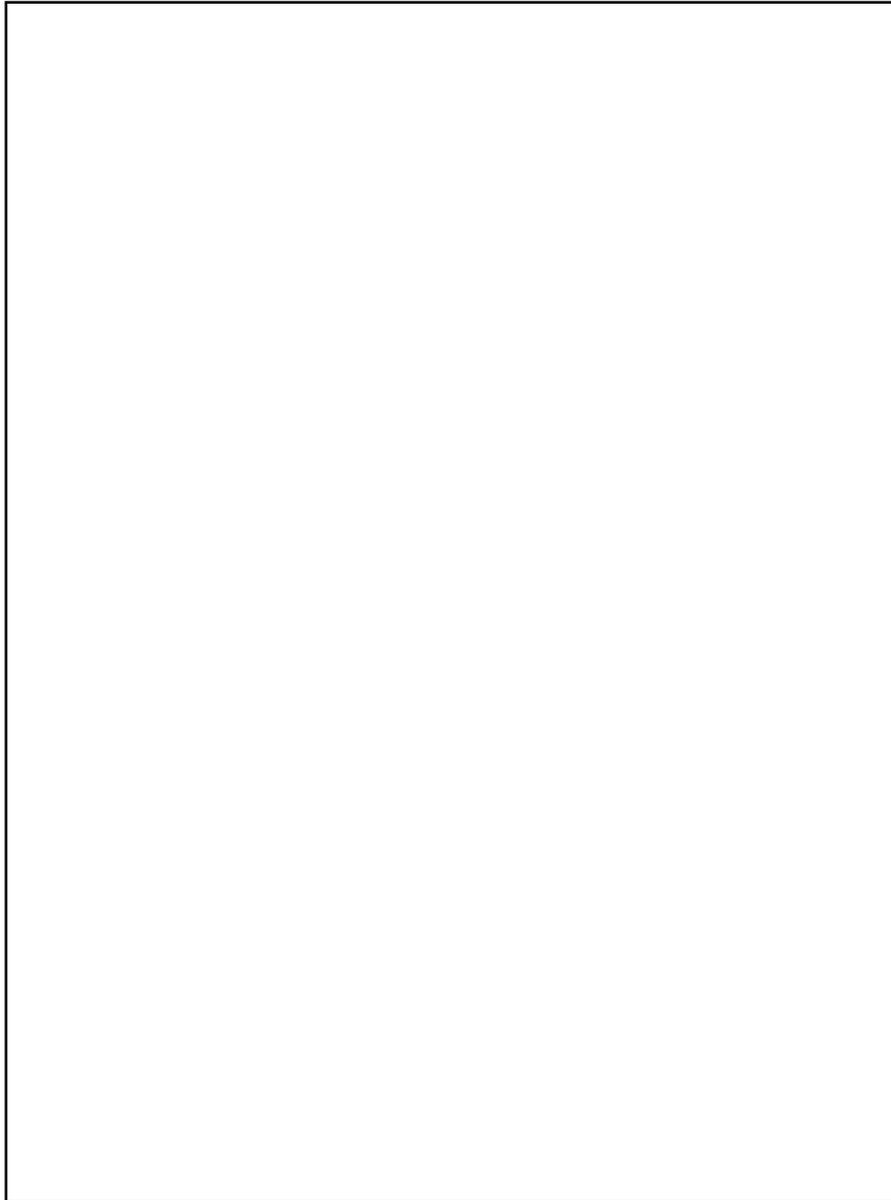
DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding the mission of the NBAF. Chapter 1, Section 1.1 of the NBAF EIS identifies DHS's mission which is to study foreign animal and zoonotic (transmitted from animals to humans) diseases that threaten our agricultural livestock and agricultural economy. The goal or benefit of NBAF is to prevent these animal diseases from spreading in the United States through research into the transmission of these animal diseases and the development of diagnostic tests, vaccines, and antiviral therapies. 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. 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.). The primary objective of the EIS is to evaluate the environmental impacts of a range of reasonable alternatives for locating, constructing and operating the NBAF. NEPA requires all reasonable alternatives to be considered and that includes consideration of mainland sites. 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 with a minimal degree of risk, regardless of the site chosen.

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 21.5

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 and Appendix E 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

1|2.0

2|21.5



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.

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3|13.5

1 Plum Island is gone now. I've heard that new large
2 wild life are killed, but that the original wild
3 life died in a couple of weeks. I would like to
4 know the answer to that question.

4|17.5

5 Foreign diseases, currently the foreign
6 diseases are going to an island. Aren't they going
7 -- aren't they going to be bringing them to the
8 mainland when they do this. I'm assuming that these
9 aren't from the mainland now.

5|23.0

10 I would like to know if there is any chance
11 that we will be studying westernization of these
12 diseases in the future at in this plant or any other
13 plant because of the research done at the plant.

6|21.1

14 I would like to see a list of all the
15 breaches and leaks from the Plum Island facility,
16 and have the authorities responded to those leaks
17 and when they were reported in relation to the leak
18 time, when the leaks were breached actually got them
19 versus when they were reported.

20 I would like to know, this is kind of hard,
21 but I would like to know what the opposition at the
22 other states is looking like. I would like to know
23 how the people in Connecticut and Long Island feel
24 about losing the facility they have. Do they want
25 it to stay or do they want it to go?

45

Comment No: 3Issue Code: 13.5

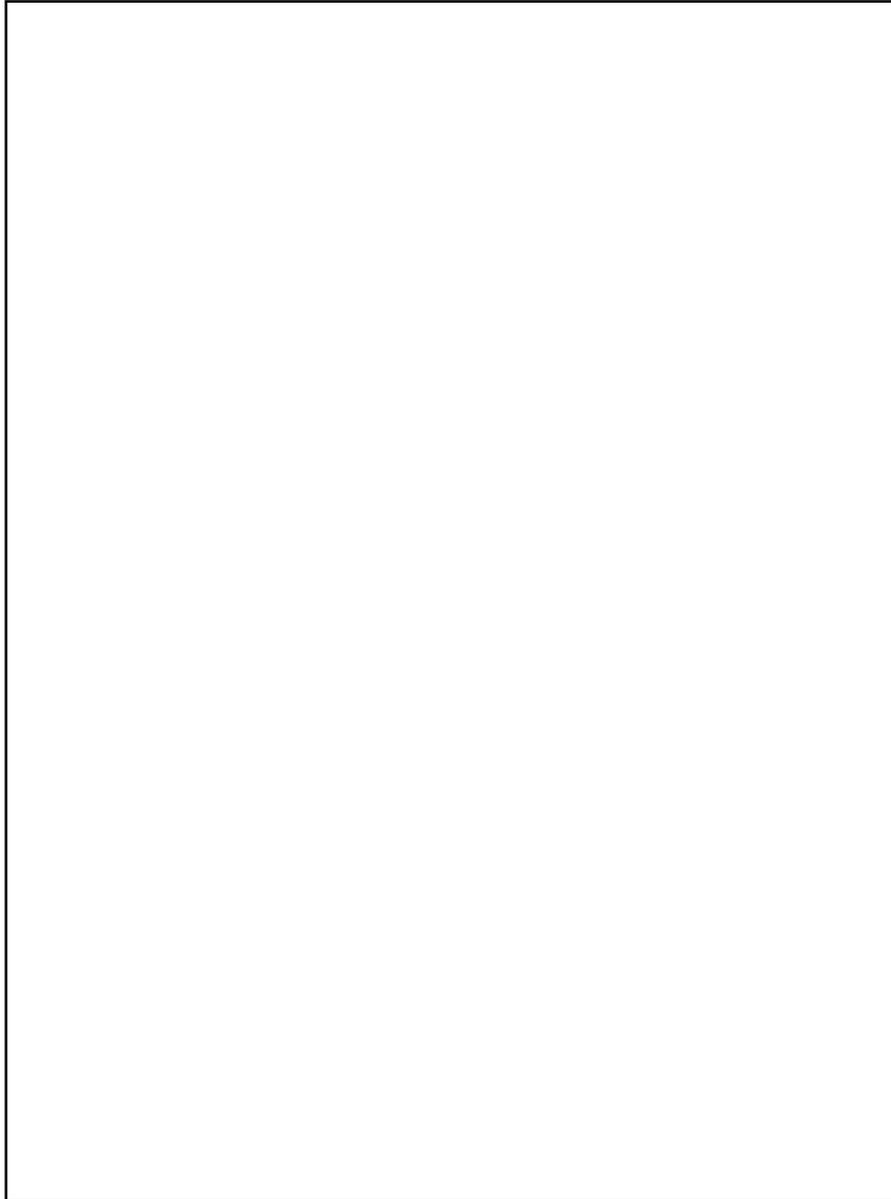
DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding the potential effects on wildlife in the vicinity of the Flora Industrial Park Site. Although past wildlife management activities at Plum Island have included depopulating deer, wildlife depopulation would not be used as preventative measure at any of the potential mainland NBAF sites. The potential response measures that could be employed in the event of an accidental release are described in Section 3.8.9 of the NBAF EIS (Table 3.8.9-1). Depopulation or population reduction is one of ten potential FMD response strategies developed by the National Park Service. However, the National Park Service recommends the use of other strategies or combinations of strategies to avoid depopulating wildlife (see Table 3.8.9-1). A more likely scenario would include one or more of the non-lethal measures described in Table 3.8.9-1. In the event that depopulation or population reduction was determined to be the most appropriate course of action, hunting with firearms would be the likely method for implementing this strategy. Furthermore, the NBAF mission includes the development of vaccines for wildlife that could prevent adverse impacts from a foreign introduction.

Comment No: 4Issue Code: 17.5

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

Comment No: 5Issue Code: 23.0

DHS notes the commentor's question regarding whether the NBAF will conduct research on the "westernization" of the pathogens listed for study at the NBAF. DHS is unclear as to the commentor's meaning of "westernization research" and therefore is unable to provide a meaningful response to this particular issue.



Comment No: 6

Issue Code: 21.1

DHS notes the commentor's questions regarding the history of accidents at the PIADC facility on Plum Island. Since 1954, there has been one accidental release of FMD from biocontainment (but not off Plum Island) and that occurred in 1978 when some cattle that were maintained by the research facility in outdoor confinements became infected. This release did not spread from the island. In addition, there have been five incidences involving a compromise of biocontainment, however, no pathogens were released. DHS will consider these incidents and their outcomes, as well as other such historic biocontainment incidents and laboratory-acquired infections, in the United States and worldwide, described in Appendix B, to improve the structural and engineered safety of the final NBAF design and to incorporate lessons learned from incidents of human error into the operating procedures. Laboratory-acquired infections have not been shown to be a threat to the community at large.

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3|15.0

1 And a comment that's been mentioned to us a
 2 significant economic impact. I'm sure it will have
 3 some economic impact that's pure luck, some economic
 4 impact that should be --. To the best of my
 5 knowledge, every time a military base is closed in
 6 the US the economic situation has improved.

7 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you, sir.
 8 Frank Garletts.

9 MR. FRANK GARLETTS: Good evening. I live
 10 about four miles due south of here. I'm a private
 11 airport community, and my question is, a big old
 12 airplane is mentioned up here twice as crashing into
 13 buildings. You know, will there be a no fly zone
 14 where we can't get the -- come out all the time. It
 15 was about 11 or 12 of us down there now, it's going
 16 to expand probably to about 18 to 20 families that
 17 would have a significant impact if there's a no fly
 18 zone. If there isn't, that's fine. We need the
 19 answer to that question. Thank you.

20 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you. Kent
 21 Hoblet.

22 MR. KENT HOBLET: I'm Kent Hoblet. I'm
 23 Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at
 24 Mississippi State University and I thank you for the
 25 opportunity to make some comments. We have

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Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 16.5

DHS notes the commentor's concern. No-fly zones (nfv) will be considered along with other security measures for the proposed NBAF. 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 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. The TRA and security actions that would be implemented, based on TRA recommendations, are confidential due to NBAF security considerations; however, a nfv is currently not anticipated but remains an option based on security conditions.

Comment No: 3 Issue Code: 15.0

DHS notes the commentor's concerns. The location of a research facility at a new site will create both direct and indirect jobs not currently being generated in the receiving community. The manner in which a civilian research facility interacts with the surrounding community from an economic perspective is vastly different from that of a military installation; therefore the analogy of base closings benefiting communities is not applicable.

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1 approximately 100 members of our faculty, and we
 2 have a continue -- in zoonotic diseases from USDA.
 1|24.5 3 As a college we see this as a tremendous opportunity
 4 for us to offer recruit scientists, to collaborate
 5 with scientists of NBAF and to recruit graduate
 6 students, and also for our veterinary students, both
 7 here and the students that might come in, so we see
 8 the great recruiting opportunity.

9 I would like to call attention to the
 10 string of the consortium that's been put together
 11 for this group. In addition to Battelle, the
 12 addition of our in state partners of Mississippi
 2|15.5 13 State, the medical center, the other universities in
 14 the state. We are pretty much in the -- Tulane
 15 University, well known as a high quality research
 16 institution, and Iowa State University as the fourth
 17 leader in the animal disease research.

18 One question I have relates to the economic
 19 impact study. Although I have no fear whatsoever of
 20 Foot and Mouth Disease, I think for making
 21 comparisons among the various sites, and I do
 22 understand the major economic input -- be related to
 23 the secession of exports in a while. I think maybe
 24 we ought to look at the differences in livestock
 25 populations among the states that are competing for

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Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 24.5

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

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 15.5

Chapter 3, Section 3.14 and Appendix E of the NBAF EIS investigate the chances of a variety of accidents that could occur with the proposed NBAF and consequences of potential accidents. DHS cannot guarantee that the NBAF would never experience an accident; however, the risk of an accidental release of a pathogen from the NBAF is extremely low. The economic impact of an accidental release, including the impact on the livestock-related industries, is presented in Chapter 3, Section 3.10.9 and Appendix D of the NBAF EIS. 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.

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2|15.5
cont.

1 this. USDA leadership, for instance, Kansas has
2 about six times the number cattle heads than
3 Mississippi had. And also the continuous states.
4 States around Mississippi are not high livestock
5 states; whereas some of the other states are. Those
6 are the comments I have. Thank you.

7 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Haley Fisackerly.

8 MR. HALEY FISACKERLY: Good evening and
9 welcome to Mississippi. I'm Haley Fisackerly,
10 President and CEO of HQ Mississippi and here on
11 behalf as a chairman the Greater Jackson Chamber of
12 Partnership. The Greater Jackson Chamber of
13 Partnership has been very involved in this process
14 since the State of Mississippi first issued a letter
15 of interest and we have worked very closely with the
16 team involved in helping recruit this facility and
17 after studying it and recognizing what this type of
18 invest means not only to this state but also to this
19 nation. We know that advancements in technology and
20 engineering we're convinced this will be a safe and
21 secure facility.

22 We also hope that while you've been
23 studying this state and as well as this region and
24 particularly the Flora site you have found a region
25 and a site that is abundant in resources.

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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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1|24.5
(cont.)

1 Mississippi is very proud of our people.
2 We've stepped up to many a challenges in the past
3 whether it to be the great challenge of Katrina when
4 it hit this state and we all came together for that
5 or whether you look not too far from here to see one
6 of the largest manufacturing facilities built in
7 this world in a very rural area. We were also
8 picked in the Nissan facility. We're in the process
9 of attracting another major investment in Toyota in
10 north Mississippi, and one of the most advanced
11 steel plants that's been built in the eastern part
12 of the state, all in very rural areas, all facing
13 many, many, many infrastructure challenges that we
14 have come together as people to beat. We've also --
15 it's giving us a great opportunity to train work
16 force and that in Mississippi folks is one of the
17 most productive and ethically focused work forces in
18 the country and we're very proud of our people. We
19 also offer great educational opportunity in every
20 aspect and we they think this will be also a great
21 attraction for a facility like that. We thank you
22 for this time. I thank you for time to make the
23 comment and I appreciate the -- this is a test you
24 have ahead of you but I hope you will find that this
25 is a state rich in resources and we welcome the

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1 opportunity. Thank you.

2 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you, sir.

3 Mike Kent.

4 MR. MIKE KENT: Good evening, I'm
5 superintendent of education for the Madison County
6 School District and I'm admitting that I'm tardy.

7 I do want to take this opportunity to tell
8 you that we look forward to the opportunity for you
9 to have us located here. The Madison County School
10 District is one of the fastest school districts in
11 the State of Mississippi. There's a reason for that
12 and that is we're simply the best in the district in
13 the State of Mississippi. People have come to
14 locate here for the opportunities that our
15 educational system offers. The students in this
16 area are eligible to attend Madison Central High
17 School. This past year Madison Central had 26
18 national merit finalists. That was the highest
19 number of national merit finalists of any high
20 school in the State of Mississippi. That has been
21 true for the past four years in a row, and I think
22 it would be true next year if we have somewhere
23 around 28 nominees that we think will be eligible.
24 Madison County is one of the fastest growing
25 counties in the State of Mississippi. It's all

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 24.5

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

1|24.5

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1|24.5
(cont.)

1 about quality of life. You'll hear that tonight
2 over and over and over. Not only is there a great
3 public school opportunity in this county but there
4 are also numerous private and parochial schools that
5 also do a great job.

6 We look forward to the opportunity and we
7 hope you consider us seriously. Thank you.

8 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you.

9 Jason Dillon.

1|24.5

10 MR. JASON DILLON: Gentleman, the saddest
11 words, -- all the words that it could have been, so
12 I believe Mississippi is looking forward to the
13 opportunity of hosting you guys and allowing you to
14 come here. I believe that the greater majority of
15 everyone that I have talked to and that I have
16 networked with are in favor of NBAF locating here
17 and when I was thinking about my comments I saw us
18 to be warm trusting people, so we do trust. And in
19 the building and preparation of everything that you
20 will keep our interest at heart and I know that
21 you'll do that, but we are looking forward to having
22 you come to Mississippi. Flora is the Mayberry of
23 the nation. It's the Mayberry town, everybody knows
24 everybody and you go up here to the local restaurant
25 with everybody that you know, but all of this,

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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 change is inevitable and we understand that, but the
2 opportunity to grab hold of something like this and
3 to allow it to take us into an ever changing future
4 whether you like it or not, we are wanting that
5 opportunity. We thank you for coming tonight, and
6 sharing this information with us. Thank you
7 gentleman.

8 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you, Mr.
9 Dillon.

10 Lanny Pace.

11 MR. LANNY PACE: Thank you, my name is
12 Lanny Pace. I'm the executive director of the
13 Mississippi Veterinary Research and Diagnostic
14 Laboratory System. Our laboratory system -- is
15 located at Mississippi State University.

1|24.5

16 I thank the Department of Homeland Security
17 and USDA for coming and making this presentation.
18 In our laboratory diagnostic lab system in this
19 state we have four labs. Two of those labs are
20 located in the adjacent county, Rankin County. In
21 that county we have our central reference laboratory
22 for the state, so called state lab. We also have a
23 poultry and diagnostic lab in Rankin County. In the
24 Delta we have a catfish diagnostic lab and the
25 college of veterinarian medicine in Starkville we

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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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1|24.5
(cont.)

1 have another full service RLPC diagnostic lab that
2 serves as both a service and as our teaching lab for
3 veterinary students. So within that lab system,
4 four labs we deal daily with the threat of foreign
5 animal diseases, zoonotic diseases and some of the
6 things that you talked about. We have people
7 trained to actually look for some of the diseases
8 that are in the group of eight that this facility
9 would do research and testing on. What I want --
10 one of the things I want to speak to is in our state
11 lab system to let you folks know that we have had
12 tremendous, tremendous state support for our
13 laboratory systems in recent years. Our state
14 legislature, our Governor, our local authorities in
15 Rankin County, Commissioner of Agricultural, our
16 animal commodity group have all shown a tremendous
17 report and we just moved two years ago next week
18 into the new 42,000 square foot, \$18.5 million
19 building that was fully state funded over there in
20 Rankin County.

