

Campaign 13

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CD1300

Petition Opposing Construction of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) in Manhattan, Kansas

1 | 25.4 | We the undersigned oppose construction of the NBAF in Manhattan, Kansas. We understand that this petition will be provided to the Department of Homeland Security.

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Date
Loriel Cross	Loriel Cross	[REDACTED]	9-23-07
Barbara Busiom	Barbara Busiom	[REDACTED]	9-23-07
Yvonne Lacy	Yvonne Lacy	[REDACTED]	9-23-07
also wrote letter June Kempf	June Kempf	[REDACTED]	9/23/07
Pat Embers	Pat Embers	[REDACTED]	9/23/07
Kim Belanger	Kim Belanger	[REDACTED]	9/23/07
Courtney Marcell	Courtney Marcell	[REDACTED]	9/23/07
Dale Askey	Dale Askey	[REDACTED]	9/23/07
Bruce M. Reid	Bruce M. Reid	[REDACTED]	9/27/07
Samuel Lehman	Samuel Lehman	[REDACTED]	9/27/07
John Exdell	John Exdell	[REDACTED]	9/27/07
Terry Scobee	Terry Scobee	[REDACTED]	9/27/07
JAMES SCARSA	James Scarso	[REDACTED]	9/27/07
WM DORSETT	Wm Dorsett	[REDACTED]	9/29/07
Tamara Dorsett	Tamara Dorsett	[REDACTED]	9-27-07
Nathan Dorsett	Nathan Dorsett	[REDACTED]	9-27-07
Anthony Senior	Anthony Senior	[REDACTED]	9-27-07
Mary Hawfink	Mary Hawfink	[REDACTED]	9-27-07
Richard Newkirk	Richard Newkirk	[REDACTED]	9-27-07
Deann Jenner	Deann Jenner	[REDACTED]	9-28-07

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 25.4

DHS note's the petitioner's opposition to the Manhattan Campus Site Alternative.

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CD1400

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**From:** Grady Thrasher, III [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 23, 2008 7:09 AM  
**To:** NBAFProgramManager  
**Subject:** FW: Flagpole 8/27  
**Attachments:** FAQ(F)8-27.jpg; ATT00085.htm

Please include the attached petition as a comment for the record for the NBAF DEIS from Athens GA.

Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jessica Pritchard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 22, 2008 2:14 PM  
**To:** Grady Thrasher III  
**Subject:** Flagpole 8/27

Code Key to page 2:

- 1| 25.2
- 2| 8.2
- 3| 12.2
- 4| 19.2
- 5| 15.2



## Campaign 15

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CD1513

FAQinc. "For Athens Quality-of-life"  
 196 Alps Road, Suite 2, Box 205  
 Athens, Georgia 30606  
[www.athensfaq.org](http://www.athensfaq.org)

April 14, 2008

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

Re: NBAF DEIS Scoping Information  
 for the record.

Dear Mr. Johnson,

1|25.2 Groups of hand-held fans like the ones enclosed, each signed by one or more citizens of the Athens, GA area, will be arriving in your office in installments between now and August 25. Each fan is a visual scoping comment for the record and a reminder from the people of Athens/Clarke County and Oconee County, Georgia area that we oppose locating the proposed NBAF in Athens.

It is important to note that the opposition in Athens is much more broad-based than the local news media or UGA officials are willing to admit. UGA economic intimidation (both actual and perceived—UGA is by far the largest employer in town) plus a compromised local press (the publisher of the Athens Banner-Herald is affiliated with the Georgia Consortium) may have kept the vocal outpouring of dissent quieter in Athens than in Butner, NC, but strong dissent is here, both visible and simmering beneath the surface, and represented by much greater numbers than perhaps anyone realizes.

2|6.2 Even more important, however, is that we ask DHS take a clear-headed and clear-eyed view of the 67 acres on S. Milledge Avenue so casually offered up by UGA as a proposed site for NBAF. We hope you realize by now that this acreage would be a dreadful site for the NBAF. NBAF, with its massive size and difficult mission, is not an appropriate tenant for this unique and distinctive landscape. It is not even close.

3|5.2 The DEIS is gravely deficient in analyzing what a poor and inappropriate choice the proposed site on S. Milledge would be to even try to build the world's largest high consequence bio-containment research facility. Safety issues aside, the invasive construction methods required to be employed to blast through layers of bedrock alone would destroy or degrade the sensitive environmental and ecological balance of an area

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 25.2

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

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 6.2

DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding the visual effects of the NBAF at the South Milledge Avenue Site, which are described in Section 3.2.3 of the NBAF EIS. DHS recognizes that the NBAF would be a distinctive visible feature and would alter the viewshed of the area.

Comment No: 3 Issue Code: 5.2

DHS notes the commentor's statement.

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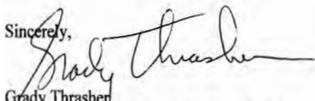
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3 cont.] 5.2 | of Athens that has been enjoyed and valued by our community for generations. If UGA's experience with its own BSL-3 Animal Health Research Center is any indication, because of bedrock and resulting design and construction problems, the costs could triple (they did with AHRC), and the time to build could extend for many years past the four year estimate (it took over ten years to construct AHRC, a facility barely one-seventh the size of the proposed NBAF).

