



Q&A: BWXT Ordnance Tennessee (Jonesborough) Supplemental Environmental Assessment

Q: What is the purpose of the new Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA)?

A: The SEA evaluates site layout updates and new facility construction needed to expand high-purity depleted uranium (HPDU) production within the existing industrialized area at BWXT Ordnance Tennessee.

Q: What new structures are included in the proposed expansion?

A: The plan adds a new process building (Building 310), a smaller support building (Building 301), two outdoor tank farms, an elevated pipe bridge, heavy-duty pavement and upgraded electrical and natural gas utility lines.

Q: How much land will be disturbed and where?

A: Construction will disturb about 3.1 acres, entirely within BWXT's existing industrial footprint. .

Q: Will the expansion noticeably change the site's visual appearance?

A: The facility will remain industrial in character. Some taller structures—such as the three-story section of Building 310 and two 105-foot exhaust stacks—may be visible from nearby roads and hillsides, but they are consistent with existing industrial features.

Q: What does the SEA say about air quality impacts?

A: Construction activities such as vehicle traffic, diesel equipment use and site grading will increase emissions modestly compared to earlier estimates. Dust-control and air-permit requirements are expected to keep impacts below significant levels.

Q: Are water or biological resources at risk?

A: No direct impacts are expected. Because the footprint expands slightly, updated stormwater controls and erosion-prevention measures will be used to protect nearby Little Limestone Creek and surrounding habitats. No permanent structures will be placed within the designated floodplain.

Q: What transportation effects are anticipated during construction?

A: Worker and delivery traffic will increase daily vehicle counts by roughly 0.4% to 6% on nearby collector roads—a change considered minor given existing traffic volumes. Heavy equipment will remain onsite once delivered.

Q: Does this SEA apply to the newest facility that was recently the subject of a rezoning vote by Washington County commissioners?

A: No, a separate Environmental Assessment will be conducted for that project, at a later date.

Q&A: Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

Construction to Support Initial Production of High-Purity Depleted Uranium (HPDU)

U.S. Department of Energy – National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)

Q: What is the purpose of the FONSI?

A: The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) explains that BWXT's proposed construction activities to support initial HPDU production at the Jonesborough facility will *not* significantly affect the human environment, and therefore a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

Q: Who is producing HPDU for NNSA?

A: NNSA has contracted BWXT Ordnance Tennessee, Inc., to manufacture HPDU metal.

Q: Why was a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) needed?

A: After the 2024 EA and FONSI were published, design changes were made to improve worker safety and refine the production plan. These changes—including new support structures—required additional NEPA review, resulting in the Supplemental EA (SEA).

Q: What new facilities does the SEA cover?

A: The SEA evaluates constructing four new supporting structures:

- a 20-MT pilot chemical conversion operations building (Building 301),
 - a chemical conversion and chemical storage building (Building 310),
 - two tank farms (311 and 312),
 - and related support structures and utility easements.
- These facilities cover a combined area of 3.1 acres.

Q: What environmental impacts were identified?

A: The SEA found only minor impacts:

- **Land disturbance:** Limited to 3.1 acres of previously disturbed industrial land.
- **Water resources:** Protected through required sediment and erosion controls.
- **Visual impacts:** External modifications would not noticeably alter the one-mile viewshed.
- **Air quality:** Only short-term construction emissions, controlled through dust suppression and best practices.
- **Biological resources:** No significant impacts expected due to the industrial nature of the site.

- **Traffic:** Construction-related traffic would use commercial routes and would not significantly affect local transportation.
- **Utilities:** Electrical and gas line extensions will be installed on already-disturbed land.

Q: Where can the public find the Final SEA and FONSI?

A: Both documents are available on the DOE NEPA website at:

<https://www.energy.gov/nepa/doeea-2252-s1-construction-support-initial-production-high-purity-depleted-uranium-project>

Public inquiries may also be submitted by mail or emailed to *nepa@nnsa.doe.gov*.