21 One of the roles of NBAF is to develop
22 diagnostic test for these foreign animal diseases
23 and then once those test are released out to labs
24 that are in the national animal health laboratory
25 network, which our lab is part of it and then we at

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1|24.5 (cont.)

1 the state lab do a screening for foreign animal
2 diseases and any suspect type diseases we refer
3 currently to Plum Island or to -- lab in Aims, Iowa
4 for confirmation, so we deal with what goes on at
5 Plum Island on a regular basis today.

6 And what I'd like to say is that we, in
7 addition to what Dr. Thompson said about the
8 interaction of our faculty with sites from the
9 facility that we have full trust in the biosafety
10 features of this facility and give full support of
11 our lab system, -- division of agriculture and
12 forestry the best I've ever seen from this facility.
13 Welcome to Mississippi.

14 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you.

15 Chip Estes.

16 MR. CHIP ESTES: Welcome back, good to see
17 y'all again. Part of the comments, and I may be
18 repeating myself a little bit from last time, but I
19 suppose just being on the economic development board
20 I was one of the first few folks that knew that
21 y'all were looking to come to Flora or Madison
22 County as we had to acquire and additional 20 acres
23 of land to meet with the current requirements and
24 let y'all build off the site. Since that time
25 besides the local community getting behind this the

1|6.5

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 6.5
DHS notes the commentor's statement.

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2|15.5

1 Mississippi legislature, we do have at least one
2 representative here with us tonight that re-did a
3 bond package in the 88.5 million dollar range.
4 Mississippi is obviously the poorest state in the
5 country yet they come forth with this opportunity
6 that shows how more serious we are of attracting
7 this to the state because we know it will help the
8 state. We know how it will help diversify -- to the
9 citizens here. As Ms. Coleman said earlier we
10 really don't have jobs that are really being offered
11 or created here, but for Rankin County having Yazoo
12 clay -- wouldn't be here either. They will be your
13 next door neighbor, and they've been nothing but
14 supportive of this project on the end here, so
15 they're wonderful corporate citizen. They live
16 here, go to church here and they want y'all here as
17 well.

18 Having known that y'all were coming for
19 sometime I personally actually had some skeptical
20 thoughts myself, so I've been involved in the arena
21 for about 26 years, doing natural gas work projects,
22 power line -- power plants, power lines and
23 pipelines, L and G facilities and a number of times
24 we'd do the fatal flaw analyses. In fact I'm
25 getting pipeline site similar to the facility EIS,

55

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 Alternative are included in Section 3.10.5 of the NBAF EIS.

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1 such as like you've done, recently completing one
 2 here in Mississippi for about \$350 million and
 3 obtaining certificate last week.

3|19.5;
 2|15.5
 (cont.)

4 Looking at the similar fatal flaw analysis
 5 from what I saw at first would solve my skepticism,
 6 one was safety, two was economic impact and three
 7 was the overall effect on the Flora citizens.

3|19.5
 (cont.)

8 After touring the CDC in Atlanta about a
 9 year ago I personally have zero concerns that you
 10 guys know how to operate the facility safely. I'll
 11 be living a mile, two miles from the facility with
 12 my family and certainly welcome y'all to provide a
 13 facility that -- if you can operate a facility like
 14 what's in Atlanta studying human diseases I'm sure
 15 there's no problems whatsoever that could be
 16 occurring on animal diseases.

2|15.5 (cont.)

17 We certainly do in Mississippi need
 18 diversity of economic development and economic
 19 wealth creation. We do a great job of
 20 manufacturing. This would be an economic impact of
 21 knowledge creating.

4|24.5

22 In closing, I think you'll find that we
 23 love our quality of life here. I personally don't
 24 see this disrupting it. I don't think the impact is
 25 going to be such as it's going to create a

56

Comment No: 3 Issue Code: 19.5

DHS notes the commentor's support for the NBAF and understanding that the proposed research would be safely conducted at the Flora Industrial Park Site.

Comment No: 4 Issue Code: 24.5

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

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4|24.5 (cont.)

1 tremendous traffic or anything else, and I welcome
2 y'all to Flora when you make that decision.

3 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you, Mr.
4 Estes.

5 Tim Howell.

6 MR. TIM HOWELL: Thank you for allowing me
7 to speak. I lived here all my life and haven't
8 lived here for about 15 years, but my family has
9 been involved in business and we grew up here, still
10 have family that lives here. And I think the

1|24.5

11 opportunity that we have now is the safest most
12 secure way for Flora to insure their way of life
13 than they've ever had before because if we don't
14 seize the opportunity that we have now then somebody
15 else will come in and dictate to us the way of life
16 that we'll have, and I think the opportunity that
17 you're giving us is going to allow Flora to have
18 better government, better protection, better fire
19 services, better roads, economic opportunity.

20 Besides the biolab, the impact that it will have for
21 other jobs for this community are going to be far
22 reaching, much more than we can ever understand. I
23 understand the concerns. I have a concern when I
24 drive that's why I put my seatbelt on. I have a
25 concern when I go to bed at night that's why I lock

57

Comment No: 1Issue 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 my door. And I know you guys did the same thing
 2 about the safety concerns that you have, and I just
 3 want to say that I trust you. I know our government
 4 has to do this for our safety and I don't want to be
 5 a part of the mentality that's plaguing our country
 6 now where people say I want it done but not in my
 7 backyard, it needs to be done but I don't want to do
 8 it. I for one say let's do it. Let's do what we
 9 need to do for our country and let's reap the
 10 benefits of what this will do for our community.
 11 Thank you.

12 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you.

13 Bill Washington.

1|24.5;
2|15.5

14 MR. BILL WASHINGTON: Good evening. Met
 15 with you several months ago and my position is still
 16 the same. I believe this is a positive impact for
 17 Flora, been here many years, saw it through in the
 18 '60s or '70s when we had -- IRS where Flora was very
 19 productive, had jobs, people lived here, we had
 20 communities. After that they left, so this is an
 21 opportunity where the government helps us rebuild
 22 Flora as a business entity and to help grow, build
 23 our school system, help folks get better and bigger
 24 for you. I know people don't like change. I know
 25 there's skepticism with bio because it's dangerous,

58

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 Alternative are included in Section 3.10.5 of the NBAF EIS.

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1|24.5
(cont.)

1 it is dangerous but we have to trust you and that
2 you all protect us and be honest with us and we
3 expect this, keep the community involved, we expect
4 that this facility should be built by minorities as
5 well as others so we expect that you do the right
6 thing and keep the -- Jackson State, Alcorn,
7 Tougaloo, Mississippi Valley State, minority
8 contractors, spread the wealth. Keep everybody
9 involved, have community activities where we can
10 make others aware of what is going on in the
11 facility, even during the building process so we can
12 educate.

13 In my travels I meet a lot of people and I
14 talk positive about this impact that I think that it
15 would have on Flora. I think it's good. It's going
16 to be good. Let's work this thing together, keep
17 everybody involved, thank you.

18 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you.

19 Hazel Cunningham.

20 MS. HAZEL CUNNINGHAM: I'm will defer. I'm
21 going to put my comments in writing. I believe at
22 this point I have a little problem with, hello, I'm
23 from the government and I'm here to help you, so I'm
24 going to put my comments in writing.

25 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you.

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1 Our next speaker is Philip Gunn.
2 MR. PHILIP GUNN: Good evening, welcome to
3 Mississippi. My name is Philip Gunn. I serve in
4 the Mississippi House of Representatives and it's my
5 pleasure tonight to welcome you here on behalf of
6 the Mississippi Legislature. It is also my
7 privilege to serve the good people of Flora. This
8 is part of my district and I will tell you that ever
9 since this thing has been mentioned that I have
10 received nothing but positive comments from my
11 constituents. The comments have been expressed
12 tonight in the way of fears or concerns are the
13 first that I've heard of anyone having a concern
14 about this facility, and the concerns as I
15 understood them are not necessarily objections, they
16 were just questions and concerns and fears and they
17 were valid concerns and fears. But I also know that
18 as I understand it you are sending scientists and
19 people here to work and they are bringing their
20 families with them as well, and as any parent or
21 spouse would be they are concerned about the welfare
22 of their family and I am confident those people
23 would not come here to work. They would not bring
24 their families here. They would not put them in the
25 environment where there was a harm or a fear or a

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 danger to their family, so I am confident that your
2 ability to operate this facility is very good.
3 There would be no concerns and I think that that
4 just in and of itself speaks volumes that we can
5 have great confidence that what you've done here
6 will be very safe and there will be no harm to this
7 community or to the people who work there.

8 Chuck, you said something that caught my
9 eye, or caught my ear I should say. And I think
10 today is your lucky day, you mentioned the fact that
11 there was a lot of infrastructure that needed to be
12 done, water lines, sewer lines, power lines, as it
13 turns out I happen to serve on the Public Utilities
14 Committee in the House of Representatives. And
15 that's what we do. We pass legislation and address
16 those concerns and we've demonstrated that over the
17 last four or five years with many of the facilities
18 Haley mentioned earlier, the Nissan plant, the
19 Toyota plant in Blue Springs, all of which are rural
20 areas, all of which had a great need for
21 development. And that's what we do. We've had many
22 special sessions. I've been personally involved in
23 legislation to get that stuff through. So I think I
24 can help you in whatever way you want that you may
25 need. I will be glad to personally introduce

1|24.5
(cont.)

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1|24.5
(cont.)

1 legislation, I will walk it through myself in my own
 2 hand to make sure that it gets passed so we can
 3 address whatever needs you may have. I know these
 4 people here in Flora will be proud to have this
 5 facility. We want to do our parts as Americans to
 6 help this nation be strong and protect it. These
 7 are great Americans, they love this nation and they
 8 want to do what they can to help, so thank you for
 9 your time.

10 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you.

11 Rudy Holcomb.

12 MR. RUDY HOLCOMB: Thank you. My name is
 13 Rudy Holcomb, I've got a flying business, sprinkler
 14 system business about two miles from here and I
 15 haven't heard or ready any comment about a no fly
 16 zone. Is there going to be one and if so how big
 17 will it be? I wish y'all could address that and
 18 give us some kind of answer. Thank you.

19 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you.

20 Les Childress.

21 MR. LES CHILDRESS: Thank you. I'm the
 22 alderman here in Flora and representing my area I've
 23 had no calls or comments that were negative towards
 24 the facility coming here. We'd like to welcome it
 25 on their behalf. From a personal note I am involved

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: 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 Alternative are included in Section 3.10.5 of the NBAF EIS.

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 16.0

DHS notes the commentor's concern. No-fly zones will be considered along with other security measures for the proposed NBAF. 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 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.

1|15.5;
2|16.0

1|24.5

August 5, 2008, Flora, MS, Flora Evening

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1|24.5
(cont.)

1 in livestock, horses and cattle, and I want to
2 welcome it from my family and hopefully with a
3 graduating senior maybe this is an area he might go
4 into down the road. So anyway, we'd like to welcome
5 you to Flora.

6 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you, sir.
7 Michael Kelly.

1|24.5

8 MR. MICHAEL KELLY: Thanks again for the
9 opportunity to make this comment. I'm Michael Kelly
10 and I'm with the Battelle Memorial Institute.
11 Battelle has been involved with the Gulf States
12 Consortium since the beginning. It's clear some of
13 the remarks tonight and the remarks earlier today
14 that this a terrific team that has been put
15 together, mostly by the other folks -- but not by
16 Battelle. We chose to be part of this team because
17 we viewed it as the right team, we view this as the
18 right place, and we view this as the best place.
19 You have solid community support. You have
20 tremendous backing at all levels, and you have an
21 opportunity to come into a community that is ready
22 to welcome you with open arms and likewise willing
23 to do whatever it takes to make this a success and I
24 think all of those things are the right things.

25 I think the other point is really to the

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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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1|24.5
(cont.)

1 folks here in the audience and I just want to thank
2 the team up here at the table and the other probably
3 100 or so people I'm sure, if not more, that have
4 been involved in trying to bring about this
5 important facility for our nation's security.

6 You know these visions take a long time
7 when you realize that the operational capability of
8 the facility doesn't even come online until 2015 and
9 probably folks at the table will not get to see it
10 come online. They'll read about it and maybe get in
11 invitation to the grand opening, but that's the
12 right challenge and this is hard work. It's hard
13 work to figure out what's the right thing to do and
14 how to do it right. And so, again, my appreciation
15 and my congratulations so far on what we view as a
16 terrific effort. We know that it will continue to
17 be that way. Thanks for your service, and I hope
18 y'all have a great night.

19 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you, sir.

20 John Turner.

21 MR. JOHN TURNER: I'll be very brief, but I
22 was part of the Mississippi Economic Development
23 Team that responded to the DHS Environmental Impact
24 Statement as we went through this process, and I
25 just want to let everybody know it was a very

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1|24.5

1 detailed analysis that as was mentioned earlier,
2 very similar to what was done to Grand Gulf, our
3 nuclear plant down in Port Gibson. As we went
4 through this process we felt very confident that
5 this site was a very good site for this type of
6 facility and had a very positive impact on the City
7 of Flora, the County and the State of Mississippi.
8 Thank you.

9 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you.
10 Buck Covington.

14|0

11 MR. BUCK COVINGTON: Hello, I'm Buck
12 Covington. I wear many many hats, and I want to
13 tell you thank you so very much. The clarity has
14 been crystal clear of how the procedure works, how
15 everything comes together. The questions were
16 answered and comments time. The information coming
17 forward is like a road map, it's easy to follow, so
18 thank you again for that.

22|4.5

19 Getting back to the hats, my family has
20 been from this area for over 100 years. My family
21 was from here, I have some interesting selfish
22 reasons for wanting this lab here. My daughter is
23 studying biology at Georgetown, getting a PhD, have
24 her come home and have a place to work. That would
25 be wonderful.

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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: 1Issue Code: 4.0

DHS notes the commentor's statement.

Comment No: 2Issue Code: 24.5

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

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3|15.5

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(cont.)

1 I'm also the President of Archway
2 Development. We've made a significant investment in
3 a development here close by. The value will
4 probably range between 800 million to a billion
5 dollars in assets when it's all complete and it's
6 real close by and it's going to be here to serve the
7 people of this lab. We're really really excited
8 about that.

9 But I'm also the Present of the Chamber
10 of Commerce for Madison County, which is a broader
11 scope and our board unanimously believes that this
12 is the right way to go. -- we're excited about it.
13 One of the interesting things that I've been
14 listening to tonight, and I'm going to try to do it
15 before the yellow card too, is that I was reminded
16 of something, I was at a funeral of Mr. Bozeman, I
17 think it was about a year and a half ago. And the
18 Minister had mentioned something about the legacy.
19 It was the legacy and this is a very prominent
20 family in the Flora area. And then there was
21 another lady here who talked about what happened in
22 the 1940's when Flora was called the depot, and then
23 we step it up. Madison County and Flora stepped up.
24 This is what we do. This is what we are. This is
25 what we're a part of. Now it's our time to step up

Comment No: 3

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 Alternative are included in Section 3.10.5 of the NBAF EIS.

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2|24.5
(cont.)

1 again. It's part of our legacy. It's part of what
2 do. It's part of who we are. We're here for you.
3 We'd like -- consider it a service to the United
4 States. You know, beyond that -- I missed it.
5 I had a meeting with a CEO, Mr. Hugh
6 Manatino. He is also the President of Parkway
7 Development. I said, do you want me to speak for
8 you speak, he said yes. He said, speak as you will.
9 We'd been having a round table and one of the
10 gentleman who -- actually -- Dick Brazino, he was
11 very familiar with the process and how this works.
12 Through analysis and looking through the data,
13 through everything else, he's in great support of
14 it. So anyhow this just restates my and we
15 appreciate the time. Thank you.

16 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you.

17 Scott Greaves.

18 MR. SCOTT GREAVES: Thank you. I want to
19 start with I am Scott Greaves, Mayor of Flora. I
20 know most of you and it's real good to see
21 everybody. I want to tell you how much I appreciate
22 you guys. We sort of like friends now, you know,
23 whatever happens we'll still be friends. You can
24 always move back to Flora and retire here. I think
25 you have heard enough good things about us.

67

Comment No: 1Issue 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 I want to thank everybody for being
2 frank, Charlie, your wife. Everybody's got their
3 own feeling. Ruby, I appreciate you putting me in
4 for your flying service, you know, he kills bad
5 bugs. That's what he does for a living, flies
6 around but the biggest thing is we've all come
7 together to talk about it, we're to that stage now
8 and I just want to tell you again how much I
9 appreciate you being frank, thinking about it,
10 giving some good hard thought into it, and of course
11 we want you, so I've got that golden shovel whenever
12 you get ready. Thank you so much. I think this is
13 the end of it for speeches, isn't it?

14 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you, sir.

15 MR. SCOTT GREAVES: Thank you.

16 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Folks, we've
17 accommodated everyone who was signed up to speak,
18 but we'd like to offer if there's someone who would
19 still like to speak at this time who didn't sign up
20 who'd like to come to the microphone to please come
21 forward at this time. Yes, ma'am?

22 MS. EVELYN BROWN: Good evening, my name
23 is Evelyn Brown and I'm speaking as an outsider. I
24 moved here about five years ago to the town of
25 Flora. I was born in Mississippi but -- California.

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1 And I just want to shed a little bit of light on the
2 residents here in Flora. This is a little bit
3 different. I lived here, I was pleasantly
4 surprised, and I'm saying this because in California
5 they had a very negative image of Mississippians.
6 And coming here the people were extremely friendly.
7 I found that the Caucasians, the blacks, the Asians,
8 the Hispanics, all of them, all of this is like a
9 little family in this town and I have enjoyed living
10 here in the past five years. I can't think of
11 another place that I'd like to live. As far as the
12 children, the adults, everyone is just like a --
13 like they've known everybody for life, and they have
14 made me feel that way, that they've known me all my
15 life. So I just want to say I think this is a good
16 opportunity bringing the biolab here because you're
17 going to find families coming into this community.

1|24.5

18 There is a low crime rate. The officers,
19 they waive at you, and it's just really a nice
20 community to have people moving in to.

21 As far as the education, I don't have
22 kids in school at this time, but I heard Flora
23 Elementary schools are some of the best schools in
24 Mississippi. The superintendent spoke about Madison
25 Central, I have heard of better schools and as I

69

Comment No: 1Issue 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 said I have lived in various states, so this is a
2 very good community to bring a project in to. Thank
3 you.

4 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you.

5 Excuse me, is there anyone else who would like to
6 speak who has not? Yes, sir.

7 MR. DAVID DZIELAK: Good evening, my name is
8 Dave Dzielak and I'm from the University of
9 Mississippi Medical Center here in Jackson, and I
10 had an opportunity to speak earlier today at the
11 afternoon. I'd like to clarify some points for the
12 this evening and those are the safety issues of the
13 facility. This facility has been -- equivalent for
14 CDC for animals. And I'd like to reiterate that the
15 CDC is located in downtown Atlanta. It has diseases
16 that are probably much more impactful on the human
17 environment and the human condition than the
18 diseases that will be studied here in the NBAF
19 facility. So while this facility is located
20 downtown Atlanta close to Emory University, there is
21 no concern, safety concern that we have or that
22 other people have for the CDC. I just wanted to
23 make that point of clarification that the more you
24 know about what is going on in a facility, the more
25 you're educated about it, the less concern that one

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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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1|24.5
(cont.)