1 cont.] 25.2 | To ignore or minimize the permanent degradation the proposed NBAF would impose on that entire lovely and beloved stretch of S. Milledge, devoted to outdoor activity and nature appreciation (the Botanical Garden, the river and wetlands, the Equestrian Center, Whitehall Forest, and public sports facilities) would be an outrage and insult to the people of Athens. UGA has already damaged its reputation in Athens and insulted the community by offering the site without meaningful community input or careful consideration of the proposed NBAF's destructive impact on this valued and sensitive area. **Please do not add injury to this insult.**

Sincerely,



Grady Thrasher  
for FAQinc. "For Athens-Quality-of-life"

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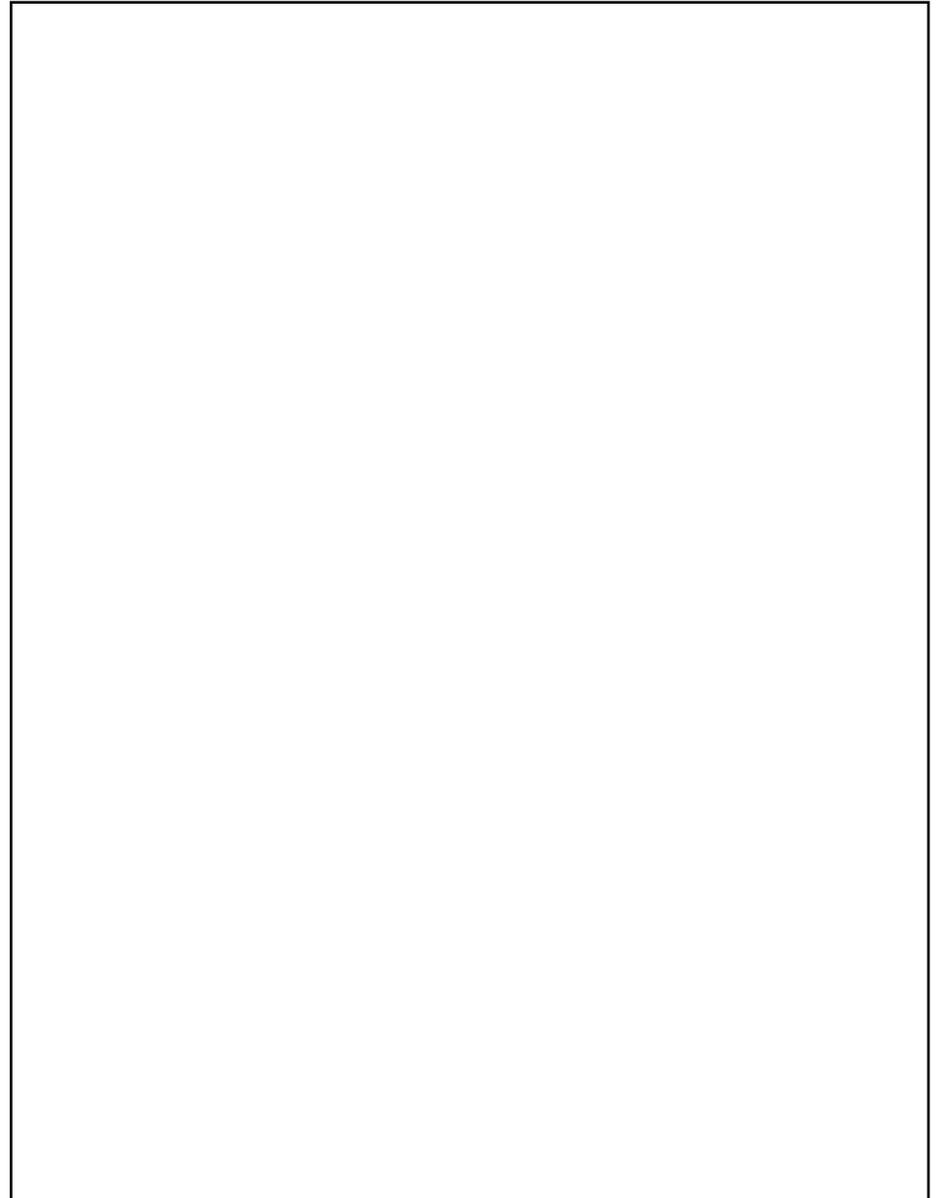
**NO!**

[www.athensfaq.org](http://www.athensfaq.org)

