

requirements in 10 CFR Part 51. Based on the EA, the NRC has concluded that a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is appropriate. The amendment will be issued following publication of this notice.

II. Environmental Assessment

A. Proposed Action

The proposed action is to release for unrestricted use the former laboratory located in Casper, Wyoming. This would be accomplished by license amendment to terminate NRC Materials License 49-21194-01 upon NRC approval that the site meets its standards for unrestricted release as specified in 10 CFR part 20.

B. Need for Proposed Action

The licensee needs to have the site removed from its license because it no longer plans to conduct NRC-licensed activities at this location. Further, if the amendment request is approved, the licensee would then be in compliance with the Timeliness Rule requirements of 10 CFR 30.36, "Expiration and Termination of Licenses and Decommissioning of Sites and Separate Buildings or Outdoor Areas."

C. Facility Description/History

Chemical and Geological Laboratories, the original licensee, received NRC Materials License 49-21194-01 during February 1983. Core Laboratories became the licensee during July 1987 followed by Enviro-Test Laboratories during November 2000. Amendment 6 dated August 26, 2003, authorizes Enviro-Test Laboratories to possess small quantities of tritium, byproduct material, special nuclear material, and uranium mill tailings at its Casper, Wyoming, facility. The authorized uses included environmental and bioassay sampling, possession of laboratory standards and calibration sources, and evaluation of sealed source leak tests.

The licensee also conducted tests of non-radiological samples. According to information provided by the licensee, the laboratory was used for a broad range of analytical tests for metals, inorganic water parameters, organics, and petroleum products. There was also a coal analysis lab in part of the facility for a period of time. The licensee possessed and used a wide range of chemicals and standards to support these analytical tests.

The licensee halted operations in July 2002 and subsequently initiated decommissioning activities, which they completed in October 2002. Enviro-Test Laboratories submitted a DP to the NRC by letter dated October 1, 2002. The

licensee submitted supplemental DP information by letters dated June 2 and July 18, 2003. In addition, the licensee submitted an NRC Form 314, "Certificate of Disposition of Materials," dated January 31, 2003, requesting termination of its radioactive materials license following the NRC's release of the property for unrestricted use.

The laboratory is located at 420 West First Street in Casper, Wyoming. The legal description of the property is: Lots 26-34 inclusive, Block 7, Midwest Addition to the City of Casper.

D. Radiological Status

The licensee possessed small quantities of numerous radionuclides in both sealed and unsealed form. The licensee possessed about 30 alpha-emitting radionuclides and 49 beta-gamma emitting radionuclides at time of closure. The predominant alpha-emitting radionuclide was thorium-230 based on the total radioactivity in the licensee's inventory. The licensee calculated that 49 percent of the total alpha activity was a result of thorium-230. The predominant beta-gamma emitting radionuclide was strontium-90 at 43.4 percent.

As part of the decommissioning process, the licensee disposed or transferred all remaining radioactive material. Some of the radioactive calibration standards and sources were transferred to one of three NRC or state licensed laboratories. The remainder of the radioactive material was drummed for disposal at a commercial low-level waste disposal facility.

The licensee submitted final status survey information to the NRC in its initial DP submittal dated October 1, 2002. The licensee's final status survey consisted of fixed (total surface) contamination surveys, removable contamination surveys, ambient gamma exposure rate measurements, and limited soil and water sampling.

The NRC conducted a confirmatory radiological survey of the laboratory during June 17-18, 2003. The NRC determined that the former soil preparation room required additional remediation. In response to the NRC's findings, the licensee conducted additional decommissioning activities during early July 2003. Additional final status survey information was provided in the licensee's third DP submittal dated July 18, 2003. The NRC conducted a second confirmatory survey on August 5, 2003. The results of the two NRC confirmatory surveys are provided in NRC Inspection Report 030-19913/2003-01. A detailed analysis of the licensee's final status survey report and the NRC's confirmatory survey will be

included in the NRC's Safety Evaluation Report that will be used to support the termination of the license.

E. Alternatives

The licensee seeks NRC approval of a license amendment request as submitted. The alternative available to the NRC to the proposed action is to take no action by denying the amendment request. The no-action alternative is not a feasible alternative because it will result in violation of NRC's Timeliness Rule (10 CFR 30.36), which requires licensees to decommission their facilities when licensed activities cease, and to request termination of their radioactive materials license. One potential impact from the no action alternative would be to restrict potential benefits from future uses of the site. Based on the analysis in this EA, which demonstrates that the licensee has met the license termination requirements in 10 CFR 20.1402, and NRC's statutory mission to protect public health and safety, the NRC has determined the no-action alternative is not reasonable. Therefore, the no-action alternative is eliminated from further consideration in this EA.

F. Affected Environment

The laboratory was a 14,000-square foot (1301-square meter) facility comprised of three original buildings that had been connected in various remodeling projects over the past 20 years. The affected environment for the Proposed Action (NRC approval of the license amendment request) would be the interior of the building and the immediate vicinity of the building.

The former laboratory building is located in an industrial/commercial area of Casper with no residences immediately adjacent to the site. There are no streams or ponds on site property, although the North Platte River is located about 200 meters from the site property. Since the site is located within the city limits of Casper, municipal water is supplied to the former laboratory and nearby businesses.

G. Environmental Impacts

1. Occupational and Public Health Impacts

Proposed Action. The radiological criteria for unrestricted use is provided in 10 CFR 20.1402. This regulation states that a site will be considered acceptable for unrestricted use if the residual radioactivity that is distinguishable from background radiation results in a total effective dose equivalent to an average member of the