1 has for safety concerns of this type of research and
2 this type of project.

3 We have ongoing at the medical center
4 research that works with BSL 3 types of
5 organizations every day. I walk by that facility
6 probably three times a week and I have no concerns
7 about the way we handle it. I have no concerns
8 about the way the CDC would handle it, and I have no
9 concerns about the way the bio-defense facility
10 would handle it as well. Thank you very much.

11 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you.
12 Anyone else? Yes, ma'am.

13 DR. BIANCA GARNER: Good evening, my name
14 is Dr. Bianca Garner, I work with the Chamber. I
15 just wanted to take a moment to just focus some
16 attention on something that I think is really being
17 overlooked and I think we need to spend some time
18 on. I was fortunate enough to read the EIS, and
19 they've done a good job of punching in on the worst
20 case scenarios; but the do a really good job of
21 saying how we're going to stop that. For 11 years,
22 11 years, I've worked with infectious diseases right
23 here in Jackson. I've worked with anthrax, HIV,
24 hepatitis. For 11 years I've -- I've monitored the
25 lab, I've been interviewed by the FBI,

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1|24.5;
2|22.0

1 fingerprinted, for 11 years I've kept my family
2 safe. And I think that that's a critical point that
3 needs to be addressed. It's that mitigation is
4 identified with EIS and a plan is in place. And I
5 think once we have that plan it sets everything in
6 motion. So for 11 years I can say that what they're
7 saying in that document works, and I think that's
8 what we need to focus on, mitigation. Anywhere you
9 go -- but for 11 years right at UMC I've worked with
10 anthrax. I'm alive. I don't have sores. I haven't
11 given my animals anything, and it worked. And so
12 I'm the person, if you want a face for research in
13 this state I'm that person. I think I've done a
14 pretty good job. I haven't been cited, so I think
15 it's worked and I think it's something we really
16 need to focus in on additional meetings. Thank you.

17 MS. CATHERINE COGHILL: Thank you.

18 Anyone else at this point and time. We are here for
19 the duration of the meeting identified. What we'd
20 like to do now is take a break and in the event that
21 someone would like to speak who has not or folks
22 coming in after work or whatever the schedule we
23 would certainly want to accommodate them when they
24 show up. So we'll check back in shortly and we'll
25 reconvene for anyone who would like to speak again.

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Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 24.5

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

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 22.0

DHS notes the commentor's statement regarding the importance of mitigation measures to prevent or minimize the effects to important resources.

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1 Thank you.

2 (Off the record at 8:35 p.m.)

3 MR. JAMES JOHNSON: We're going to

4 adjourn the meeting, but we wanted to give everyone

5 a chance to comment one last time. No one.

6

7

8 (Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.)

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

NATIONAL BIO AND AGRO-DEFENSE FACILITY
DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (NBAF DRAFT EIS)
PUBLIC MEETING

AFTERNOON SESSION

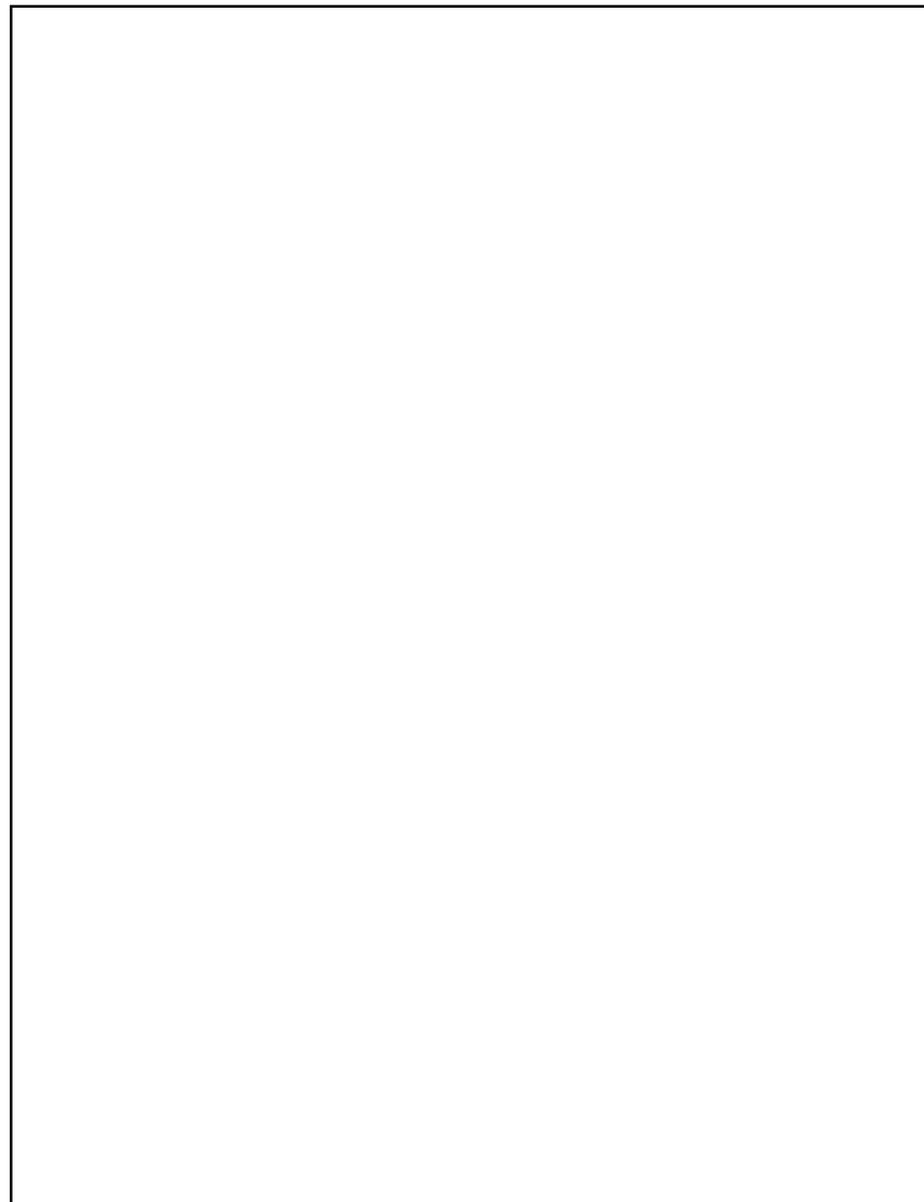
AUGUST 7, 2008
Radisson Hill Country Resort
9800 Westover Hills Boulevard
San Antonio, Texas

RECORD OF PUBLIC MEETING

Catherine Coghill, Moderator

PANEL MEMBERS:

Mr. James Johnson, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Mr. Chuck Pergler, Tetra Tech, Inc.
Dr. Luis Rodriguez, U.S. Department of Agriculture



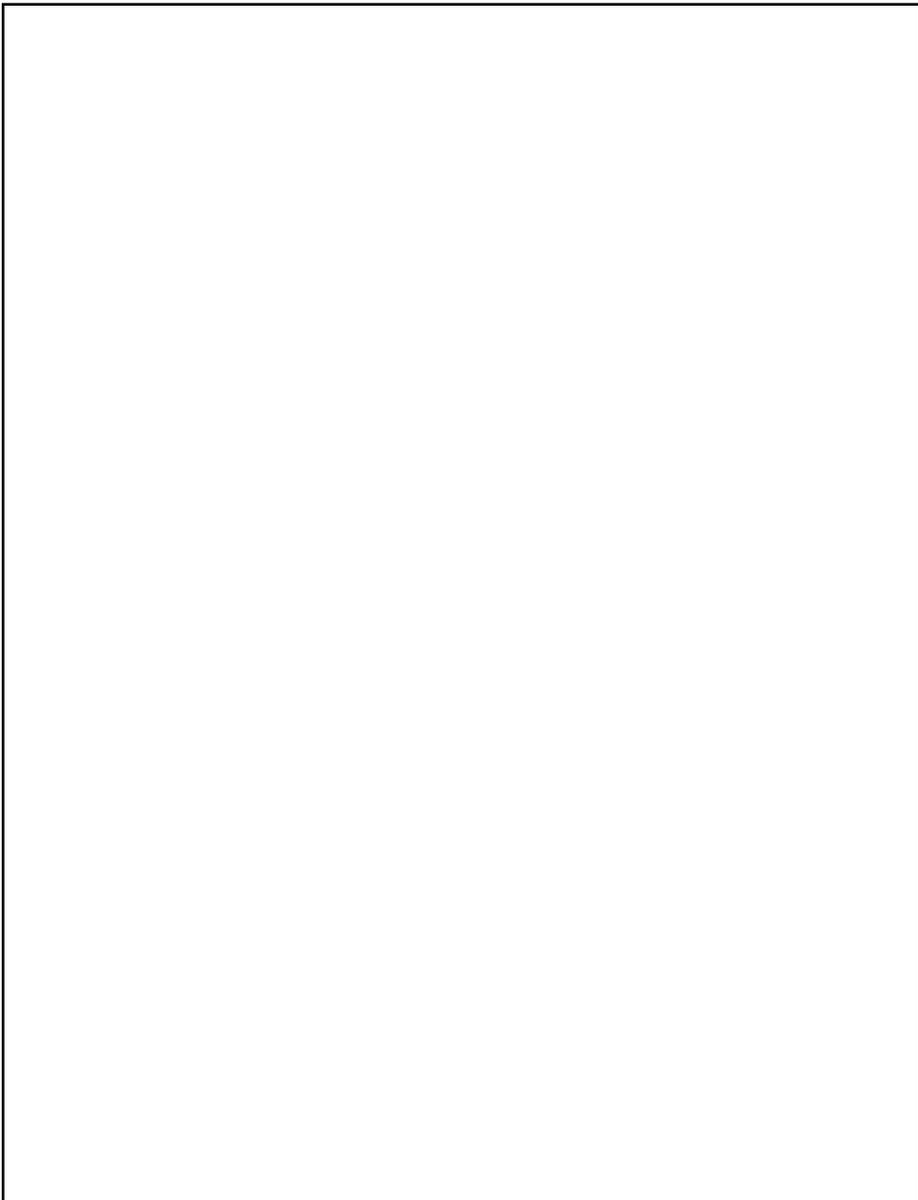
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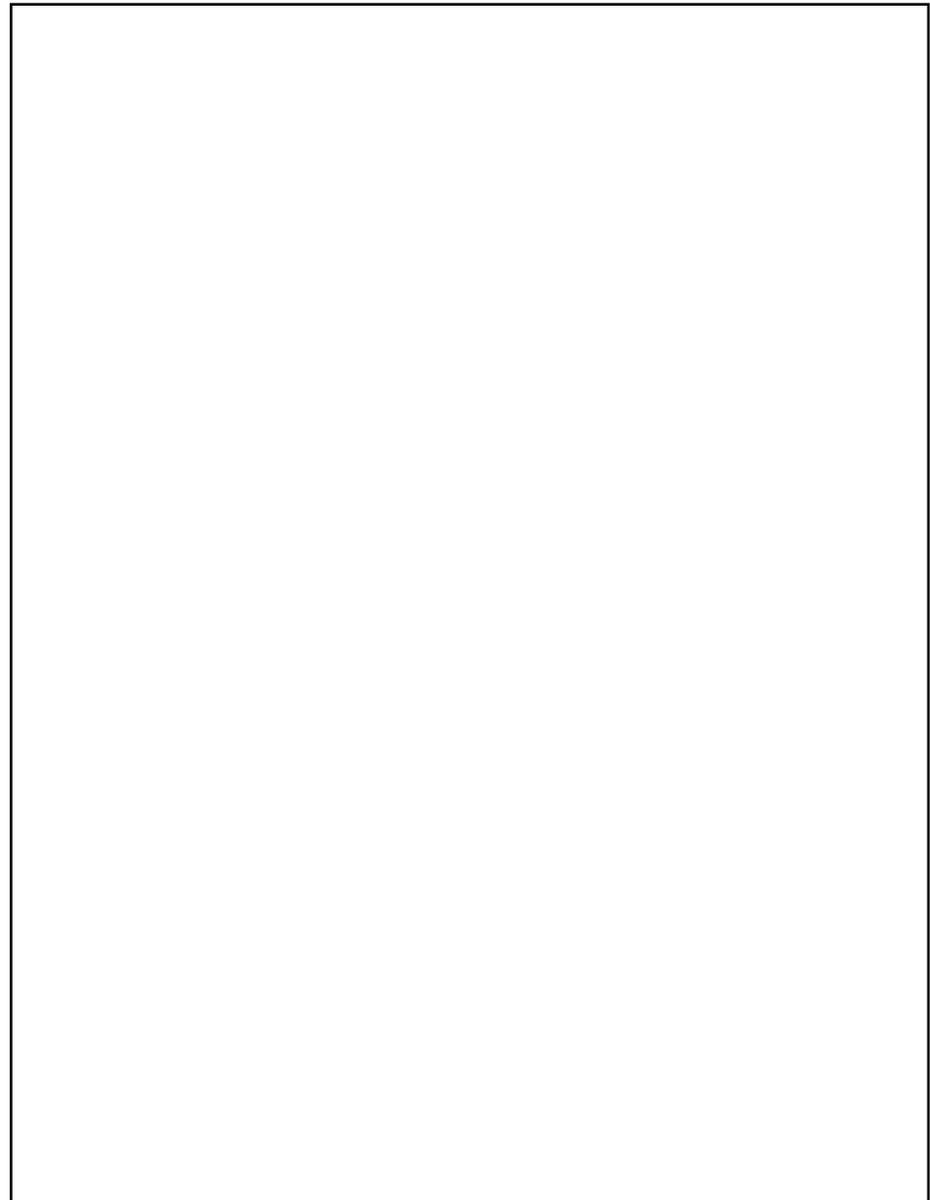
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1 final decision, such as costs to construct and operate
2 the facility, site characterization, security, and
3 technical feasibility.

4 I chair a DHS-USDA steering committee
5 that will evaluate this information and make
6 recommendations to the decision authority under
7 Secretary Jay Cohen. We expect the record of decision
8 to be in December of 2008. If a site selected,
9 construction will begin in 2010. The facility would be
10 operational by 2015.

11 Your comments are important to us. As I
12 said before, the comment period ends on August 25th this
13 month, and there are many ways for you to submit
14 comments. Any comments that we receive by August 25th
15 will be addressed and responded to in the final EIS.

16 Please keep in mind you do not have to
17 make your comments today. You can leave the meeting and
18 make your comments at a later date. Again, as long as
19 we receive them by August 25th, you can use any of the
20 mechanisms that you see here on the slide. Thank you
21 again for your time.

22 MS. COGHILL: All right. That concludes
23 the presentation portion of the agenda. What we'd like
24 to do now is open it up to the question and answer
25 period. And again, just to reiterate, we want to keep

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1 questions specifically tied to the presentation that was
2 just given.

3 So if there, again, if there was
4 something that you need further information on or
5 further clarity, please do come to the microphone, state
6 your name and organization if you choose, if not, that's
7 fine as well. And please just keep your question to one
8 question because, of course, we want to accommodate
9 everybody who is here and also the folks who have signed
10 up for the formal comment period.

11 In the event that there are no questions,
12 we'll go forward with the comment period. So at this
13 point in time, is there anyone who has a question, and
14 if so, please come to the microphone.

15 Yes, ma'am.

16 ROSA SIPINIESKI: My name is Rosa
17 Sipinieski. I am from SIPA Corporation. We are located
18 at Texas Research Park Foundation, and my question is
19 basically concerned about the Foot and Mouth Disease.
20 The data I look for escape from the laboratory, which
21 the reason was in 2007 in England was associated -- I
22 don't remember the strain -- but it was associated with
23 the virus strain which served as a vaccine.

24 So from your presentation I really did
25 not see any plan for such event if -- most likely will

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1 not happen -- but if it does, what farmers of Texas will
2 have -- will you have the same time when you study,
3 prepare the vaccine for the strain because we know about
4 60 strains of the Foot and Mouth Disease most common are
5 eight, but they do not provide cross protection.

6 So I think it would be prudent to prepare
7 the vaccine at the same time when you work on
8 characterizing this particular disease. Thank you.

9 MR. JOHNSON: Let me take a shot at
10 responding that.

11 In the unlikely event that Foot and Mouth
12 Disease would get out of the facility, again, it's very
13 unlikely, or in the event that Foot and Mouth Disease
14 comes into the country, whether accidentally or
15 intentionally introduced, the USDA has a national
16 coordinated plan to respond to those types of events
17 involving the National Animal Health Network that trains
18 the state and local veterinarians to be able to detect
19 the Foot and Mouth Disease to be able to put the
20 protocols in place to respond to that type of outbreak,
21 should it occur.

22 So we are currently working on those
23 plans, and there is a plan in place that we will
24 continue to work upon.

25 DR. RODRIGUEZ: So APHIS, the Animal

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 19.6

DHS notes the commentor's statement. In the unlikely event that Foot and Mouth Disease would get out of the facility or in the event that Foot and Mouth Disease comes into the country, whether accidentally or intentionally introduced, the USDA has a national coordinated plan to respond to those types of events involving the National Animal Health Network that trains the state and local veterinarians to be able to detect the Foot and Mouth Disease to be able to put the protocols in place to respond to that type of outbreak, should it occur.

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1 Plant Health Inspection Service, is a part of the USDA
2 that is primarily charged with control of FMD outbreaks,
3 regardless of whether they're accidental introductions
4 or deliberate. And they do have a vaccine bank for many
5 of these serotypes and subtypes of Foot and Mouth
6 Disease available, and they would activate that bank
7 according to the type of virus that they detect.

8 So the response would be similar, whether
9 it is released from a laboratory or introduced from
10 abroad.

11 MR. JOHNSON: I think it's important to
12 your point of view that in an FMD outbreak, we don't
13 evacuate people. We control the movement of animals.

14 MS. SIPINIESKI: I understand that.

15 MR. JOHNSON: I just wanted to make
16 sure.

17 MS. SIPINIESKI: I just want to follow up
18 for the economic problem, you know, aspect of that.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

21 MS. COGHILL: Thank you very much.

22 Yes, sir. Please come to the microphone.

23 MARCEL PERRET-GENTIL: Good afternoon.

24 I'm Marcel Perret-Gentil, I'm the university -- a
25 veterinarian from UTSA.

Comment No: 2

Issue Code: 15.6

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.

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1 Initially that was not addressed in the
2 presentation was, obviously, the reason why we, the
3 Department of Homeland Security, wants an NBAF is
4 because the risk of a foreign animal disease to come to
5 the United States is great or at least is at a certain
6 level that it compels the Department of Homeland
7 Security to develop a new facility.

8 Now what was not explained was what are
9 the risks of a foreign animal disease coming into this
10 country compared to the risks of a foreign animal
11 disease being released from the laboratory, namely, the
12 NBAF? Is that clear what I'm asking?

13 MR. JOHNSON: I think since Plum Island,
14 which was put up 50 years ago, a lot has changed in
15 society. I mean, I think we are clearly a much more
16 mobile society. We -- you know, air transportation, the
17 world is flat, so to speak. It's a very mobile society,
18 and the FMD is a very contagious disease. It can spread
19 very easily. People can carry it with them, you know,
20 on a -- you know, on an airplane.