Margaret R. Spalding [redacted] Ga

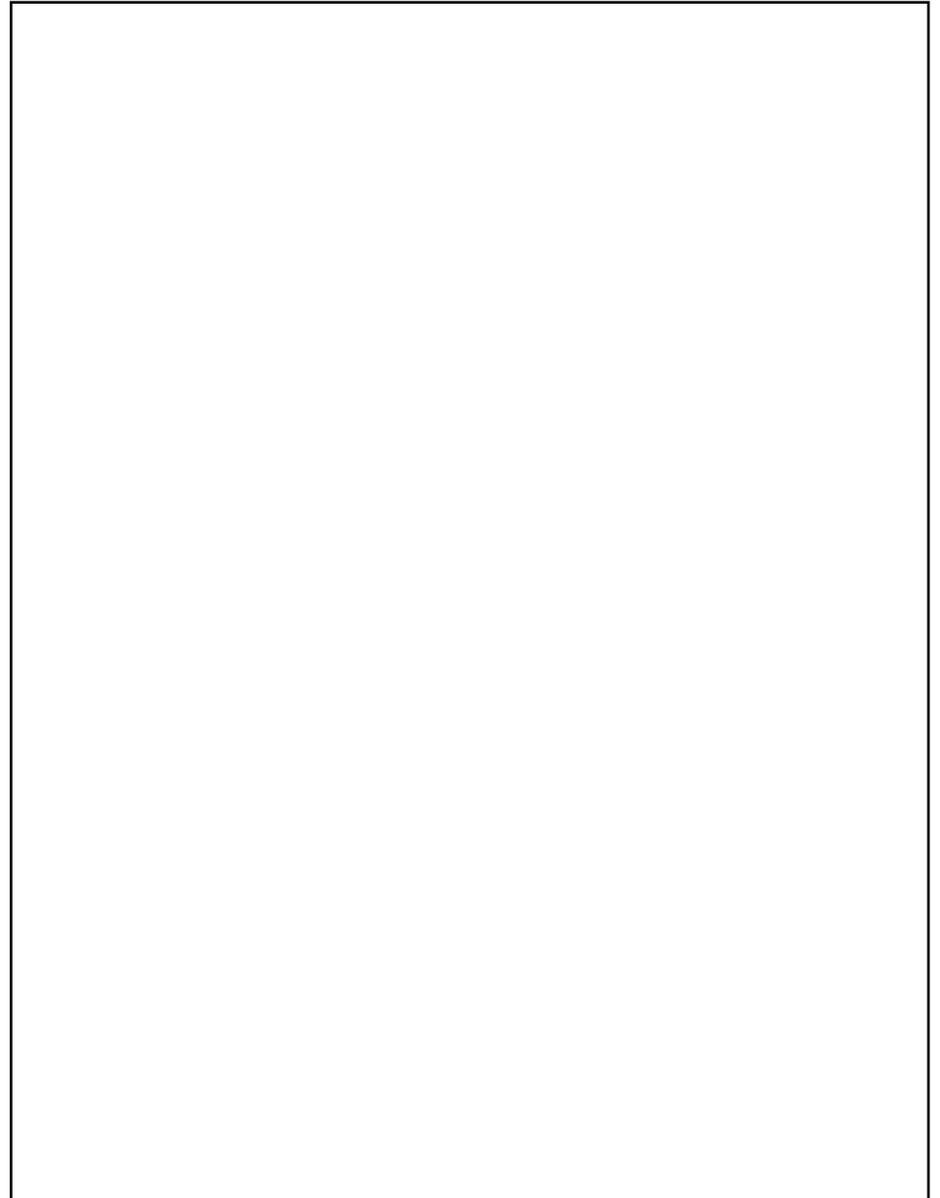
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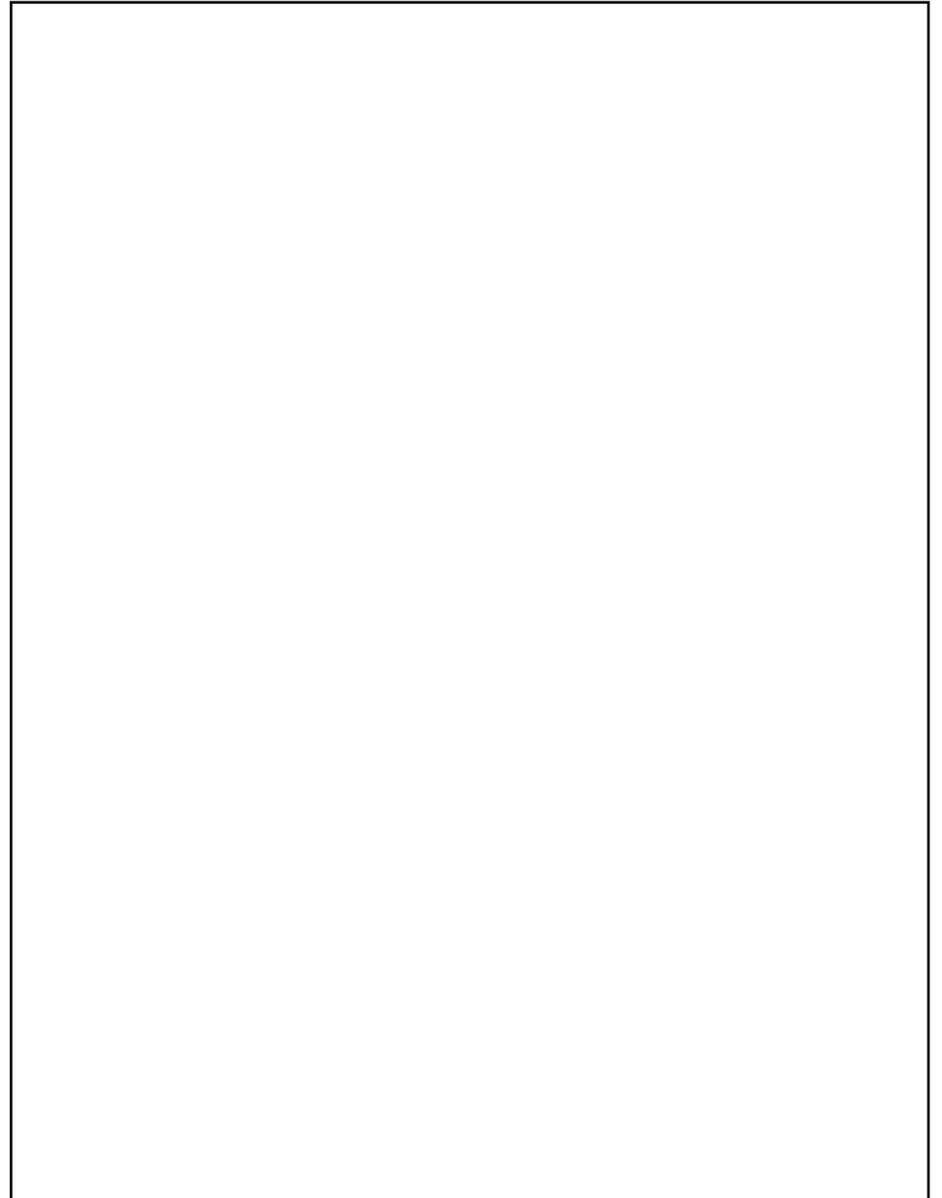
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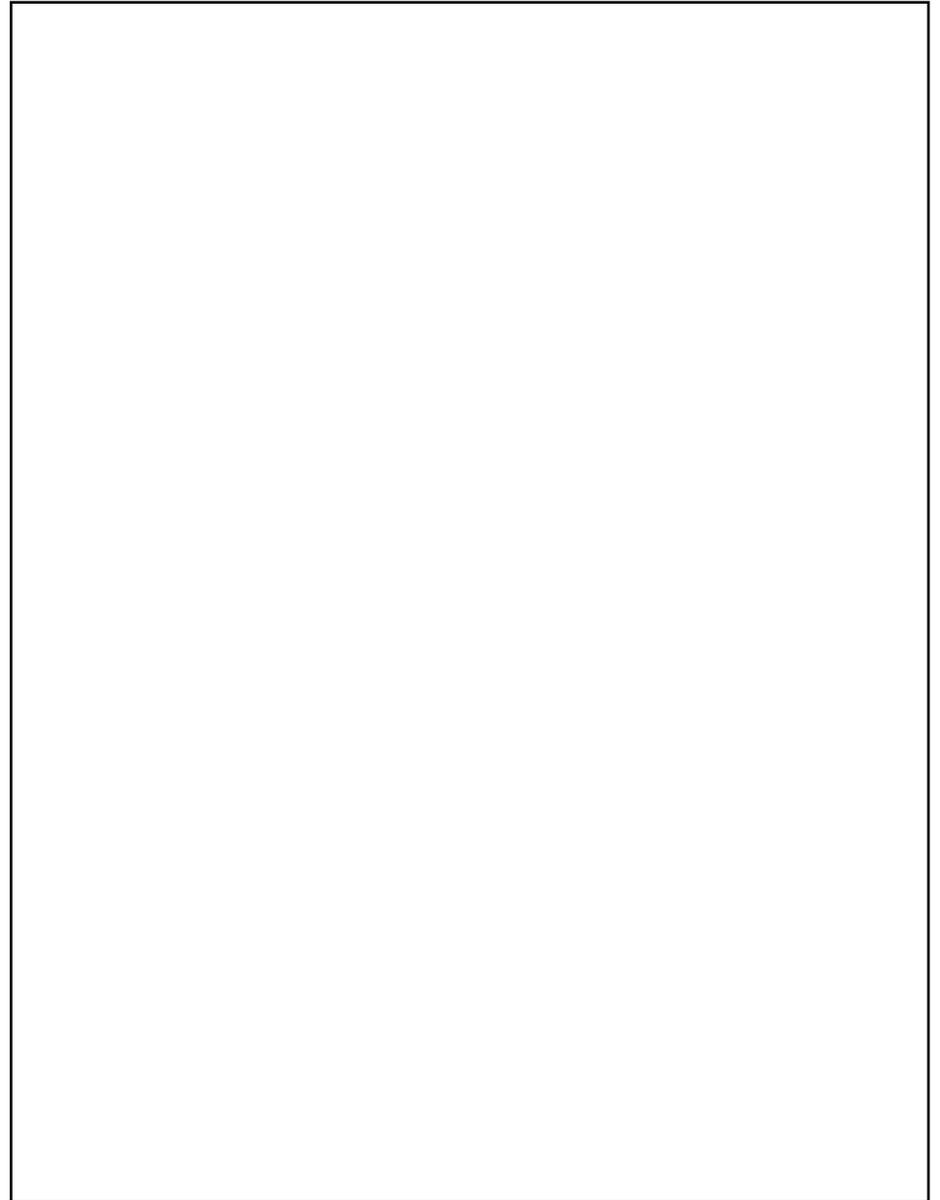
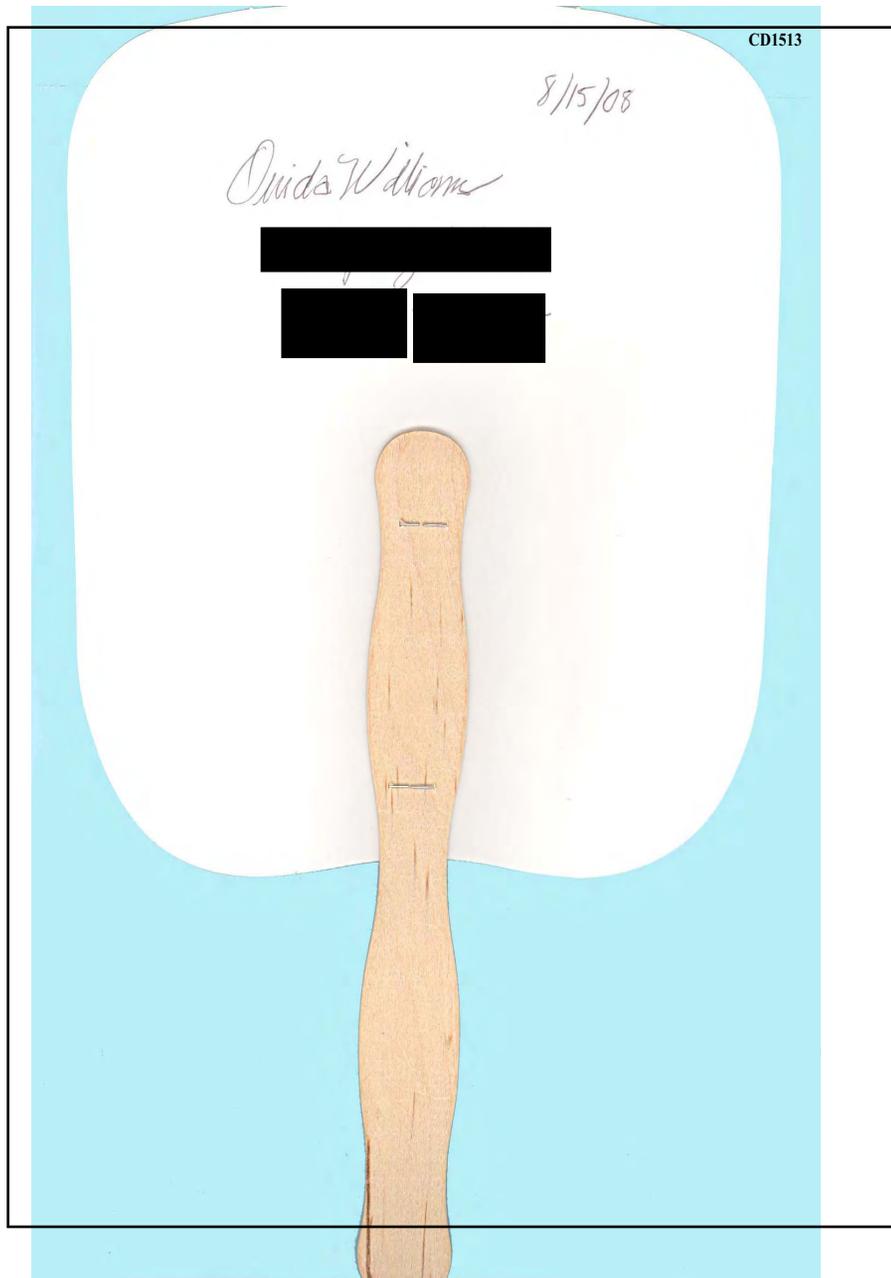
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## Campaign 16