21 So the risk, in and of itself, and plus
22 the fact that there are numerous countries today that
23 have FMD in their countries. I don't know if you've got
24 that. We had a chart that shows FMD that travels,
25 really, to many countries throughout the world. Given

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 1.0

DHS notes the commentor's support for the proposed research that would be conducted within the NBAF. DHS's mission is to study foreign animal and zoonotic (transmitted from animals to humans) diseases that threaten our agricultural livestock and agricultural economy. The purpose of the NBAF would be to develop tests to detect foreign animal and zoonotic diseases and develop vaccines (or other countermeasures such as antiviral therapies) to protect agriculture and food systems in the United States.

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 21.6

DHS notes the commentor's views on risk. DHS believes that experience shows that facilities utilizing modern biocontainment technologies and safety protocols, such as would be employed in the design, construction, and operation of the NBAF, would enable the NBAF to be safely operated with a minimal degree of risk, regardless of the site chosen. Given the presence of FMD in other countries, the risk is great for an accidental or intentional introduction into the United States.

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1 the mobility, given the presence of FMD in other
2 countries, I would say the risk is great that we could
3 have an accidental or intentional introduction into the
4 country, and that's what we're trying to prevent.

5 And so that is precisely why we're doing
6 the research at Plum Island. But as you know, some of
7 these diseases that we are studying have emerged in the
8 last -- or we want to study, rather -- have emerged in
9 the last 10 years, and we have no place to study them.

10 So if there is an outbreak somewhere in
11 the world, how can we better understand what those
12 diseases are and be in better position to respond to
13 them. There is no facility that we have in the United
14 States that we can currently do the research on that
15 here.

16 MARCEL PERRET-GENTIL: So if I understand
17 correctly what you just said was that risk of a foreign
18 ^{3/21.6} animal disease coming to this country is significantly
19 greater than the risk of something being released from
20 an NBAF facility.

21 MR. JOHNSON: Sure. By far.

22 MARCEL PERRET-GENTIL: Thank you.

23 MS. COGHILL: Thank you. Any more
24 questions? Yes, sir.

25 YORK DUNCAN: My name is York Duncan.

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Comment No: 3

Issue Code: 21.6

DHS notes the commentor's views on risk. DHS believes that experience shows that facilities utilizing modern biocontainment technologies and safety protocols, such as would be employed in the design, construction, and operation of the NBAF, would enable the NBAF to be safely operated with a minimal degree of risk, regardless of the site chosen. Given the presence of FMD in other countries, the risk is great for an accidental or intentional introduction into the United States.

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1 I'm president of the Texas Research Park. Jamie, this
2 is a question that I've heard at one of the other
3 locations.

4 It's my understanding that you are very
5 close -- or at Plum Island very close to developing an
6 effective vaccine for FMD in the next couple years; is
7 that correct?

8 MR. JOHNSON: That's correct. And I
9 think Luis could give a far more eloquent response than
10 I could. Do you want to comment on that?

11 DR. RODRIGUEZ: Actually, there are
12 effective vaccines against Foot and Mouth Disease
13 available around the world. The problem with those
14 vaccines -- there are many problems with that, and one
15 of them is the way that they are produced. It's
16 highly -- it poses some risk in the sense that you have
17 to grow the actual live virus, the virulent virus, and
18 then kill it in order to make a vaccine.

19 The new vaccine that the USDA ARS has
20 developed -- discovered over the last -- in research
21 over the last five or six years actually allows the
22 production of FMD vaccines without the live virus, thus
23 decreasing the risk of release.

24 So these vaccines actually are --
25 colleagues at Homeland Security are taking it through

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 1.0

DHS notes the commentor's statement. DHS's mission is to study foreign animal and zoonotic (transmitted from animals to humans) diseases that threaten our agricultural livestock and agricultural economy. The purpose of the NBAF would be to develop tests to detect foreign animal and zoonotic diseases and develop vaccines (or other countermeasures such as antiviral therapies) to protect agriculture and food systems in the United States.

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1 the developmental process, and we trust that by the end
2 of next year we will have the first of this new
3 generation of vaccines.

4 And let me point out. This is the first
5 new vaccine against Foot and Mouth Disease in the last
6 60 years, the first innovation, and it came out of the
7 research done at Plum Island. Without the Bio-Safety
8 Level-3 facility at Plum Island, that research could
9 have never been done.

10 YORK DUNCAN: Can I ask a follow-up
11 question?

12 So if there's going to be a virus in the
13 next 24 months or so, in essence, you may not even
14 really focus on FMD in the NBAF facility.

15 DR. RODRIGUEZ: The question, if I
16 understood correctly, is now that we have a vaccine, we
17 don't need to continue to study Foot and Mouth Disease.
18 I don't know if that's what you were asking, but that's
19 the question that comes up.

20 There are so many gaps that we don't know
21 about Foot and Mouth Disease transmission specifically
22 related to the species. Escape. The virus can escape,
23 and what I mean by escape, escape being immune response
24 during vaccine -- vaccination process. And a lot of
25 those mechanisms are not well known.

Comment No: 2Issue Code: 1.0

DHS notes the commentor's questioning whether the NBAF would focus on FMD research with the projected development of an effective FMD vaccine within two years. FMD research at the proposed NBAF will be required after the development of a FMD vaccine to better understand the mechanisms involved with transmission and control.

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1 So even if we do have better vaccines
2 that I trust we will have very soon, there is a lot of
3 questions about the rapidity of spread and the
4 transmission of disease that we'll need to continue to
5 be researched. So I envision we will have research in
6 NBAF on Foot and Mouth Disease as well.

7 MR. JOHNSON: I think in addition to
8 common strains, they change, where we have to be able to
9 be on top of that.

10 MS. COGHILL: Next question. Yes, ma'am.
11 Could you please come to the microphone so we can hear
12 you? Thank you very much.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I had signed up to
14 speak for three minutes. Is that later?

15 MS. COGHILL: Yes, ma'am.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay.

17 MS. COGHILL: Any other questions at this
18 time? Okay.

19 What we're going to do is do exactly what
20 you were asking for. What was going to be happen next,
21 that's the formal comment period of the meeting. Just
22 to go over so we'll all clear and working together, for
23 this part of the meeting what I'm going to do is call a
24 person who signed up at the time that they signed up for
25 to the microphone. Please, again, state your name and

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1 organization if you'd like to the front of the room so
2 the court reporter can gather everything correctly.

3 Each person will have three minutes to
4 speak. We're really asking that you stick to that three
5 minutes. We want to create a fair process at all sites
6 and create a fair process here for everybody in the
7 room.

8 All the comments will be recorded by the
9 court reporter. I also just want a point of process to
10 go over real quick. If you have a question that you're
11 posing in your comments at this time, please do not
12 think that the folks at the front of room are being
13 discourteous and not responding. Under the National
14 Environmental Policy Act, Department of Homeland
15 Security has to respond to every comment that we
16 receive, and we do that under what's called a Comment
17 Response Document.

18 So it would be premature at this time, if
19 someone poses a question, to provide a response because
20 we have to go through scientific analysis to make sure
21 we're addressing everything. So please keep that in
22 mind.

23 All right. At this point I will call the
24 first person to the microphone who signed up, and that
25 gentleman is John Kerr, K-E-R-R.

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1 JOHN KERR: Thank you. I am John Kerr,
2 I'm president of Southwest Foundation for Bio-Medical
3 Research here in San Antonio, and I'm the chairman of
4 the Texas Bio and Agro-Defense Consortium.

5 We are -- we commend the Department of
6 Homeland Security for the thoughtful and comprehensive
7 nature of the Draft EIS for the six sites under
8 consideration and the dedication and hard work of the
9 department staff throughout this long process. And if
10 we are selected, we are fully prepared to defend the
11 selection process in accordance with federal law.

12 Among the chief issues addressed in the
13 EIS and certainly the paramount concern of the public is
14 safety and the mitigation of risk associated with the
15 maximum containment research that will be conducted at
16 the NBAF.

17 In the interest of completeness, I
18 believe the EIS should take note of a significant
19 difference between the San Antonio site and the other
20 five sites, namely, that San Antonio is the only site
21 with direct local experience in the design,
22 construction, and operation of a Bio-Safety Level-4
23 lab.

24 The research conducted for over eight
25 years in our BSL-4 lab, including research for the

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 24.6

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Texas Research Park Site Alternative.

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 21.0

DHS notes the commentor's statement.

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1 Department of Homeland Security, involves the most
2 deadly pathogens and selected agents that could be used
3 in bio-terrorism, and our safety record has been
4 impeccable. Rather than ask the question as citizens in
5 other communities have asked, could such a lab be
6 operated safely, we can demonstrate that we have, in
7 fact, operated such a lab in complete safety for nearly
8 a decade.

9 There's broad public awareness and
10 community acceptance in San Antonio for this maximum
11 containment research. Our local emergency response
12 teams and public health officials are thoroughly
13 familiar with this research and trained in rapid
14 response to any potential outbreak.

15 We are in close proximity to three
16 Level-1 trauma centers. We are not subject to the risk
17 of natural disasters, such as tornados, hurricanes, or
18 earthquakes. In short, locating the NBAF in San Antonio
19 in contrast to the other five sites would significantly
20 mitigate the risk of any endangerment of the public.

21 Thank you.

22 MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

23 Next person is Jim Dublin.

24 JIM DUBLIN: My name's Jim Dublin. I'm
25 the chairman of the Texas Research and Technology

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1 Foundation, and we are the proud stewards of the Texas
2 Research Park. And we've appreciated working with you
3 throughout the process and look forward to continuing to
4 do so.

5 It's my honor today to read into the
6 record a letter from former governor, Dolph Briscoe
7 whose, ranch is in Uvalde, west of here about 80 miles.
8 He was not able to attend but asked us to submit this
9 letter for him, I'm pleased to do. The letter is
10 addressed to the Honorable Jay Cohen, undersecretary for
11 science and technology and selection according to the
12 National Bio and Agro-Defense facility.

13 "Dear Admiral Cohen, first let me commend
14 the fine work performed by the Department of Homeland
15 Security, addressing the need for the National Bio and
16 Agro-Defenses Facility in the Draft Environmental Impact
17 Statement. I serve on the advisory board of the Texas
18 Biological and Agro-Defense Consortium, TBAC, and have
19 followed DHS's efforts in this area.

20 "I suggest that the DEIS needs more
21 emphasis on stakeholder support since that support is
22 crucial to community acceptance in both the specific and
23 broadest sense. As a Texas rancher and former governor,
24 please allow me to advocate San Antonio's Texas Research
25 Park site as the perfect location for the NBAF.

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Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.6

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Texas Research Park Site Alternative.

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1 "Our family, the Briscoe family, began
2 ranching a century ago, and I was personally involved in
3 the effort to eradicate the horrible screwworm, which
4 was such a scourge to the cattle industry. While no one
5 has talked about the screwworm for many years, if you
6 were a cattleman in the mid-20th century, few problems
7 were more treacherous.

8 "The screwworm would lay eggs in an open
9 wound, such as a cut on a cow's lip, caused by eating
10 prickly pear. The eggs would hatch and worms would
11 infest the animal, eventually killing their host. Up to
12 one-third of some herds were infested, putting the beef
13 industry at great risk.

14 "The screwworm was finally defeated by
15 advances in vaccine development. I'm confident that the
16 NBAF laboratory DHS proposes to build will find similar
17 solutions for the infectious diseases adversely
18 impacting cattle ranchers, indeed those raising
19 livestock of all sorts today and tomorrow, and in doing
20 so, NBAF will make this country safer and help secure
21 our food supply.

22 "I'm also a former president of the Texas
23 and Southwestern Cattle Raiser's Association and was
24 very pleased that organization offered its full support
25 in their letter of February 13th, 2007, to Secretary

Comment No: 2Issue Code: 1.0

DHS notes the commentator's opinion that proposed NBAF research would ultimately benefit the U.S. food supply.

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1 Chertoff. The more than 14,500 members of the Cattle
2 Raiser's Association were joined by the Texas
3 Association of Dairymen representing over 800 dairy farm
4 families, and the 15,000-member Texas Poultry Federation
5 in believing that Texas, and in particular San Antonio,
6 are extraordinarily well-equipped to keep our country's
7 food and fiber production safe and secure. Again, it
8 appears to me that this very high level stakeholder's
9 support for the Texas Research Park site was not given
10 proper consideration in the DEIS.

11 "Admiral Cohen, I want to express once
12 more my own strong endorsement and that of my fellow
13 members of these important livestock associations for
14 the Texas Research Park as the preferred site for the
15 NBAF. It is, without a doubt, the ideal location and
16 has a strongest level of support from ranchers and
17 farmers, the stakeholders, who need it the most.

18 "Respectfully submitted, Dolph Briscoe."

19 Thank you very much.

20 MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

21 Hope Andrade.

22 HOPE ANDRADE: Good afternoon. My name
23 is Hope Andrade. I'm the Secretary of State for the
24 State of Texas, and I want to welcome you back to
25 Texas.

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1 I'm here today, this afternoon, on behalf
 2 of Governor Perry and the State of Texas to voice our
 3 support of the National Bio and Agro-Defense facility.
 4 We believe this facility is imperative to our nation's
 5 security, and we are confident that San Antonio provides
 6 the best location and opportunities for the NBAF.

7 I would like to share with you some of
 8 the qualities that make San Antonio the prime candidate
 9 for this location. First, San Antonio is the only site
 10 under consideration for the new facility that already
 11 has the research infrastructure in place to be capable
 12 of handling such activities.

13 SFDR has operated the nation's only
 14 privately owned BSL-4 labs since 2000 with no hazardous
 15 incidents, which no doubt is a part of why this
 16 committee has expressed their steadfast and consistent
 17 support for this project.

18 Additionally, we have three preexisting
 19 research institutions right here in San Antonio. SFDR,
 20 UT San Antonio, and the UT Health Science Center make
 21 this region in bio-medical and bio-science research.
 22 Furthermore, San Antonio's home to a health care
 23 workforce of more than a 110,000 people and houses the
 24 largest military health care and bio-medical research
 25 operations in the United States. This provides natural

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 1.0

DHS notes the commentator's support for the NBAF and the Texas Research Park Site Alternative. Decisions on whether to construct and operate the NBAF and, if so, where will be based on the analyses presented in the NBAF EIS and other factors such as cost, engineering and technical feasibility, strategic considerations, policy considerations, and public input. A Record of Decision (ROD) that explains the final decisions will be made available no sooner than 30 days after the NBAF Final EIS is published.

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 24.6

DHS notes the commentator's support for the Texas Research Park Site Alternative.

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1 opportunities for collaboration and coordination in its
2 NBAF's planned research activities.

3 Most importantly, Texans are excited
4 about this project. The TBAC has done an outstanding
5 job working with state and local leaders to explain the
6 benefits of this project for San Antonio and the state
7 as a whole. Along with more than 300 jobs and \$1.5
8 billion in economic impact over the next 20 years,

2/24.6 cont.

9 NBAF's presence in San Antonio will serve as an impetus
10 to bringing more high-tech activity to the region.

11 This project is expected to be to San
12 Antonio what NASA was to Houston in the '60s, and as a
13 state official, as an American, and as a resident of
14 Bexar County, I urge you to consider bringing the NBAF
15 to San Antonio.

16 The security of our nation will be in
17 goods hands and Governor Perry and I stand behind its
18 efforts with full support, willing to assist this
19 community in bringing this project to fruition.

20 One of the issues that we heard addressed
21 was the quality of life, the quality of life that we all
22 enjoy in San Antonio where we live and raise our
23 families. Earlier this year, San Antonio was named as
24 the friendliest city in the United States. Some of the
25 criterion they used for their ranking included safety,

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1 diversity, number of parks and public spaces, and
2 statistics such as median home prices and the total
3 number of visitors.

4 I assure you that we are friendly, we are
5 happy, and that we'd be more than happy for NBAF
6 employees to call San Antonio their home. Thank you so
7 much for allowing this testimony.

8 MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

9 Jonathan Huhn is our next speaker.

10 JONATHAN HUHN: Good afternoon. My name
11 is Jonathan Huhn, I'm Deputy Regional Director for
12 United States Senator John Cornin. He could not be here
13 today, unfortunately, but he wanted me to enter into the
14 record his support letter to Secretary Chertoff, for the
15 NBAF.

16 "Dear Secretary Chertoff, as the
17 department prepares to make its final site selection for
18 the National Bio Agro-Defense facility, I'd like to
19 reiterate my strong support for the proposal submitted
20 by the Texas Biological Agro-Defense Consortium in San
21 Antonio.

22 "This proposal has been -- has unbeatable
23 advantages that will uniquely benefit the facility.
24 Also known as Military City, San Antonio is a community
25 that embraces its role as host of our nation's foremost

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1 national defense and homeland security installations.

2 "Unlike some communities, people in San
3 Antonio wholeheartedly welcome the opportunity to
4 support new facilities in the defense of our nation, as
5 evidenced by the city's enthusiasm for thousands of new
6 personnel who are arriving as a result of BRAC.

7 "All of the primary stakeholders in the
124.6 8 community, including government, business, and community
9 groups, stand ready to support the NBAF. Also, the San
10 Antonio site offers outstanding research capabilities
11 and experienced workforce that is ready and able to
12 perform vital research.

13 "San Antonio's bio-medical community
14 already accounts for over 110,000 jobs and collaborates
15 closely with the military, Homeland Security and
16 academic community. In addition, eight board-certified
17 veterinarians are available to the NBAF.

18 "The proposed site has access to major
19 highways and proximity to airports and has been
20 confirmed not to present any environmental problems for
21 the local aquifer recharge zone.

22 "As you can see, the San Antonio
23 application clearly meets or exceeds all DHS
24 requirements. The consortium has clearly demonstrated
25 they have the research capacity, strong community

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 24.6

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Texas Research Park Site Alternative.

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1 acceptance, and critical facilities necessary to fulfill
124.6 cont 2 the DHS mission of implementing and integrating National
3 Bio and Agro-Defense strategy.

4 "I strongly urge you to ensure that these
5 advantages are given the strongest consideration.

6 "Sincerely, United States Senator John
7 Cornin."

8 Thank you.

9 MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

10 Bob Hillman.

11 DR. BOB HILLMAN: Thank you. My name is
12 Dr. Bob Hillman, I'm the executive director of the Texas
13 Animal Health Commission and the state veterinarian for
14 the State of Texas.

15 It is our job at the Animal Health
16 Commission to prevent, conduct surveillance, conduct
17 patrol activity to eradicate serious diseases in our
18 livestock and poultry in the State of Texas. As such,
19 we rely heavily on our national laboratory for support
20 and disease control and eradication efforts, and we look
21 forward to a rapid construction of a new laboratory.

22 A review of the Draft EIS indicates that
23 all of the locations remaining under consideration will
24 meet the environmental requirements stated in the Impact
25 Statement. Therefore, we believe it's important that



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1 the Department of Homeland Security give credence to
2 other factors that may elevate a particular location
3 above the others.

4 Some of those would include the fact that
5 we have a host of colleges and universities to serve and
6 provide degree programs and vocational programs for our
7 workforce. There are at least 37 colleges and
8 universities and trade schools within San Antonio, plus
9 a host of others in the regions around San Antonio.

10 Research programs. You've already heard
11^{1|24.6} about the research infrastructure that's already in
12 place. I'll not dwell on it and go to other points.

13 We have a strong heritage in animal
14 disease response in the State of the Texas, dating back
15 to the 1890s, when researchers at Texas A&M College,
16 working in concert with USDA scientists and Texas
17 cattlemen, solved the puzzle presented by Texas Cattle
18 Fever, which led eventually to the eradication of the
19 disease from the United States. The spirit of
20 inquisitive nature and persistence exhibited by these
21 early pioneers continues to this day and is clearly
22 evident in this community.