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CD1600

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security wants to place a new National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) at Manhattan, Kansas (Kansas State University is one of the proposed sites).

This is a level 4 Laboratory that would study many pathogens.

An example of the microorganisms that could possibly be studied in a NBAF BSL-4 laboratory include Nipah and Hendra viruses, both of which are emerging zoonotic diseases that can spread from their natural reservoir to human beings, and are often fatal.

Another example of a microorganism that would be studied in a NBAF laboratory is the live virus that causes foot and mouth disease in cloven-hoofed animals (to include: cattle, swine, sheep, deer, bison).

<sup>1| 25.4</sup> **PLEASE SIGN THE PETITION TO KEEP  
THIS OUT OF KANSAS.**

(This is extremely important for all Kansans)

Thank you for your support!

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 25.4

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

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Print Name	Sign Name	Address	Phone #
Michael J. Schmitt	Michael J. Schmitt	[REDACTED]	CD1600
Jeanne Ferguson	Jeanne Ferguson	[REDACTED]	
Doug Richter	Doug Richter	[REDACTED]	
Kyle Ledbetter	Kyle M. Ledbetter	[REDACTED]	



## Campaign 17

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CD1700

To: The Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC scoping meeting  
July 24, 2009

Ladies and Gentlemen"

In preparing your final EIS regarding the Athens, GA proposed NBAF site, please include DHS's response to the following comments and questions raised during the previous scoping period (*the DEIS failed to adequately address or answer these and other questions which were clearly presented during the previous scoping period*):

1. **The Georgia State Botanical Garden.** The State Botanical Garden, adjacent to the site proposed for NBAF, in its website [www.uga.edu](http://www.uga.edu) describes among its many benefits to our community, the wide variety of natural physiographic features and plant and animal communities found within the Garden's ecological areas, wetlands, floodplains, slopes and upland plateaus. Sites of archeological interest include old home sites and rock mounds of undetermined origin. Construction and operation of a massive project such as NBAF on the proposed site, all along the border of the Garden and above and near the Oconee River, will unavoidably and permanently adversely affect the natural setting of the Garden and its populations of wildlife, rare plants and birds (see #2 below). How does DHS plan to deal with the environmental, ecological, as well as habitat and archeological disruptions and degradation caused by NBAF located at this site?

2. **The Proposed Location Disrupts and Degrades an Important Bird Area.** Since the proposed location lies directly between the two necessary components (the State Botanical Garden—adjacent to the proposed site and Whitehall Forest—less than ½ mile away) of an *Important Bird Area* ("IBA"), designated by the National Audubon Society, NBAF would degrade, disrupt otherwise diminish the continuous natural setting required for the IBA to serve as such. A designated IBA is a site that supports endangered or threatened bird species, including range restricted species, habitat restricted species and species vulnerable due to congregatory behavior. How can NBAF's intrusion with heavy construction, vehicle and human traffic, and light and noise pollution not seriously degrade or even destroy this critical IBA?

3. **Water.** Water is a vital and extremely limited resource for our community. Water is also a prerequisite need for NBAF's operation, at the rate of 118,000 gallons per day. Athens' reservoir last September had only a 6 to 8 weeks' supply left. This year, the drought continues. The Middle Oconee River, which would be adversely impacted by NBAF, continues at its lowest level in decades, and there are few, if any, alternative sources of water available to our city that are not also being sought after by competing communities, including Atlanta. With no drought relief predicted this year, we could be running on empty. NBAF would aggravate the current and continuing water crisis facing

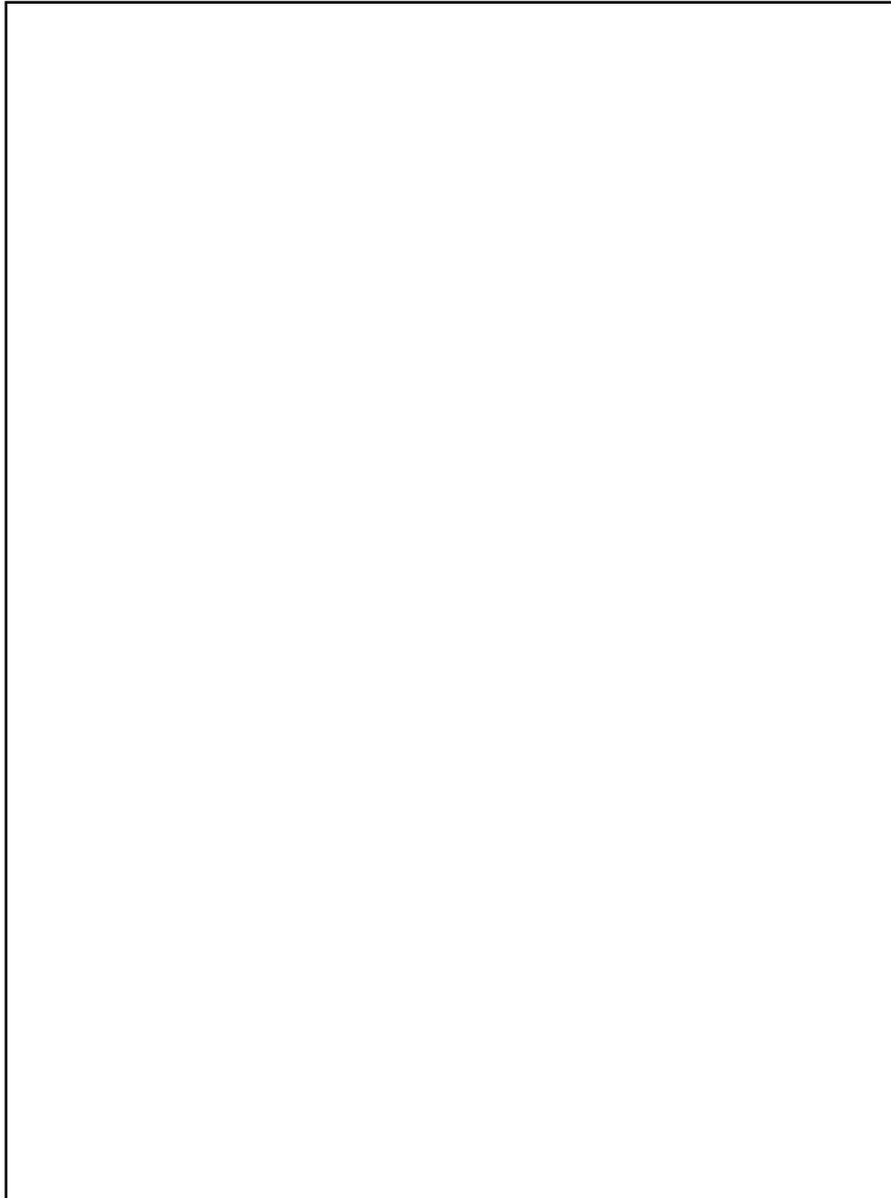
Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 13.2

DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding potential effects on the State Botanical Garden and the middle Oconee River. As indicated in Sections 3.8.3.2 and 3.8.3.3 of the NBAF EIS, construction and normal operations of the NBAF would have no direct impact on the State Botanical Garden. The NBAF would affect primarily pasture areas that have low wildlife habitat value due to their disturbed condition, lack of native vegetation, and lack of wildlife food and cover. The forested portion of the South Milledge Avenue Site along the Oconee River is a high value riparian wildlife corridor and buffer that connects the State Botanical Garden with Whitehall Forest. However, impacts to the forested riparian area would be minor (0.2 acre), and these impacts would occur within the existing pasture fence-line in areas that have been disturbed by grazing. The high value forested riparian corridor would be preserved; and therefore, the proposed NBAF would not have significant direct impacts on wildlife dispersal between the Botanical Garden and the Whitehall Forest IBA. Section 3.5.5.3 addresses operational noise impacts associated with the proposed NBAF. Minor noise impacts would result from an increase in traffic and operation of the facility's filtration, heating, and cooling systems. Section 3.5.5.3 describes noise-attenuating design features that would minimize noise emissions. In the event of a power outage, operation of back-up generators could have a short-term impact on wildlife by discouraging utilization of immediately adjacent habitats. Routine operations at the NBAF would not be likely to have significant noise impacts on wildlife. Security requirements at the proposed NBAF would require continuous outdoor nighttime lighting. Nighttime lighting has the potential to impact wildlife through astronomical and ecological light pollution. Mitigation measures, such as the use of shielded lighting, will be considered in the final design of the NBAF. The use of shielded lighting would minimize the potential for lighting impacts in adjacent habitats.

Potential impacts on the Middle Oconee River would be mitigated by best management practices, erosion and sedimentation control plans, storm water pollution control plans, and low impact design (LID) features. As described in Section 3.8.3.2.3, best management practices and requirements for a stormwater pollution prevention plan would mitigate potential erosion and sedimentation impacts during the construction process. As described in Section 3.8.3.3.3, LID features would be used to minimize the potential for adverse impacts associated with stormwater runoff from the completed facility. Preliminary LID measures that are being considered include pervious pavement in both parking lots and pedestrian walkways, capturing and using roof runoff for landscape watering, and grading parking lots to filter storm water through landscaped areas. As described in Section 3.3.3.1.4, sewage acceptance criteria and pretreatment requirements would apply to the wastewater discharged from the proposed NBAF. The Athens-Clarke County Sewer Use Ordinance of 2007 provides limits on specific pollutant discharges to the Middle Oconee Wastewater Treatment Facility. The NBAF would be designed and operated as necessary to comply with Athens-Clarke County Middle Oconee Wastewater Treatment Facility criteria and avoid the discharge of potentially harmful wastewater constituents. Implementation of approved erosion control measures, utilization of LID storm water pollution prevention measures, and compliance with wastewater treatment standards

1| 13.2

2| 12.2



would prevent significant impacts on downstream aquatic resources such as the Middle Oconee River.

Comment No: 2                      Issue Code: 12.2

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

The South Milledge Avenue Site would have access to three surface water resources: the North Oconee River, the Middle Oconee River, and the Jackson County Bear Creek Reservoir. The access to three surface water resources would help ensure the availability of water in the event that any one of those sources becomes inadequate. During final design and development of operational and maintenance protocols, water conservation measures and applications would be further evaluated. The NBAF would cooperate with local, state, and regional efforts to conserve and minimize water use during times of drought.

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2 cont.] 12.2

Athens (we're in the second long-term drought— each over two years in duration, this decade). How would DHS solve the water problem?

4. **Safety.** The DEIS clearly shows that the safest location for NBAF, if anywhere at all, would be Plum Island, and 800 acre island already owned by DHS. The DEIS fails to show compelling reasons for incurring greater risks by placing NBAF anywhere on the U. S. mainland. Why does DHS persist in this effort?

3] 5.0

5. **General.** *The competitive approach DHS has employed in its NBAF site selection process was flawed from the beginning: Competitive zeal caused the University of Georgia and the hastily assembled Georgia Consortium to offer DHS 66 acres of prime recreational land next to our State Botanical Garden without prior cautious review and consideration by them or DHS of the risks NBAF might represent to our environment and the quality-of-life in our community.*

**DHS is now examining the impact an NBAF would have on this extremely environmentally sensitive land (the South Milledge Ave. location in Athens next to our State Botanical Garden) that should never have been considered in the first place. The wrong-headed approach to NBAF site selection has fostered careless pandering by political and business gainseekers, and exaggeration of benefits and misrepresentation of risks by interested academic proponents (not a pretty picture) and a confused public. The process of misinformation being fed to our community by DHS and UGA has continued unabated for more than a year, aggravated by coyness, secrecy and pique when questions were raised. It took an investigation by Congress and the Government Accountability Office to bring public attention to the incorrect reasoning of DHS and the gravity of the risks DHS and its enablers are encouraging communities to assume.**

4] 23.0

**The DEIS does reveal previously withheld and startling information (an insect breeding facility "Insectary", for example) and candidly states that NBAF would be safest on Plum Island. But that hasn't ended the competition. And, typical of the NBAF process, the information most revealing of risk is minimized in a disingenuous "Executive Summary" and the hard details are hidden away in dense appendices. The disingenuousness of the whole NBAF site selection process has compromised the peace of our community and placed the public health, safety, economy and environment of our entire region subordinate to perceived economic benefit for the local proponents and the fallacious rational of DHS**

5] 4.0

***DHS, you have it backwards. Instead of carrying out your mission to protect the people, for reasons yet to be fully explained or justified, you are encouraging the placement of NBAF in locations where affected communities and much of their economies would be forever at great risk.***

6] 25.2

***FAQinc "For Athens Quality-of-life", representing the views of a substantial majority of the informed citizens of Athens, Georgia and surrounding area, vigorously objects to this perverse process. We do not want NBAF to be located in our***