23 The Animal Health Commission has
24 developed, has exercised, and in fact, has put into play
25 a very strong animal disease response plan to deal with

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.6

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Texas Research Park Site Alternative.

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1 foreign animal diseases that have been introduced into
2 Texas.

3 The Animal Health Commission and its
4 collaborating agencies and industries stand ready to
5 collaborate with the new NBAF laboratory in identifying
6 the needs for effective response to high-consequence
7 diseases and to threats and to help evaluate the tools
8 that are needed for disease response.

9 I believe that we are at high risk for
10 disease introduction. One of the questioners asked
11 about foreign animal diseases being introduced. There's
12 been five since 1999. All of them have impacted Texas.

13 There are a number of other reasons that
14 we could support bring the lab to Texas but one is that
15 we have a large population of livestock in this state
16 that are at risk. We believe it prudent to have a
17 laboratory close to the livestock populations that we
18 can rely on for effective disease mitigation. Thank
19 you.

20 MS. COGHILL: Clay Smith.

21 CLAY SMITH: Hi. My name is Clay Smith,
22 and I represent the Texas Department of Transportation
23 and in the work area here in San Antonio.

24 The Texas Department of Transportation
25 has received -- has reviewed the Section 3.11 on traffic

Comment No: 2

Issue Code: 1.0

DHS notes the information provided by the commentor.

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1 impacts with the Research Park subject to the Draft EIS,
2 and we appreciate the opportunity to make comments on
3 the document.

4 Anticipated travel demand associated with
5 the NBAF site appears to be in accordance with all the
6 anticipated future land use in this area. This land use
7 projection is accounted for in the San Antonio BPO's
8 regional travel demand model, from which the traffic
9 projections for future years are developed.

10 The NBAF traffic growths would have some
11 impact on the existing transportation system, however,
12 it would be considered relatively minor when compared to
13 all the other residential and commercial growth already
14 planned in the surrounding area.

15 The state maintains two facilities around
16 ^{1|17.6}the Research Park, FM 1957, which is Potranco Road, and
17 State Highway 211. Capacity improvements for these
18 roadways as described in the document are currently
19 included in the NPO's long-range plan, and in fact, in
20 their 10-year plan and in their travel demand for this
21 region. The expansion of these projects are scheduled
22 in their plan.

23 TxDOT in the San Antonio district
24 ^{2|24.6}supports the efforts to bring NBAF to San Antonio and
25 are willing to support this economic opportunity with

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 17.6

DHS notes the commentor's statement.

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 24.6

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Texas Research Park Site Alternative.

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1 the infrastructure planned in this region. Thank you
2 very much.

3 MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

4 Brian Herman.

5 DR. BRIAN HERMAN: I'm Dr. Brian Herman.
6 I'm the vice president for research at the University of
7 Texas Health Science Center here in San Antonio. We are
8 also a member of the TBAC community. I want to indicate
9 to the panel that the University of Texas Health Science
10 Center, my colleagues from UTSA and the UT system, all
11 collectively strongly endorse San Antonio as the site
12 where NBAF should be located.

13 The University of Texas system brings
14 together 15 component institutions that have major
15 activities in the areas of high relevance to the
16 research that would go on at NBAF, including some very
17 specific areas here in San Antonio. As you may recall
18 from the DEIS, the University of Texas Health Science
19 Center at San Antonio actually has a number of
20 facilities that would be positioned across the street
21 from the NBAF facility, including BSL-3 -- current BSL-3
22 laboratories, BSL-2 laboratories, and are in the process
23 of actually developing a rather large program for
24 expanding the infectious disease research that would
25 occur at the Texas Research Park Site for the

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.6

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Texas Research Park Site Alternative.

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1 university.

2 Second, something that may not have come
3 to your knowledge yet is that our university is also
4 expanding its clinical activities in this Westover Hills
5 area in partnership with a new hospital that's been
6 built out here. We're staffing that hospital and
7 providing physician support and clinical support, and so
8 this area will have enhanced access to top quality
9 health care should some unforeseen event happen at the
10 institution.

124.6 cont.

11 Lastly, I would say that I just want to
12 reiterate what you just heard, that, in fact, this area
13 of the city is expanding in a fairly rapid fashion, and
14 expansion comes with increase in major kinds of
15 infrastructure, all of which will benefit the NBAF
16 facility. Thank you.

17 MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

18 Bebe Fenstermaker, the next speaker.

19 BEBE FENSTERMAKER: I really have no
20 comments at this time. I have some questions that I'll
21 put in writing, and I'd like a transcript of these
22 proceedings. Thank you.

23 MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

24 Susan Beavin.

25 SUSAN BEAVIN: Same thing. I had

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1 questions, and I will submit those in writing.

2 MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

3 Amber Pearce.

4 AMBER PEARCE: Good afternoon. My name
5 is Amber Pearce, and I am the policy director for the
6 Texas Health Care and Bio-Science Institute. We are a
7 state-wide public policy organization, and our whole
8 mission revolves around supporting and advocating
9 policies and activities that support the growth of the
10 life science industry in the state.

11 We are essentially the state's trade
12 association for life sciences. And our membership is
13 made up our of academic research institutions, small and
14 large pharmaceutical and bio-tech medical device
15 companies, including agricultural bio-tech companies,
16 businesses providing support to the industry, and
17 finally, developments and chambers of commerce that are
18 growing industry in the region.

19 My focus today is more on the
20 socio-economic benefits of the NBAF project. We
21 recognize the potential that the NBAF has to bring, the
22 great economic impact, not only to San Antonio but to
23 Texas as a whole. Investment in research and innovation
24 attracts more research, more research talent, research
25 dollars, and innovation in general, not just local state

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Comment No: 1Issue Code: 15.6

DHS notes the commentor's statement regarding economic benefits. The economic impacts resulting from the construction and the normal operations of the proposed NBAF at the Texas Research Park Site Alternative are discussed in Section 3.10.8 of the NBAF EIS. This discussion includes estimates of the facilities impacts on local employment, as well as State and local tax revenues. DHS held a competitive process to select potential sites for the proposed NBAF as described in Section 2.3.1 of the NBAF EIS. A team of Federal employees representing multi-department component offices and multi-governmental agencies reviewed the submissions based on several criteria including the proximity to research capabilities and workforce.

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.6

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Texas Research Park Site Alternative.

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1 tax revenues.

2 The UT system in 2006, which includes the
3 University of Texas in San Antonio and the Health
4 Science Center, ranks number one in the world for the
5 number and quality of bio-tech patents produced. Texas
6 is home to 3,200 life science establishments, employing
7 over 84,000 people at an average salary of over
8 \$70,000. It's a highly attractive industry from a
9 workforce standpoint.

10 This state has a great understanding of
11 what it takes for the industry and the industry's needs
12 and San Antonio specifically. San Antonio is a region
13 with many assets, and THBI feels that NBAF is a natural
14 fit for this community. It has a vital and
15 collaborative life science research base and a life
16 science educated workforce with broad subject focus that
17 meets NBAF's criteria. It is ideally situated
18 location-wise and has proven experience managing BSL-3
19 and BSL-4 labs.

124.6 cont.

20 Then there's the tremendous military and
21 health care presence. It has a long history of working
22 with government entities.

23 We understand the potential concerns this
24 facility brings, and we also recognize the tremendous
25 economic, research, and health benefits it brings as

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1 well. On behalf of THBI and our membership, I
2 appreciate the opportunity to comment and say we
3 wholeheartedly support the location of the NBAF facility
4 in San Antonio, should it be the chosen location. Thank
5 you.

6 MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

7 Richard Perez. Is Richard here at this
8 point? Okay. Thank you.

9 We'll go on to Gerardo -- and I'm
10 probably not going to pronounce this correctly. I
11 apologize in advance -- Interiano.

12 Eleanor Crow.

13 ELEANOR CROW: Hello. Hi. I'm Eleanor
14 Crow, I'm a resident of the community surrounding this
15 facility. And I hope my questions will help you provide
16 education to the community that you intend to occupy to
17 alleviate their fears of this type of operation based on
18 our ignorance of it.

19 Therefore, as a member of the community
20 that surrounds the Park, I have concerns about the fact
21 that accidents may pose a threat to people, animals,
22 water, and the air. My questions are therefore intended
23 to educate the community about how we can feel safe
24 living nearby.

25 I only have three minutes, so I won't ask

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1 you for an education in micro-biology but is the U.S.
 2 certified disease-free from Hoof and Mouth? It's stated
 3 to be the most contagious disease known. In 2007, a
 4 devastating outbreak in England was the result of an
 5 accident.

6 Question two, are there cases of Rift
 7 Valley and Nipah Virus in the United States? Why bring
 8 a foreign virus here if there aren't cases of that? It
 9 says its suitable counter-measures to respond in the
 10 U.S. do not exist. I wonder where they do exist.

11 The Hendra Virus, the natural reservoir
 12 is not known. Some of these pathogens are airborne, and
 13 I wonder if you have an emergency evacuation plan for
 14 the community in case these airborne pathogens are
 15 released and by what means you'll know that they are
 16 released. We don't have that type of system, even for
 17 the tornados, chlorine clouds from train wrecks or the
 18 last two hurricanes we had to go through here.

19 The effluent leaving the plant contains
 20 manure. By what means will we know if there's an
 21 accidental release, and the lab effluent isn't
 22 thoroughly cleaned enough to get to the SAWS' effluent
 23 treatment plant downstream that will release this
 24 effluent from this facility into the aquifer recharge
 25 zone? Therefore, what size filters will be used by SAWS

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 21.0

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 is extremely low. DHS is aware of the historic biosafety lapses and will consider these events to improve the structural and engineered safety of the final NBAF design and to incorporate lessons learned from incidents of human error into the operating procedures. The EIS economic (Section 3.10 and Appendix D of the NBAF EIS) and risk analysis (Section 3.14 and Appendix E of the NBAF EIS) acknowledge and assess the accidental Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) releases in Great Britain. The proposed NBAF design would incorporate engineering features and operational procedures to prevent or mitigate an accidental or deliberate pathogen release from any of the BSL laboratories within the NBAF. %Appendix B to the NBAF EIS describes biocontainment lapses and laboratory acquired infections in the United States and world-wide. 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 and emergency response plans would be developed, in coordination with local emergency response agencies that would consider the diversity and density of human, livestock, and wildlife populations residing within the area. DHS would have site-specific standard operating procedures and emergency response plans in place prior to the initiation of research activities at the proposed NBAF.

Comment No: 2Issue Code: 19.0

DHS notes the commentor's concern. Chapter 1, Section 1.1 of the NBAF EIS identifies DHS's mission as the study of foreign animal and zoonotic (transmitted from animals to humans) diseases that threaten our agricultural livestock and agricultural economy. The goal or benefit of NBAF is to prevent these animal diseases from spreading in the United States through research into the transmission of these animal diseases and the development of diagnostic tests, vaccines, and antiviral therapies. 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 with a minimal degree of risk, regardless of the site chosen.

Comment No: 3Issue Code: 19.6

DHS notes the commentor's concern about the human health and safety of the surrounding institutional residents. Chapter 3, Section 3.14 investigates the chances of a variety of accidents that could occur with the proposed NBAF and consequences of potential accidents. 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. A site-specific emergency response plan would be developed and coordinated with the local emergency management plan and individual facility plans regarding evacuations and other emergency response measures for all potential emergency events including

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accidents at the NBAF, and which would include stipulations for all special-needs populations.

Comment No: 4

Issue Code: 21.6

DHS notes the commenter's concern that NBAF waste be properly pre-treated for pathogens prior to discharge to the local wastewater treatment plant. Disposal and decontamination (killing or inactivation of bacteria and fungi and viruses) procedures have a long and proven history of effectiveness when facilities are well maintained and procedures followed. The NBAF would provide state-of-the-art biocontainment features and operating procedures to minimize the potential for laboratory-acquired infections and accidental releases. The risk of an accidental release of a pathogen is extremely low. Section 3.14 and Appendix E of the NBAF EIS identifies the potential for, or likelihood of, the scenarios leading to adverse consequences, and 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. Section 3.13 of the NBAF EIS describes the processes that would be used to control and dispose of liquid and solid waste from the NBAF. Section 3.13.2.2 explains that all of the thermal, disinfection, and decontamination technologies used to treat any type of animal waste generated at the NBAF will meet the operational and validation criteria (i.e., monitoring of effluent) recommended in "Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories" (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and NIH 2007) to ensure effective treatment. Further, as discussed in Section 2.2.2 of the NBAF EIS, operational training and the use of standard protocols and SOPs would help to reduce the the likelihood of human errors that could pose a threat to health and safety. Sections 3.3.8.4 and 3.7.8 of the NBAF EIS describe methods used to prevent and mitigate potential effects of spills and runoff and to ensure compliance with sanitary sewer acceptance criteria (e.g., routine monitoring of effluents, etc.), respectively.

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1 to protect the community from any accidental
2 contamination of the water supply?

3 And my last question would be, would
4 every member of the panel drink a glass of this treated
5 water? Thank you very much.

6 MS. COGHILL: Thank you. Mary
7 Fenstermaker.

8 MARY FENSTERMAKER: I'll submit my
9 comment.

10 MS. COGHILL: Thank you.
11 Marcel Perret-Gentil.

12 MARCEL PERRET-GENTIL: Thank you. Marcel
13 Perret-Gentil is my name, and I represent the University
14 of Texas at San Antonio as the institution's
15 veterinarian. I'm director of the laboratory animal
16 resource's center.

17 UTSA is home of the South Texas Center
18 for Emerging Infectious Diseases. Some of the
19 representatives are here with us today, and these are
20 highly qualified and very progressive scientists who I
21 work very closely with. And they -- I'll tell you these
22 investigators and these scientists are making great
23 progress, great discoveries on select agents, which are
24 of great concern to the Department of Homeland
25 Security.

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1 Let it be known that UTSA and South Texas
2 Center for Emerging and Infectious Diseases are in full
3 support of the NBAF development in San Antonio and
4 committed to the success. So as Secretary Andrade
5 mentioned and said earlier that San Antonio is the only
6 city with the type of research infrastructure to work
7 with and support the NBAF and we're committed to it.

8 To add to the safety record already known
9 in this city -- and you all know, we have a BSL-4
10 facility, one of the few cities in this country with
11 such a facility -- and so, to add to the record, the
12 safety record in this city, let me tell you, the strong
13 military presence in the city makes San Antonio a very
14 safe city to host the NBAF.

15 In addition, great appeal of this city,
16 with its low cost of living, along with a strong
17 research infrastructure, makes San Antonio the ideal
18 location to attract the best scientists to the NBAF.

19 I'm confident today because I
20 participated in the last impact Environmental Impact
21 Meeting that was held in San Antonio that you'll be
22 overwhelmed, gentlemen, by the great support the city
23 gives to this endeavor. You will hear -- I mean, you
24 may hear some opposition but it's so minor compared to
25 the overwhelming support of the San Antonians that I

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.6

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Texas Research Park Site Alternative. The decision on whether or not the NBAF is built, and, if so, where will be made on the four evaluation criteria addressed in addition to the following factors: analyses from the EIS; applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulatory requirements; consultation requirements among the federal, state, and local agencies, as well as federally recognized American Indian Nations; policy considerations; and public comment.

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1 think you will leave today with a sense that perhaps
2 this may be the place. Thank you.

3 MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

4 Brett Cornwell.

5 BRETT CORNWELL: Good afternoon. Brett
6 Cornwell, representing Texas A&M University system. I'd
7 like to read into the record a letter from Guy Dietrick,
8 the Vice-Chancellor for Federal Relations.

9 "Dear Admiral Cohen, thank you for the
10 opportunity to express the Texas A&M University system's
11 strong support of the location of the National Bio and
12 Agro-Defense facility in San Antonio, Texas. Texas A&M
13 University system is one of the largest systems of
14 higher education in the nation, with a state-wide
15 network of 9 universities, 7 state agencies, and a
16 comprehensive health science center.

17 "The A&M system has many resources that
18 will naturally tie into the location of the National Bio
19 and Agro-Defense facility in San Antonio. A few
20 examples of the areas that can support through students,
21 staff, and research collaborations are the College of
22 Veterinary and Bio-Medical Sciences.

23 "The College of Veterinary and
24 Bio-Medical Sciences was established in 1916 and is
25 today one of the top five in the country. One out of

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 24.6

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Texas Research Park Site Alternative.

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1 every 10 practicing veterinarians in the United States
2 has an Aggie diploma. The faculty and staff of the
3 college are committed to the exceptional teaching,
4 research, and patient care. Our research addresses
5 significant problems in both animal and human health and
6 impacts animal and human health, which impacts Texas and
7 the entire nation.

8 "Also, the Texas A&M University Institute
9 for Preclinical Studies is located next to the College
10 of Veterinary Medicine and Bio-Medical Sciences and is
11 slated to open in June of 2009. It will play a key role
12 in training veterinarians, physicians, scientists, and
13 engineers. It's focused on translational research that
14 will enable the breakthroughs and new discoveries to
15 quickly move from concept into the marketplace.

124.6 cont

16 "Also, the Texas Institute for Genomic
17 Medicine. The Texas Institute for Genomic Medicine is
18 currently in operation at the Institute for Bio-Sciences
19 and Technology in Houston and will open in College
20 Station at the end of this year. The combined libraries
21 from these two facilities will constitute the largest
22 knockout mouse library of its kind in the world.

23 "Texas A&M University at San Antonio, a
24 new university campus that will one day serve 25,000
25 students in San Antonio, and then also the Texas A&M

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1 University Agricultural Program, one of the premier
2 agricultural programs in the United States, with over
3 6,000 students currently enrolled in degrees ranging
4 from animal sciences to biological and animal
5 engineering.

6 "Texas A&M University system looks
7 forward to providing all the necessary resources through
8 students, staff, and collaborative events to support the
9 location of the National Agro and Bio-Defense facility
10 in San Antonio, Texas.

11 "Sincerely, Guy Dietrick, Vice-Chancellor
12 for Federal Relations."

13 MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

14 Jim Poage.

15 JIM POAGE: Yes, my name is Jim Poage,
16 and I'm the president and chief executive officer of the
17 San Antonio Technology Accelerated Initiative. We help
18 technology companies get up on their feet and find
19 funding. And on one end of the spectrum, we take the
20 mad scientist with great innovative ideas, pair them up
21 with people who want to invest in those ideas and create
22 companies, products, and ideas that go forward into the
23 commercial marketplace.

24 One of the things that I'd like to
25 emphasize today is that while the selection process and

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1 the construction process of this facility will take
2 place for many years, the eventual success will depend
3 on the staff and the researchers that are there,
4 resident at that facility. And one of the things I
5 think is difficult to look at and understand is the rich
6 environment that San Antonio has to attract that kind of
7 people to live here.

8 I have direct experience for many years.
9 I graduated from the United States of Wyoming. As you
10 may know, Wyoming is one of the least populous states in
11 the United States. The University of Wyoming has had
12 trouble for many, many years in attracting top quality
13 research and faculty, and the reason is, is because of
14 the remoteness of the facility.

15 There is always a tension between the
16 remoteness of this facility and then the inherent
17 security provided by that remoteness and the tension
18 created by the ability to attract qualified individuals
19 to work in that facility.

20 I think San Antonio provides an
21 absolutely ideal location that can attract the highest
22 quality researchers that can not only work in a facility
23 that is safe but also on a daily basis have themselves,
24 their family, their friends, their colleagues in other
25 branches of industry and other fields of research, where

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.6

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Texas Research Park Site Alternative.

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1 that they can socialize and exchange information in a
2 very innovative and rich culture.

1|24.6 cont.

3 And I think that is extremely important
4 and one of the reasons that we are extremely favorable
5 about locating this facility in San Antonio. Thank you.

6 MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

7 Jeffrey Kantor.

8 JEFFREY KANTOR: Good afternoon. I'm
9 Jeffrey Kantor from the University of Texas at San
10 Antonio. In my position as senior associate vice
11 president for research development at UTSA, one of my
12 main responsibilities is to bring new, large program
13 opportunities to our institution.

14 I've learned that any large opportunity
15 has to be carefully weighed for the benefits it would
16 bring versus the possible negative impact it might
17 carry. I've reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact
18 Statement regarding possible effects of bringing NBAF to
19 San Antonio, and my conclusion, without a doubt, is that
20 the tremendous benefits to both NBAF and San Antonio to
21 situating the facility here far outweigh and small and
22 easily manageable environmental issues.

23 One of the significant benefits of having
24 NBAF in San Antonio is that UTSA's 28,000 students, 58
25 percent of which are from historically underrepresented

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.6

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Texas Research Park Site Alternative.

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1 groups in higher education, would have new far-ranging
2 opportunities in education, experiential opportunities,
3 and economic opportunities. Cooperative research
4 programs between NBAF scientists and UTSA faculty would
5 ensure that the latest scientific achievements become a
6 regular part of our students' course work.

7 For years, UTSA has graduated more
8 Hispanic students than anywhere else in the country.

9 ^{2|15.6} NBAF would help increase these numbers even more.
10 NBAF would raise the knowledge and interest of
11 biological scientists throughout our Hispanic community
12 and provide first-class job opportunities for our
13 graduates across the board of scientific, technical, and
14 support fields. NBAF would significantly assist UTSA in
15 meeting its goals of access and excellence as one of the
16 nation's largest minority serving institutions.

17 NBAF's research requirements are a
18 perfect fit with UTSA's nationally recognized program in
19 the biological sciences and the basis for an
20 unparalleled partnership. While UTSA is growing towards
21 ^{3|8.6} a premier research status in many fields across all 42
22 universities in Texas, UTSA is already the third largest
23 biological research program.

24 UTSA's groundbreaking research in
25 molecular biology and specialization in vaccine

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 15.6

DHS notes the commentor's opinion.

Comment No: 3 Issue Code: 8.6

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Texas Research Park Site Alternative.

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1 development are critical components to success in NBAF's
2 mission. Combining UTSA's research strengths with
3 NBAF's would make San Antonio the center of biological
4 discovery.

5 Locating the NBAF in San Antonio is the
6 logical conclusion. It would be a win for both national
7 security and the people of San Antonio. Thank you.

8 MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

9 Lilliana Rodriguez.

10 LILLIANA RODRIGUEZ: Good afternoon. My
11 name is Lilliana Rodriguez, Doctor of Public Health and
12 laboratory training manager at the University of Texas
13 Center for Bio-Security and Public Health Preparedness.

14 I would like to speak specifically to the
15 health and safety section of the Environmental Impact
16 Statement. Over the past five years, our center has
17 trained over 50,000 individuals, including public health
18 workers, first responders, physicians, nurses, allied
19 health care providers, and veterinarians. Workshops,
20 ^{119.6} symposia, and training courses have covered basic and
21 advanced disaster life support, recognizing and
22 responding to bio-terrorism disaster and crisis
23 leadership, Board of Health epidemiologic outbreak
24 investigations, laboratory preparedness, public health
25 and the law, personal protective equipment, overview of

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 19.6

DHS notes the information presented by the commentor.

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1 agro-terrorism, protection of vulnerable populations,
2 rural health, and risk communication.

3 The University of Texas, along with our
4 partners at two other Texas schools of public health,
5 North Texas and Texas A&M and other academic health
6 science centers, including UT Health Science Center at
7 San Antonio, have built a significant workforce
8 infrastructure to protect, respond, and control any
9 potential hazardous incidents for both humans and
10 animals.

11 Texas has a robust public health and
12 animal health surveillance and response infrastructure
13 as we deal with the potential for endemic diseases, such
14 as Rabies, West Nile Virus, Equine Encephalitis,
15 anthrax, Foot and Mouth disease, and Texas Tick Fever,
16 every day, 24/7, 360 [sic] days a year.

17 Thank you for this opportunity to
18 supplement the health and safety information available
19 to you.

20 MS. COGHILL: Thank you, Ms. Rodriguez.

21 George Irving.

22 GEORGE IRVING: Good afternoon. Thanks
23 for the opportunity to speak.

24 My name is George W. Irving, and I'm a
25 Doctor of veterinary medicine. I have over 40 years'

Comment No: 2

Issue Code: 8.6

DHS notes the information provided by the commentor.

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1 experience in performing and managing research and
2 development programs similar to those planned for the
3 NBAF. I am a vice president at Conceptual Mindworks,
4 Inc. here in San Antonio.

5 Conceptual Mindworks is a woman-owned
6 minority small business based in San Antonio, Texas. We
7 are an applied research and software engineering company
8 with over 18 years experience supporting the Department
9 of Defense. Our work in bio-warfare agent studies has
10 resulted in four patents plus three pending patent
11 applications, and our scientists have numerous published
12 peer-reviewed articles in the course of executing
13 government agency goals and objectives.

14 I agree with the assessment that
15 significant benefits, like new vaccines, diagnostic
16 procedures could occur, and I respectfully suggest that
17 "could" is a soft word. I think they will or would
18 occur as a probable outcome from work at the NBAF.

19 As an experienced research administrator,
20 I agree with the characterization of the risks involved
21 in the nature of research contemplated for the NBAF. I
22 have personally worked with infectious diseases, and
23 I've directed laboratories with infectious disease
24 programs or nuclear reactors requiring rigorous,
25 uncompromising safety programs and the type of state and

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 1.0

DHS notes the commentor's support for the NBAF and the proposed research that would be conducted within the facility.

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1 federal oversight that we will see at the NBAF.

2 It is the people, highly professional,
3 trained and committed to safety, that make these
4 facilities function in a safe manner. I believe the
5 exceptional safety record of laboratories of San Antonio
6 illustrate we have the training, skills, and human
7 resources required to properly conduct the research and
8 maintain safety necessary at the NBAF.

9 This safety record, in concert with San
10 Antonio's exceptional emergency response capability,
11 merit emphasis in the Draft Environmental Impact
12 Statement. Texas has contended for years with certain
13 endemic diseases, most of which were mentioned by my
14 colleagues just now and has a 1200-mile border with
15 Mexico.

16 I would submit that Texans have a
17 superior record in dealing with the emerging or
18 reemerging diseases, a fact not also recognized in the
19 Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I have personal
20 knowledge of availability of excellent infectious
21 disease research facilities in San Antonio at Brooks
22 City Base. It will be vacated by the United States Air
23 Force in the near term. This includes BSL-3
24 laboratories.

25 These will be exceptional resources where

Comment No: 2

Issue Code: 19.6

DHS notes the commentor's opinion that the proposed NBAF research could be safely conducted at the Texas Research Park site.

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1 the NBAF laboratories operations could begin immediately
2 in San Antonio. San Antonio is -- CMI is a small
3 business for scientists and engineers currently working
4 on contract for the Air Force. These professionals are
5 most likely to opt to stay San Antonio as the Air Force
6 realigns missions to Ohio. They will thus be available
7 for staff at the NBAF. These individuals are highly
8 trained and proficient in infectious disease
9 technologies required by the NBAF.

10 Thank you very much for this opportunity
11 to comment. I'm convinced the nation is best served by
12 locating the NBAF in San Antonio, Texas.

13 MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

14 County Judge Nelson Wolff.

15 NELSON WOLFF: Well, thank you, thank you
16 very much. Perfect timing. I just walked in.

17 Introduced as County Judge but my role in
18 county government is to run county government. We're a
19 large government entity running a major hospital system,
20 as well as doing a number of the same things that the
21 City of San Antonio does but on a county-wide basis.
22 It's an elected position with four commissioners.

23 I wanted to comment on two or three
24 different issues with you. Let me first thank you for
25 giving San Antonio consideration for the Environmental

Comment No: 3 Issue Code: 8.6

DHS notes the commentor's statement.

Comment No: 4 Issue Code: 24.6

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Texas Research Park Site Alternative.

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1 Impact Statement I think that you have before you, and I
2 want to comment about a couple of issues with respect to
3 that. But on more of a larger basis, we would be
4 delighted to have you here.

5 San Antonio is known as Military Town
6 USA. We are very -- close working relationship with the
7 military, and we're a close relationship with a number
8 of research institutions that we have in San Antonio.
9 We provide the teaching hospital for the medical school,
10 and so we're very much involved in a number of issues
11^{124.6} dealing with research and with respect to the medical
12 community and with respect to some of the research that
13 you'll be doing here.

14 Three things I want to be able to mention
15 to you: Number one, we believe in having a good quality
16 of life here in San Antonio. The employees that would
17 be working here will love it here. We just invested --
18 county government just invested with voter approval some
19 \$450 million dealing with quality of life issues,
20 regional sports complexes, performing arts centers,
21 extension of the river, improvements that we have in
22 major facilities that we have out at the Coliseum and
23 the AT&T Arena grounds, and so we invest in quality life
24 as well as infrastructure.

25 Two issues with respect to the

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 24.6

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Texas Research 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 Environmental Statement -- air quality and
2 transportation. Air quality. I'm Vice Chair of the
3 Regional Clear Air Committee. We were the first in the
4 nation to create a compact with the EPA about six or
5 seven years ago now, a three-year compact to work on
6 keeping our air clean out and keeping San Antonio out of
7 the designation of not meeting the standards of the
8 Clean Air Statute. We are the only city in the nation
9 our size that has been able to do that, and we will
10 continue to do that.

11 And second, on transportation. We're
12 investing a great deal of money. The mayor and I just
13 appointed a commission to come up with a number of
14 initiatives on transportation. We're investing money in
15 capital infrastructure for roads and highway and
16 streets, as well as looking at increased mass transit
17 system that would include light rail.

18 So again, thank you very much for coming
19 to San Antonio. Thanks for listening to us.

20 MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

21 Dr. Leo Cropper.

22 DR. THOMAS LEO CROPPER: Hello. My name
23 is Dr. Cropper. I'm a veterinary from -- originally
24 from Ohio State University, retired out of the Air Force
25 in 2004 in San Antonio. I'm a former site commander at

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1 the Air Force Research Laboratory at Brooks Air Force
2 Base where we had Bio-Safety labs there, as well as
3 several other labs that do if bio-medical research and
4 development.

5 I live here in San Antonio. My family
6 lives here. I feel, as I looked at the EIS statement,
7 you-all did a good job. A couple things I would talk
8 about as I looked at the USDA's efforts to prepare for
9 national animal emergency support. Some of their
10 efforts in trying to build a National Animal Emergency
11 Response Corps, we're making progress in those
12 activities but the speed or ability to respond to any
13 disaster, obviously, requires rapid access to your
14 national lab or your NBAF. And I would ask you to
15 perhaps broaden the ability of that.

16 And I look at the weather patterns across
17 the United States where all the sites are located at. I
18 think San Antonio probably has more clear runway days
19 than any of the other potential sites. So reality is,
20 we have to do the specimen from a lab -- from a farm
21 where we're concerned about infected animal to the
22 national lab. I think that's a really important
23 criteria to consider in how the speed of movement from a
24 farm to the laboratory or the NBAF will be.

25 And I think San Antonio would probably

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 27.0

DHS notes the commentor's suggestion. The USDA will be the main tenant conducting research at the NBAF, so coordination with other USDA programs will be encouraged.

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1 come out pretty high on that list, once you do an
 2 analysis, not only that, but because in the center of
 3 the country you have equal access pretty well from both
 4 coasts, and I think that's also important, as well as
 5 being the largest state in the nation with the largest
 6 border as we heard earlier.

7 The concern I have is, anybody is
 8 entitled to transport, 24 hours a day, seven days a
 9 week, 365 days a year, could delay in the accurate
 10 diagnosis of a condition that we're concerned about and
 11 the ability to have that stated in that -- and our
 12 nation to respond. And so I think that's a really
 13 important issue.

14 I can also share with the EIS, I'm a
 15 senior manager of a government lab that the quality of
 16 life is awfully important to the men and women who we
 17 can recruit and retain in our laboratories. And San
 18 Antonio's cost of living and quality of life is really
 19 an important issue that I think will really make a
 20 difference to the men and women who can afford to work
 21 in a government lab. And so I encourage you to perhaps
 22 expand that particular part.

23 As I listen to the alternatives, the
 24 no-action alternative, I think, would be potentially
 25 catastrophic for our nation, so hopefully, the leaders

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 17.0

DHS notes the commentor's concern. The impacts of the six NBAF site alternatives on the highway and road transportation infrastructure of each alternative NBAF site were evaluated by DHS and are discussed in Section 3.11.3 for South Milledge Avenue; Section 3.11.4 for Manhattan Campus; Section 3.11.5 for Flora Industrial Park; Section 3.11.6 for Plum Island; Section 3.11.7 for Umstead Research Farm; and Section 3.11.8 for Texas Research Park of the NBAF EIS. As discussed in these sections, the existing or planned highway and road transportation infrastructure for all alternative NBAF sites will allow for efficient transportation in the event of an emergency.

Comment No: 3 Issue Code: 1.0

DHS notes the commentor's opinion regarding the potential consequences of the No Action Alternative.

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1 would not decide to follow that course of action or
2 inaction, I guess would be a better word.

3 I did agree with the Secretary of State
4 Andrade, San Antonio is the right location for NBAF.
5 The scientists and the engineers know how to build and
6 maintain bio-safety secure laboratories. Thank you
7 again for a job well done on the NBAF EIS assessment.

8 MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

9 Harold Timboe.

10 HAROLD TIMBOE: Thank you. I may be able
11 to cover a little bit of what Eric Epley will get to in
12 a few moments.

13 But my name is Dr. Harold Timboe. I am a
14 part-time staff of the Texas Research Park. I also hold
15 the clinical professor faculty appointment as a
16 Department of Family Medicine and Community Medicine at
17 the UT Health Science Center School of Medicine, and I'm
18 a retired major general from the United States Army.

19 I've commanded Brooke Army Medical Center
20 here in San Antonio and then moved on to command Walter
21 Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. As such, I
22 was responsible for the medical support to the Pentagon
23 attacks on 9/11, as well as the following anthrax
24 letters, and I was also responsible for medical support
25 to the Fort Dietrick facility's U.S. Army Medical

Comment No: 4Issue Code: 24.6

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Texas Research Park Site Alternative.

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1 Research Institute for infectious disease, so
2 contingency operations, planning disasters are my
3 background.

4 And what I'd like to emphasize is San
5 Antonio, you've heard it talked about -- preparedness by
6 several other speakers -- there is no other city in the
7 country, no other region in the country that is better
8 prepared to respond to a whole variety of eco-disasters,
9 accidents, be it animal health or human health, than San
10 Antonio.

11 We have, in my judgment -- we are better
12 prepared than the national capitol area is to respond to
13 anything out of Fort Dietrick. In fact, I don't think
14 there's a close second compared to San Antonio.

15 San Antonio is home to the U.S. Army
16 North. They are the Pentagon's agency responsible for
17 ^{1|24.6}Homeland Defense operations, command control
18 coordination. They are here at Fort Sam Houston,
19 Texas. They also are responsible for civil support to
20 disasters and other emergencies. They have a highly
21 trained staff of professionals available all the time
22 for interoperable and integrated operations with other
23 federal state and local agencies. They are in practice
24 and operate all the time. They have their national
25 operations and coordinations here in San Antonio at Fort

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.6

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Texas Research Park Site Alternative.

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1 Sam Houston.

2 In addition, we also have three large
3 federal hospitals with over 1,000 federal physicians and
4 the requisite health care workers support staff. There
5 are also over 10,000 active duty training personnel who
6 are immediately available for a response. And I think
7 this is an important issue as how quickly can you
8 mobilize the manpower requisites trained and coordinated
9 to do the myriad of tasks that would be required in the
10 first 48, 72 hours.

11 1246 cont

11 San Antonio can do that and has
12 demonstrated during Hurricane Katrina recently that we
13 were the city in the nation to receive the largest
14 number of hospitalized patients in the country, 600
15 within 24 hours, and took excellent care of them on no
16 notice.

17 So in my judgment, San Antonio is
18 exceptionally well prepared. We're here, we're doing
19 this type of research now, and we're ready to host the
20 NBAF. Thank you.

21 MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

22 Melina Kinsey for Jean Patterson.

23 MELINA KINSEY: Good afternoon. My name
24 is Melina Kinsey. I'm with the Southwest Foundation for
25 bio-medical research. I'm the Director of Environmental

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1 Health and Safety. I have been asked to read a letter
2 from Dr. Jean Patterson, she's the department chair for
3 the Department of Virology and Immunology. She is in
4 charge of our Level-4 laboratory.

5 "Dear DHS, I've had the privilege on July
6 30th to participate in a tabletop exercise that was led
7 by the local FBI here in San Antonio. The exercise
8 included all local law enforcement, emergency services
9 for the City of San Antonio and Bexar County, and our
10 local health department.

11 "It was held at the nearby newly
12 constructed emergency operations center on Brooks City
13 Base. The EOC was opened recently services and was used
14 for emergency services as Hurricane Dolly came to shore
15 here in Texas. It is a state-of-the-art building,
16 extremely well-designed and operated.

17 "The tabletop exercise was to deal with
18 the potential bio-terrorism threat of a food-borne
19 nature. I was included as someone who has worked
20 closely with the FBI in understanding issues of
21 bio-terrorism and also as someone who has closely worked
22 with the National Bio-Defense Analysis and
23 Counter- Measures Center of DHS on bio-terrorism
24 scenarios.

25 "The moderator was from the FBI

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1 headquarters and worked us through a scenario of ricin
2 in potato salad. We discussed issues of who would be in
3 charge, who would act to identify potential
4 perpetrators, how chain of custody would be handled, how
5 emergency services would be handled with mass
6 casualties.

7 "In my opinion, the exercise identified
8 how well prepared San Antonio and Bexar County are in
9 emergency preparedness and how well communication
10 between federal, local, and health officials has been
11 developed. In the opinion of the moderator, who not
12 only was the EOC -- who not only was the EOC of one of
13 the finest facilities she had seen in any municipality
14 of comparable or a larger size, but San Antonio was
15 better prepared than almost all cities where she had
16 performed this exercise.

17 "Sincerely, Jean Patterson."

18 MS. COGHILL: Thank you. Yes, you're
19 next.

20 MELINA KINSEY: I'm speaking for myself
21 again. Again, I'm Melina Kinsey, I'm the Director of
22 Environmental Health and Safety at Southwest Foundation
23 for Bio-Medical Research. And I wanted to express also
24 and chime in at what Dr. Patterson was bringing to the
25 table about we have a great relationship, with not only

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DHS notes the information provided by the commentor.

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1 our Emergency Operations Center here in San Antonio, all
2 of our fire departments that are close to our facility,
3 and also we have a very good relationship with the local
4 police departments and FBI.

5 In my department we are in charge of
6 working -- making sure that the building is operational,
7 our high containment Level-4 lab, so I have a BSL-4
8 mechanical systems engineer who makes sure that the
9 building is operating correctly. Every year we certify
10 that by bringing it down and doing a decontamination,
11 and during that time we also provide training for our
12 local fire departments, FBI, and local police officers
13 so they know if they are the first ones to respond,
14 exactly what to expect from us.