Comment No: 3 Issue Code: 5.0

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the South Milledge Avenue Site Alternative. The South Milledge Avenue Site was proposed by the local consortium in response to the request for expressions of interest and was considered along with the rest of the responses. DHS's alternative site selection process is described in Section 2.3.1 of the NBAF EIS. As summarized in Section 3.1, DHS analyzed each environmental resource area in a consistent manner across all the alternatives to allow for a fair and objective comparison among the alternatives. DHS has identified its Preferred Alternative in Section 2.6 in accordance with Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1502.14(e)) for implementing NEPA. The Preferred Alternative is one that an agency believes would best fulfill its statutory mission and responsibilities, giving consideration to economic, environmental, technical, and other factors. Several factors will affect the decision on whether or not the NBAF is built, and, if so, where. The NBAF EIS itself will not be the sole deciding factor. The decision will be made based on the following factors: 1) analyses from the EIS; 2) the four evaluation criteria discussed in Section 2.3.1; 3) applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulatory requirements; 4) consultation requirements among the federal, state, and local agencies, as well as federally recognized American Indian Nations; 5) policy considerations; and 6) public comment. The DHS Under Secretary for Science and Technology Jay M. Cohen, with other department officials, will consider the factors identified above in making final decisions regarding the NBAF. A Record of Decision that explains the final decisions will be made available no sooner than 30 days after the NBAF Final EIS is published.

Comment No: 4 Issue Code: 23.0

DHS notes the commentor's concerns regarding the risk of an accidental release of an insect, such as a mosquito, from the NBAF insectary operations area at the South Milledge Avenue Site. The NBAF would be designed, constructed, and operated to ensure the maximum level of public safety and to fulfill all necessary requirements to protect the environment. The NBAF would provide state-of-the-art operating procedures and biocontainment features to minimize the potential for outside insect vector penetration, laboratory-acquired infections, vector escape and accidental releases. A discussion of insectary operations is contained in Section 2.2.1 and elsewhere in the NBAF EIS. Section 2.2.1.1 provides a discussion of the biosafety fundamentals, goals and design criteria for the NBAF operation.

Section 3.14 and Appendix E investigates the chances of a variety of accidents that could occur with the proposed NBAF and consequences of potential accidents. Accidents could occur in the form of procedural violations (operational accidents), natural phenomena accidents, external events, and intentional acts each of which has the potential to release a vector. Although some accidents are more likely to occur than others (e.g., safety protocol not being followed), the chances of an accidental release of a vector are low. DHS would have site-specific standard operating procedures (SOPs) and response plans in place prior to the initiation of research activities at the proposed NBAF. In addition, oversight of NBAF operations, as described in Section 2.2.2.6 of the NBAF EIS, would be

conducted in part by the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), which includes community representative participation, and the APHIS's Animal Research Policy and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. An analysis of potential consequences of a pathogen (e.g., Rift Valley fever [RVF] virus) becoming established in native mosquito populations surrounding the South Milledge Avenue Site is specifically addressed in Sections 3.8.9 and Section 3.10.9.1 as well as in Section 3.14.4.1. Section 3.10.9.1 discusses the relative suitability of the regional climate of the South Milledge Avenue Site to promote mosquito survival and virus spread based on the extensive discussion contained in Section 3.4.3.1. As such, the RVF response plan would include a mosquito control action plan, and the potential consequences of pesticide use in mosquito control would be evaluated during the preparation of a site-specific response plan.

Comment No: 5                      Issue Code: 4.0

DHS notes the commenter's observation. DHS prepared the NBAF EIS in accordance with the provisions of NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and Council on Environmental Quality'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. As summarized and presented in Section 3.1 of the NBAF EIS, DHS has analyzed each environmental resource area in a consistent manner across all the alternatives to allow for a fair comparison. Section 3.14 and Appendix E present the chances of a variety of accidents that could occur and consequences of those accidents.

DHS held a competitive process to select potential sites for the proposed NBAF as described in Section 2.3.1. A team of federal employees representing multi-department component offices and multi-governmental agencies (i.e., DHS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Department of Health and Human Services) reviewed the submissions based primarily on environmental suitability and proximity to research capabilities, proximity to workforce, acquisition/construction/operations, and community acceptance. Ultimately, DHS identified five site alternatives that surpassed others in meeting the evaluation criteria and DHS preferences, and determined that they, in addition to the Plum Island Site, would be evaluated in the EIS as alternatives for the proposed NBAF.

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6 cont. | 25.2

**community. The DEIS clearly shows that Plum Island would be the safest location for NBAF. To place it on South Milledge Avenue or anywhere in Athens would be a dangerous and irresponsible act.**

7 | 5.1

Grady Thrasher and Kathy Prescott  
for FAQinc. "For Athens Quality-of-life"  
Athens, GA 30606  
[www.athensfaq.org](http://www.athensfaq.org)

Please add your comments and  
send to DHS.  
An addressed envelope is  
attached.



Comment No: 6      Issue Code: 25.2

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the South Milledge Avenue Site Alternative in favor of the Plum Island Site Alternative. The conclusions presented in Section 3.14 of the NBAF EIS show that even though Plum Island has a lower potential impact in case of a release, the probability of a release is low at all sites. The lower potential effect is due both to the water barrier around the island and the lack of livestock and susceptible wildlife species.

Comment No: 7      Issue Code: 5.1

See response to Comment No. 6.