15 The training gives them a very
16 familiarity of our facility, where they need to go, and
17 they at least know where the hazards are of a
18 high-containment lab. Also, we have an established
19 medical response team that includes an infectious
20 disease doctor from UT Health Science Center and also
21 one of the -- an occupational medicine doctor from a
22 contracted company called Cocentra Medicine Centers.

23 We've established those lines, and I
24 think that in addition to the support that you will have
25 from the scientific infrastructure, you also have a

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DHS notes the information provided by the commentator.

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1 mechanical and a safety infrastructure, a medical
2 response team infrastructure that you can rely on to
1|8.6 cont. 3 help define those plans.

4 There are also local emergency responders
5 and local law enforcement personnel that are familiar
6 with high containment and the emergency's intervention.

7 Thank you for your consideration.

8 MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

9 Sara Sanchez.

10 SARA SANCHEZ: Good afternoon. Welcome
11 to San Antonio. My name is Sara Sanchez, and I am the
12 vice president for the San Antonio Economic Development
13 Foundation. I am here to read a letter on behalf of
14 Mr. Mario Hernandez, who is the president and
15 unfortunately is unable to be with us here today.

16 The letter is addressed to Mr. James
17 Johnson and reads: "The San Antonio Economic
18 Development Foundation supports the establishment of a
1|24.6 19 National Bio and Agro-Defense facility at the Texas
20 Research Park. We appreciate the efforts your
21 department has undertaken to study the environmental
22 impacts of the project in our community.

23 "We have analyzed the results of your
24 findings and noted that no significant adverse effects
25 were outlined in the report. As such, we are able to

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DHS notes the commentor's support for the Texas Research Park Site Alternative.

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1 take comfort in that the proposed NBAF facility will
2 adhere to rigid guidelines property and protocols
3 established by the Center for Disease Control and
4 Prevention in other guidelines.

5 "We are pleased that your findings do
6 indicate significant potential beneficial effects in the
7 three areas of biology, socio-economics, and health and
8 safety for the Texas Research Park site.

9 "Our community will benefit from the
10 research that will take place in the NBAF facility as
11 new vaccines are developed and tested. Furthermore,
12 this project is expected to create 250-plus direct jobs
13 with an estimated income of between 26 and \$30 million
14 annually. These benefits are further compounded by the
15 health and safety benefits that will be realized by our
16 citizens.

17 "San Antonio, as you know, is already
18 home to the Southwest Foundation for Bio-Medical
19 Research, a BSL-4 facility, which has been an asset in
20 our community. We welcome and look forward to expanding
21 our bio-safety labs in San Antonio with NBAF and feel
22 that your project will benefit all our citizens.

23 "Sincerely, Mario Hernandez, President of
24 San Antonio Economic Foundation."

25 Thank you.

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1 MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

2 Mary Pat Moyer.

3 MARY PAT MOYER: Hi. I'm Mary Pat Moyer.

4 I am a PhD microbiologist. I'm also the president and
5 chief science office of ENCELL Corporation, which is a
6 small business here in San Antonio, and I'm also the
7 president of the San Antonio-Austin Life Science
8 Association, which is a regional networking
9 organization.

10 The San Antonio -- on behalf of the San
11 Antonio Austin Life Science Association or SALSA, we are
12 supportive as a group of the NBAF. And we are a
13 collegial group here in Texas, and a collegial group --
14 and I think that's part of the environment and the
15 positive things from all of the people who live here and
16 work together.

17 On behalf of ENCELL, ENCELL is a company
18 that is expanding its operations to include BSL-3 level
19 manufacturing, and we work closely with government,
20 academic, and other companies in the development of
21 vaccines and diagnostics, and would have city support
22 for our expansion into our new facility.

1|24.6

23 The small businesses that are here in San
24 Antonio -- on behalf of the small businesses that are
25 here in San Antonio can provide additional support for

Comment No: 1

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1 NBAF activities, and there's a lot of talent here that
2 you've already heard about. But it's important to know
3 that they can bring attributes and rapid response in
4 manufacturing, as well as having trained personnel that
5 can be provided to the NBAF activities going forward.

6 So thank you for the opportunity to
7 speak.

8 MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

9 Neal Guentzel.

10 NEAL GUENTZEL: I'm Neal Guentzel, and
11 I'm Associate Dean and Co-Director of our South Texas
12 Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases at the
13 University of the Texas at San Antonio. And what I'd
14 like to talk to you about is the fact -- is related to
15 the socio-economic impact of the NBAF in San Antonio.

16 UTSA is the fastest growing university in
17 the state, and our South Texas Center Infectious
18 Diseases is the primary research center at UTSA. We
19 have a critical mass of high-quality researchers in
20 emerging infectious disease and bio-defense, that's
21 currently 17 investigators and their research
22 laboratories and growing.

23 Our research directly relates to the
24 mission of the NBAF and includes long lasting studies of
25 select agents, microbial pathogenesis in most immune

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 24.6

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Texas Research Park Site Alternative. The decision on whether or not the NBAF is built, and, if so, where will be made on the four evaluation criteria addressed in addition to the following factors: analyses from the EIS; applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulatory requirements; consultation requirements among the federal, state, and local agencies, as well as federally recognized American Indian Nations; policy considerations; and public comment.

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1 responses, and innovative vaccine research and
2 development.

3 The NBAF needs a trained workforce with
4 graduate and post-doctoral students. We have already
5 graduated and are currently graduating individuals at
6 all levels in our laboratories from the baccalaureate to
7 doctoral to post-doctoral, so the workforce is here.

8 There is multiple opportunities for
9 collaborations between the NBAF and the South Texas
10 Center, and this includes joint research, adjunct
11 appointments at UTSA, internships, as well as things
12 like a joint seminar program. There is multiple
13 continuing education and sabbatical opportunities for
14 NBAF researchers.

15 Finally, I'd like to address the issue of
16 those who oppose putting the NBAF here or anywhere. To
17 me it's morally wrong not to study diseases that affect,
18 harm, and kill our fellow human beings. What if we
19 hadn't studied the horrible infectious diseases of the
20 past? What would have happened in the absence of our
21 understanding the disease pathogenesis, our absence of
22 antibiotics, absence of vaccines would be a lifespan of
23 about 35 years, which is what it was throughout human
24 history before these events. And what would have
25 happened as the graveyards would have been full or would

1|24.6 cont;
1.0

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 1.0

DHS notes the commentor's opinion regarding the study of human diseases.

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1 be full of dead children?

2 So in summary, the South Texas Center for

3 Emerging Infectious Diseases and UTSA are prepared to

4 fully support the efforts to locate NBAF at Texas

124.6 cont.

5 Research Park. The South Texas Center for Emerging

6 Infectious Disease and UTSA will be outstanding partners

7 in support of the various activities of the NBAF once

8 the right choice -- and I emphasize the right choice --

9 is made to locate NBAF in San Antonio.

10 Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

11 MS. COGHILL: Thank you. Karl Klose.

12 KARL KLOSE: My name is Karl Klose, and

13 I'm a professor of microbiology at the University of

14 Texas San Antonio. And I'm also the director of the

15 South Texas Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases.

16 Since I wear several hats, I thought that I would

17 mention my support of the NBAF as a scientist, as an

18 educator, and finally as a citizen of San Antonio.

19 As a scientist, I have dedicated my

20 career to studying, preventing, and treating infectious

21 diseases. I consider it my responsibility to use my

22 education and my training to better mankind through the

23 study and elimination of infectious diseases, and I'm

24 the Director of the South Texas Center for Emerging

25 Infectious Diseases.

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 24.6

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Texas Research Park Site Alternative. The decision on whether or not the NBAF is built, and, if so, where will be made on the four evaluation criteria addressed in addition to the following factors: analyses from the EIS; applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulatory requirements; consultation requirements among the federal, state, and local agencies, as well as federally recognized American Indian Nations; policy considerations; and public comment.

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1 We are the most successful center at the
2 University of Texas San Antonio because we bring in the
3 most external research found at the University. We have
4 17 individual investigators and our associated
5 laboratories. We operate two Bio-Safety Level-3
6 laboratories, and we have a large number, obviously, of
7 scientists that are dedicating their careers to
8 preventing infectious diseases, both naturally acquired
9 as well as bio-threat agents.

10 So speaking as a scientist and as a
11 member of the South Texas Center for Infectious
12 Diseases, we strongly support the NBAF, and we realize
13 the potential mutual beneficial relationship between
14 that facility and ours at UTSA.

15 As an educator, I'm involved in educating
16 both undergraduates and graduate students at UTSA. We
17 have a very large undergraduate population,
18 approximately 30,000 undergraduate students. We give
19 out the most biological degrees to any Hispanic serving
20 institution in the entire country, and we are training
21 the next generation of scientists.

22 This is would be a tremendous boon to the
23 student population at University of Texas San Antonio,
24 and, again, there would be a mutually beneficial
25 relationship between our student population and the

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1 NBAF, given that we will provide a trained workforce for
2 that facility.

3 Finally, as a citizen of San Antonio, I
4 realize what a wonderful place this is to live. It has
5 an extremely high quality of life as you've probably
6 heard from a number of other speakers. We have a very
7 low cost of living, and the economic and scientific
8 impact on San Antonio are really quite large from my
9 perspective.

10 124.6 cont

10 My colleagues, scientific colleagues in
11 the military, at the Southwest Foundation for
12 Bio-Medical Research, the Health Science Center at UTSA,
13 and the bio-tech industry in San Antonio are all
14 strongly supportive of the NBAF relocating to San
15 Antonio. So I want to thank you for your attention.

16 MS. COGHILL: Thank you, sir.

17 David Marquez.

18 DAVID MARQUEZ: Good afternoon, I'm David
19 Marquez, Executive Director for Economic Development for
20 Bexar County. Again, you've heard a lot about the
21 science, I certainly can't speak to a lot of that
22 experience myself, but I do want to emphasize about San
23 Antonio.

24 First of all, thank you again for the
25 Draft EIS report. I think it's very well done.

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1 Something that's hard to capture in a document like that
2 is the nature of this community when it comes to large
3 economic development projects like this one and
4 particularly federal projects.

5 You're probably pretty familiar that the
6 last round of the of the base realignment closure
7 process in 2005 brought a substantial amount of federal
8 contracted investments to San Antonio. Our ability to
9 stand up for a project of that nature is critical, and I
10 think your project particularly will benefit from that
11 experience we're gaining now and be able to deliver your
12 project on time and on budget with the skill sets that
13 are necessary, federal contractors that are certified.
14 All those things are already in place here, and I really
15 don't think it can be overstated.

16 Our ability to deliver on all of these
17 ^{1|8.6} large-scale projects, as I has been mentioned earlier,
18 the roads project that may be needed for the area and
19 the other capital improvements. We are, in fact, a
20 growing community and so those skill sets are here and
21 ready to be employed in support of this particular
22 National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility.

23 Again, the federal contracting side, with
24 the experience that been gained today with regards to
25 BRAC and the other installation and other dollars being

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 8.6
DHS notes the commentor's statement.

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1 spent here, directly relate to our ability to help build
2 this lab and stand it up in a timely manner. Thank you
3 very much.

4 MS. COGHILL: Okay. Our next speaker is
5 Dr. James Wright.

6 DR. JAMES WRIGHT: My name is James
7 Wright, and I'm a rancher. I live out here in the Hill
8 Country, about 80 miles southwest of San Antonio. And
9 in the Hill Country we have plentiful deer, we got a lot
10 of livestock, and we got a lot of wild pigs running
11 around.

12 I hear that you guys are really set up to
13 handle any type of emergency but what I want to point
14 out -- I've got to put my glasses on. I can't read too
15 well. The emphasis I see in the EIS is basically based
16 on that of economics and not necessarily that of
17 biological safety, and that's what I think should be the
18 overriding factor in consideration of the placement of
19 this facility in any place.

20 The documents, the EIS documents, touts
21 that the environmental criteria will dictate determining
22 the outcome of the facility. If this were indeed the
23 case, why all the emphasis on economic impact? Perhaps
24 the report should be called the Economic Impact
25 Statement not the Environmental Impact Statement.

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Comment No: 1Issue Code: 13.0

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 Biological safety should be the primary
2 factor and focus for this facility. This area in San
3 Antonio, I understand, is going to be on 100 acres. At
4 any point in time out where I live, our neighbors, we
5 can look out our back porch, our front porch, and hell,
6 we can see 100 acres. It's nothing.

7 And then you talk about biological
8 containment. This does not give us a good feeling about
9 the security of such a facility. As you may or may not
10 be aware, recently down here in Beeville, Texas at a
11 stock barn, they had a mock trial with the Foot and
12 Mouth Disease Virus. They released it in terms of a
13 trial.

14 They found out in 48 hours -- our animal
15 health officials found out that this entire heartland of
16 America, Texas, would be exposed to this devastating
17 disease. Mexico's livestock industry would also be
18 destroyed. I don't think anybody's mentioned that from
19 that standpoint.

20 You have to understand in England they've
21 had actually three outbreaks, one in '61 that killed
22 450,000 livestock. In 2001, they killed more than
23 6,000,000 livestock with an outbreak with Foot and Mouth
24 Disease Virus. And this recently last July or August in
25 England at their new Philbright facility, they had

Comment No: 2Issue Code: 21.0

DHS notes the commentor's concern. The potential economic effects of an accidental release are discussed in Section 3.10.9 and Appendix D of the NBAF EIS. The risk of an accidental release of a pathogen is extremely low, but DHS acknowledges that the economic effect would be significant for all sites. To the extent possible, the NBAF EIS identifies differences in the magnitude of potential adverse impacts among the candidate sites if an accidental release of a pathogen were to occur. DHS has identified its Preferred Alternative in Section 2.6, which was based on a multitude of factors of which the safety of the human and physical environment and the protection of the U.S. livestock sector are paramount. 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 another outbreak due to waste water containment they
 2 didn't treat right.
 3 Germany and Denmark have built their
 4 facilities on islands much like at Plum Island that we
 5 have here in New York. I'm going to stick with risk and
 6 the decisions to minimize risk, and the risk is the risk
 7 of a potential destruction of our livestock industry in
 8 Texas, the destruction of the hunting industry here in
 9 Texas, and probably would put the Texas Parks and
 10 Wildlife out of the wildlife business, the destruction
 11 of the exotic hunting industry, and certainly the
 12 elimination of the swine or hog industry.

13 If the disease -- and this is a quote
 14 from the Legislative Director of the National Grain and
 15 formed the subcommittee on oversight investigations last
 16 year, If the disease works its way into the wildlife
 17 ^{313.0} population, there may be no physical means to enforce a
 18 plan to destroy or dispose of infected populations of
 19 wildlife.

20 Might look at your California history on
 21 Foot and Mouth Disease Virus, got into the deer
 22 population out there. Economics indicate a 33 to \$40
 23 billion effect, okay? But I don't think this includes
 24 the aftereffects. I've seen what happened, and you can
 25 create a Texas Chernobyl here with Foot and Mouth

Comment No: 3Issue Code: 13.0

DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding wildlife control in the event of an accidental release. The potential response measures that could be employed in the event of an accidental release are described in Section 3.8.9 of the NBAF EIS. Table 3.8.9-1 describes the potential response strategies that could be considered in the event of an accidental release. Depopulation or population reduction is one of ten potential FMD response strategies developed by the National Park Service. However, the National Park Service recommends the use of other strategies or combinations of strategies to avoid depopulating wildlife (see Table 3.8.9-1). A more likely scenario would include one or more of the non-lethal measures described in Table 3.8.9-1. In the event that depopulation or population reduction was determined to be the most appropriate course of action, hunting with firearms would be the likely method for implementing this strategy.

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1 Disease Virus outbreak. And I've been to Chernobyl,
 2 I've seen the outbreak over there. Who's going to clean
 3 up and what will be the total impact not only short term
 4 but long term?

5 I woke up one morning and found dozens of
 6 flocks of sheep in Utah that were dead because of an
 7 "oops" out in a dumpway facility. You may or may not or
 8 remember that but that was a mistake. There is no such
 9 probability of 100 percent bio-security.

10 Recently released by the GAO, Department
 11 of Homeland Security has not conducted or commissioned
 12 any study to determine whether Foot and Mouth Disease
 13 Virus work can be done safely on the U.S. mainland. I'm
 14 sure you guys are well aware of that.

15 And the risk -- I want to talk about risk
 16 and benefits. The benefit proportion to risk and
 17 benefit is that of economics to San Antonio -- which is
 18 fine -- the city and its business and collegial
 19 partners. They're seeking knowledge, and I don't mind
 20 that but they're really not putting into effect
 21 biological safety. The risks are imposed on us, the
 22 livestock producers, with no benefits.

23 The risk, \$40 billion-plus to us. The
 24 benefits, a half a billion to locals. That's an
 25 80-to-one ratio. You guys want to go into livestock

Comment No: 4

Issue Code: 15.0

Chapter 3, Section 3.14 and Appendix E of the NBAF EIS investigates the chances of a variety of accidents that could occur with the proposed NBAF and consequences of potential accidents, DHS cannot guarantee that the NBAF would never experience an accident. However, the risk of an accidental release of a pathogen from the NBAF is extremely low. The economic impact of an accidental release, including the impact on the livestock-related industries, is presented in Chapter 3, Section 3.10.9 and Appendix D of the NBAF EIS. 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.

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1 business, that's a pretty good ratio for us, 80 to one.

2 If you don't get anything else out of
3 this, I and my cohorts, we fully support the upgrading
4 and retention of the facilities on an island such as
5 Plum Island or on an island. And it's not on an island
5|25.6
6 with similar desirable features. We're already
7 connected to the mainland and certainly should
8 maintained under federal conditions, federal
9 operations. Thank you.

10 MS. COGHILL: Thank you, sir.

11 Next speaker is Richard Perez.

12 RICHARD PEREZ: Good afternoon. My name
13 is Richard Perez, and I'm the President and CEO of the
14 Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. And I'm here
15 today to support fully the location of the Bio and
16 Agro-Defense lab here in San Antonio.

17 The business community of San Antonio and
18 the region is firmly behind the location of the lab
19 here. We think it's an excellent site. We have many
20 research facilities already located in San Antonio that
1|24.6
21 are doing stellar work. We have BSL-3 and BSL-4 labs
22 here now that have never had in any problems whatsoever
23 with any type of contamination or containment.

24 I'm also a former elected official. I
25 used to represent the City of San Antonio as a City

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 24.6

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Texas Research Park Site Alternative.

Comment No: 5

Issue Code: 25.6

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

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1 Council member, and I can tell you if there was any --
2 even one iota of doubt in my mind that we could not
3 handle this facility here in a manner that's safe for
4 citizens, livestock, the environment, that I wouldn't be
5 here today lending my voice to support this issue.

6 This is important not only for the City
7 of San Antonio because it is important economically and
8 otherwise. However, it's also important to our nation
9 to find a new location, an alternate to Plum Island,
10 that's safe that has no -- or very, very low ability to
11 have natural disasters here, hurricanes, tornados,
12 earthquakes. Those things don't happen in San Antonio.

13 And as far as if there is a disaster, we
14 are the second most prepared city in the nation in
15 relation to an emergency response or disaster, second
16 only to New York City. And we have the people, we have
17 the technical expertise, we have the research expertise,
18 we have the airports, we have the land, we have
19 everything really necessary to make the Bio and
20 Agro-Defense lab -- the National Bio and Agro-Defense
21 lab a success in San Antonio, Texas.

22 And on behalf of the 2000 businesses that
23 are members of the Greater San Antonio Chamber of
24 Commerce that employ over half a million people, we
25 fully support the location of the lab here and would

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1 urge you to agree with us. Thank you.

2 MS. COGHILL: Thank you, Mr. Perez.

3 Gerardo Interiano.

4 ANGELA MANSON: Welcome. My name is

5 Angela Manson. I'm a senior policy advisor for

6 Congressman Charlie Gonzalez, representing San Antonio's

7 20th congressional district.

8 THOMAS HERALDE: I'm Thomas Heralde with

9 Congressman Ciro Rodriguez, representing Texas's 23rd

10 district.

11 GERARDO INTERIANO: And Gerardo

12 Interiano, representing Lamar Smith, representing the

13 21st district. We have a joint letter from the San

14 Antonio delegation.

15 "Dear Secretary Chertoff and Admiral

16 Cohen, we are delighted to have the opportunity to

17 express our support for San Antonio's Texas Research

18 Park as you consider sites for the National Bio and

19 Agro-Defense facility.

20 "San Antonio offers many critical

21 resources that make it an ideal selection for this

22 facility. As a result of the unified effort across our

23 ^{124.6}community throughout this process, San Antonio is

24 arguably the location best prepared for this

25 opportunity.

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 24.6

DHS notes the commentator's support for the Texas Research Park Site Alternative.

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1 "In addition to our local efforts, the
2 state has made ample resources available to bolster our
3 bid and a satisfy the Department's requirements,
4 including in the areas of veterinary medicine workforce
5 availability, and research expertise.

6 "San Antonio's also experienced in
7 building and managing these types of facilities in a
8 safe and secure manner. We have a strong record, free
9 of security breaches and safety compromises, starting
10 from the researchers at the Health Science Center at
11 UTSA to the experts at Southwest Research, which is now
12 considered one of the leading bio-containment centers in
13 the country. San Antonio has enjoyed a reputation as a
14 topnotch research leader in the field of
15 bio-technology.

16 "All of these facilities place a high
17 requirement on safety and security and the operations
18 that the NBAF will build off that record. Similarly,
19 San Antonio has always led the effort to protect our
20 national interests.

21 "As a city hailed as Military City USA,
22 we have always played a significant and substantive role
23 in our nation's security. The creation of the NBAF
24 would symbolize the natural progression in our ongoing
25 commitment to keep our country free from harm.

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1 "And finally, San Antonio has proven to
2 be capable of handling rapid growth over the past
3 decades, exactly the type of experience needed when
4 preparing for a facility like the NBAF.

5 "On account of a strong military,
6 research, and industrial presence in our city, we have
7 expanded greatly over the past decades. To accommodate
8 this growth, our city has made sound investments in
9 infrastructure and transportation that ultimately
10 benefited the community as a whole.

11 "These investments left us well-equipped
12 to handle the further expansion, ideally positioning us
13 to handle the challenges and demands that the NBAF would
14 present. San Antonio offers many critical resources to
15 the Department of Homeland Security, ranging from ample
16 support assets to experience with operating similar
17 facilities with unparalleled security standards, which
18 make it an ideal location for NBAF.

19 "Our community has already shown a strong
20 commitment to the success of this project and will
21 continue to do should the Department select San Antonio
22 as the location for its NBAF.

23 "Sincerely, Charles A. Gonzalez, Lamar
24 Smith, and Ciro Rodriguez, members of Congress."

25 MS. COGHILL: Thank you very much.

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1 Eric Epley.

2 RONALD STEWART: Good afternoon. My name
3 is Ronald Stewart, I'm speaking for Eric Epley. I'm
4 the -- Eric's boss and the Chair of the Southwest Texas
5 Region and Advisory Council for Trauma, which is the
6 regional emergency response and organization set in
7 place to deal with trauma emergency response on a
8 regional basis.

9 I'm speaking in support of this. I think
10 this is a very natural fit, that San Antonio has a
11 strong history of support for the military and national
12 security. It's very strong with respect to bio-medical
13 sciences and has a very private, sophisticated emergency
14 response system.

15 So -- and I'm empathetic to the folks who
16 have talked about risk. I think this is not totally
17 risk free but it's a very, very, very, very small risk,
18 and that is outweighed -- I'm not speaking of economic
19 benefit -- that's outweighed by the benefit that would
20 be seen by the increase in more ways for keep -- for
21 dealing with these pathogens, so to me this is a very
22 natural fit.

23 There is some risk, but as a trauma
24 surgeon, I can tell you that there is some risk with
25 respect to automobiles and cars, ATVs, and we're not

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 24.6

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Texas Research Park Site Alternative.

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1 banning those things currently. So from my standpoint
1|24.6 cont
2 the benefits greatly outweigh the risk, and I would
3 strongly support this. Thank you.

4 MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

5 Delicia Herrera.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm sorry, she's not
7 here either. I think we're running ahead of schedule.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: She'll be here before
9 4:30.

10 MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

11 A. J. Rodriguez.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: He will also be here
13 before 4:30.

14 MS. COGHILL: Okay. York Duncan.

15 YORK DUNCAN: Good afternoon, Jamie.
16 My name is York Duncan, and I'm a
17 president of the Texas Research Park Foundation. We are
18 owners of the Texas Research Park, the alternative site
19 here in San Antonio.

20 First of all, let me thank you, all of
21 the NBAF team, for being so professional and so
22 responsive. It's been a pleasure to work with you, and
23 I thank you for your hard work and especially your
24 service to the nation.

25 Secondly, we want NBAF in San Antonio,

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1 Texas. I'd like to recount for the record why we
 2 believe San Antonio is the ideal location for NBAF. We
 3 will also supply you with corrections in writing to the
 4 Draft EIS that will more accurately reflect issues in
 5 the final EIS before August 25th.

6 Texas was just named America's top state
 7 for business by CNBC. It has more Fortune 500 companies
 8 than any state in the union, and Texas was named the
 9 best state to do business in by CEO Magazine three years
 10 in a row. I say this because we have a lot of support
 11 for our commercial support and private enterprise
 12 support for the NBAF facility.

13 The San Antonio International Airport is
 14 undergoing \$450 million of renovation to accommodate
 15 more flights and professionals. We are centrally
 16 located between both coasts.

17 The San Antonio community's a diverse
 18 one, many saying it is the reflection of America now and
 19 in the future. More minority groups are represented
 20 with a higher percentage of total population than any
 21 other site being considered. Our workforce is
 22 trainable, talented, and in the case for NBAF,
 23 experienced, many having worked on similar projects and
 24 are going through the Plum Island training.

25 There are 50 scientists working on select

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.6

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Texas Research 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 agents at this time in the community today, and at least
2 eight board certified vets in pathology, immunology, and
3 infectious disease, all available here in San Antonio.
4 Our quality of life is unsurpassed, our cost of living
5 low.

6 Many organizations find it easy to
7 recruit talent. Our energy provider, CPS Energy,
8 supplies energy at lost cost. It is, by the way, the
9 largest user of wind power in the entire country. They
10 receive 14 percent of their entire energy supply from
11 wind power at this time, and that will be growing.

12 San Antonio is a military friendly city,
13 Military City USA, and is comfortable with federal
14 projects and issues. We have a 400,000 square foot BSA
15 facility, the Air Force training activity at Randolph,
16 Brooks City Base experience with the Air Force.

17 The recruiting effort for -- all the Air
18 Force recruits go through Lackland Air Force Base.
19 Homeland Security K-9 training center is at Lackland.
20 Fifth Army, South Com at Fort Sam, and the military
21 medicine buildup also at Fort Sam, San Antonio's
22 military medical centers, SAMMC, is the largest buildup
23 of military medicine activity ever, over \$2.1 billion.

24 There's Level-3 space available at the
25 Research Park and at Brooks City Base, a crown jewel of

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1 the bio-sciences of the Southwest Foundation with the
2 only privately owned BSL-4 laboratory.

3 Emergency responders in San Antonio are
4 among the best trained in the country, as you have
5 heard. They go through annual exercises with FBI, EMS,
6 fire, police.

7 The ideal site is at the Texas Research
8 Park in San Antonio. The Park was master planned for
9 facilities like this, and I'll end there. Thank you
10 very much.

124.6 cont

11 MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

12 At this point in time, ladies and
13 gentlemen, we have called everyone who signed in.
14 However, we are ahead of schedule. We want to make sure
15 that we accommodate two things: the folks that will be
16 coming in a little bit, and in the event that there's
17 anyone here who did not sign in, who would like to
18 speak, we'd like to open the floor up to that and then
19 we'll take a break and reconvene.

20 So at this point in time, is there anyone
21 who did not speak or did not sign up that would like to
22 speak right now? Okay.

23 Next what we'll do is we'll take a break
24 right now. We'll reconvene at around 4:10 to work with
25 the folks that are coming in around that time to speak.

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1 Thank you.

2 (Recess from 3:47 to 4:14 p.m.)

3 MS. COGHILL: All right, folks. We're
4 going to reconvene the meeting. There's a few speakers
5 that signed up that were not here earlier because we
6 were running ahead of schedule. So I will go ahead and
7 start with those two folks.

8 The first person is Delicia Herrera. Is
9 she here at this point? Pardon me?

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: About five minutes.

11 How about A. J. Rodriguez?

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: About five minutes.

13 MS. COGHILL: Well, those are the only
14 two folks that we have left to accommodate this
15 afternoon, so we won't -- the meeting is open until it
16 closes at 4:30, so I'll wait a few minutes and hopefully
17 they'll show up.

18 (Recess from 4:15 to 4:20 p.m.)

19 MS. COGHILL: If I understand, our last
20 two speakers are here. As a reminder, if you missed the
21 first portion of the meeting, the parameter is -- what
22 we'd ask the speakers to follow is, please keep your
23 presentation to three minutes, and at two minutes 30
24 seconds I'll hold up the yellow card and at three
25 minutes the red card. And if you have not finished your

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1 comments at that point in time, we'd ask that you submit
2 the rest of them in writing.

3 The first speaker is Delicia Herrera.

4 DELICIA HERRERA: Good afternoon and
5 welcome not only to San Antonio but to the area that I
6 represent, which is City Council District 6. And I just
7 actually came from our Council meeting that's going on
8 right now.

9 First, let me commend the excellent work
10 performed by the Department of Homeland Security,
11 addressing the need for the National Bio and
12 Agro-Defense facility and the Draft Environmental Impact
13 Statement.

14 Next, I do want to emphasize the city's
15 strong support for the proposed site at the Texas
16 Research Park in San Antonio. The city led the way in
17^{124.6} establishing the Park in 1989, investing over \$7 million
18 in infrastructure, and we continue to invest in
19 bio-science activities at the Park.

20 This community's standards set the
21 national presence of the NBAF project, and we will
22 gladly welcome the presence of a federal laboratory.

23 The city is also working to make our
24 supporting infrastructure even better to accommodate
25 future growth. For example, we are making \$636 million

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.6

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Texas Research Park Site Alternative.

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1 in capital improvements to our international airport,
 2 and we have a 550 million, voter approved, 2007-2012
 3 bond program underway, the largest in the city's
 4 history, consisting of 150 projects, a design to improve
 5 and enhance existing as well as acquire, construct new
 6 local streets, bridges, sidewalks, drainage facility,
 7 parks, athletic facilities, libraries, and public health
 8 centers, all comprehensive.

9 Now let me offer a few comments on the
 10 Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I would recommend
 11 the report include emphasis on community emergency
 12 preparedness and public support for the project.

13 San Antonio's a great location because we
 14 are relatively free of national disasters such as
 15 earthquakes, floods, and tornados. That is the primary
 16 reason why Toyota and Microsoft recently established
 17 major operations here in the city. Microsoft is just
 18 down the street from here. That really is the selling
 19 point, the huge selling point when we solicited major
 20 corporations to San Antonio.

21 We are also a location that the national
 22 and state officials call on extensively for disaster
 23 relief assistance because we have outstanding emergency
 24 operations infrastructure, extensive emergency training,
 25 and resources, and well-trained and cooperative

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 26.0
 DHS notes the commentor's recommendation.

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1 community volunteers, including faith-based community
2 organizations.

3 When Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit a
4 couple years ago, this community stepped up to assist
5 both federal and state officials in responding to the
6 needs of the citizens. In addition, we have three
7 Level-1 trauma facilities in San Antonio, which include
8 the University Hospital, Wilford Hall, and Brooke Army
9 Medical Center, also known as BAMC.

10 All of these trauma centers operate
11 through excellent formation between city, county, and
12 the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Army. In fact, San
13 Antonio's considered by many as a center for excellence
14 for trauma care research.

15 I want to thank you for allowing us this
16 opportunity to share with you our comments.

17 MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

18 A. J. Rodriguez.

19 A. J. RODRIGUEZ: Well, welcome, bien
20 venidos San Antonio. It's good to see all of you. My
21 name is A. J. Rodriguez, I'm the Deputy City Manager,
22 and I'm here on behalf of our city manager, Sheryl
23 ^{1|24.6}Sculley, to really express the city's strong support for
24 locating the National Bio and Agro-Defense facility in
25 our community.

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.6

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Texas Research Park Site Alternative.

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1 San Antonio is committed to being to
2 selected as the preferred choice for this cutting edge
3 project, and we are honored to be among the five sites
4 that are still competing for such a prestigious research
5 facility. I can assure you that the City of San Antonio
6 is fully behind the effort to locate this facility in
7 our community.

8 Over the past two years, our City Council
9 has approved 150,000 to support the efforts of the Texas
10 Bio and Agro-Defense Consortium. The city's also
11 committed up to \$10 million toward the infrastructure
12 requirements for the construction of the actual facility
13 in San Antonio, subject, of course, to the approval by
14 our City Council.

15 Our commitment to the development of the
16 bio-technology and health care industry in the San
17 Antonio has been a long-standing one. It was the city
18 which led the efforts to establish the Texas Research
19 Park in 1989 by investing 7.3 million for the Park's
20 infrastructure, and we continue to invest in projects at
21 the Park.

22 Since that time, the bio-technology
23 health care industry has been become one of our largest,
24 employing almost 113,000 people and registering an
25 annual economic impact of 15.3 billion. Furthermore,



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1 San Antonio has long been the home of army medicine.
2 With the ongoing changes from the last round of base
3 closures and realignment activity, San Antonio will soon
4 become the center for all Department of Defense enlisted
5 medical training and the location of one of only two DOD
6 regional medical centers.

7 Fort Sam Houston also is the location of
8 the Center for Battlefield Health and Trauma, making our
9 city a center of excellence for trauma care and trauma
10 research.

11 There are many other world-class research
12 and medical facilities located in San Antonio, such as
13 the University of Texas Health Science Center, the
14 Southwest Foundation for Bio Medical Research, Southwest
15 Research Institute, and the Cancer Therapy and Research
16 Center. It's also worth mentioning that the Southwest
17 Foundation for Bio-Medical Research is also the location
18 of one of only three functioning Bio-Safety Level-4 labs
19 and the only private one in the country.

124.6 cont

20 The research done by these labs is fully
21 accepted by the community and has an impeccable safety
22 record. Furthermore, this lab along with the other labs
23 at the Southwest Foundation were designed and built by
24 San Antonio companies, so we also have the local
25 capability for construction of such facilities.

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1 The presence of these great institutions
2 in San Antonio, along with excellent public
3 infrastructure, extremely competitive utility rates, a
4 deep and sustainable pool of qualified workers, and a
5 quality of life that is second to none makes us
6 confident that our city is the ideal location for this
7 facility.
8 Again, the City of San Antonio wants to
9 echo its strong commitment to bringing this research
10 facility to our world-class city. Thank you so much.
11 MS. COGHILL: Thank you. At this point
12 in time, that closes the formal comment period for this
13 afternoon's meeting. I'd like to turn it back over to
14 Jamie.
15 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Catherine. I
16 want to thank everyone again for their comments, taking
17 time out of your schedules, to attend the meeting and
18 provide its input on the Draft EIS and making sure we've
19 got all that information.
20 If you think of a comment later, again,
21 you can submit it by August 25th. It should be
22 addressed to and responded in the final EIS, and, again,
23 using any of the mechanisms that you see here on the
24 slide.
25 So with that I will adjourn the meeting



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1 and thank everyone again for coming.

2 (Proceedings ended at 4:28 p.m.)

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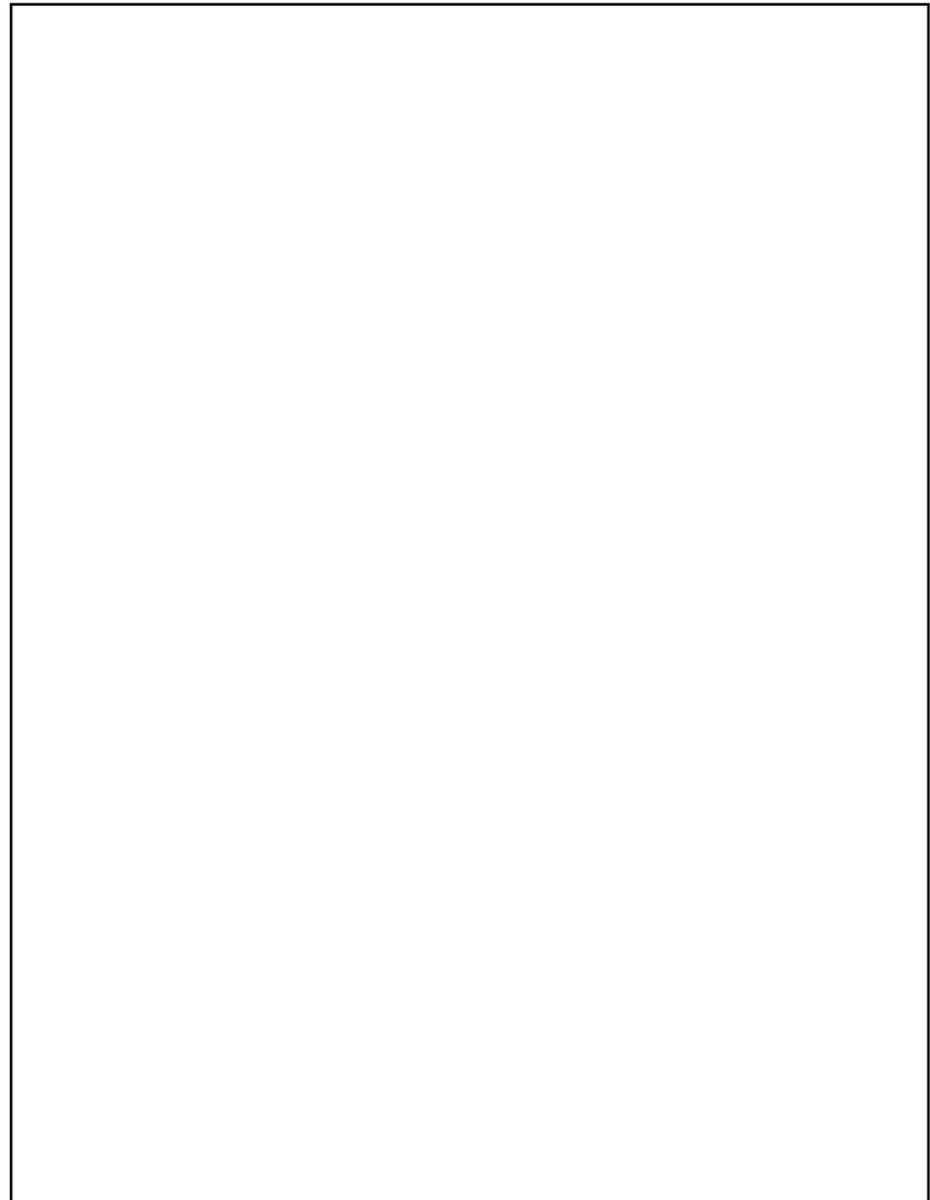
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