Finding of No Significant Impact
Proposed Corrective Action for the Northeast Site
At the Young – Rainey STAR Center in
Largo, Florida

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact (Amended February 2003)

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) (DOE/EA-0976) in 1995 to conduct long-term ground water corrective actions for the Northeast Site at the Young – Rainey Science, Technology and Research Center (STAR Center), formerly the Pinellas Plant in Largo, Florida. The corrective actions are being conducted under a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) permit issued by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). The Northeast Site contains contaminated ground water that would be removed, treated, and discharged to the Pinellas County Sewer System. Based on the analyses in the 1995 EA, the DOE determined that the proposed action was not a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 U.S.C.4321 et. seq. Therefore, DOE issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). DOE is issuing this amended FONSI to address proposed short-term corrective actions that will remove non-aqueous phase liquids (NAPL).

The selected action, although not specifically identified in the original FONSI (May 15, 1995), is within the scope of the actions assessed in the EA. Specifically, Section 3.1 of the EA allows the proposed corrective action to be modified to reflect technological advances and site-specific conditions. The NAPL in the deeper portion of the surficial aquifer was identified in 1998 during a quarterly sampling event. That newly identified site-specific condition is a continuing source of ground water contamination that will affect long-term corrective actions. In addition, the impacts of the selected actions will be the same or very similar to those already assessed in the EA. Therefore, DOE has determined that the corrective actions being implemented under the existing environmental assessment are not a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and that an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

SINGLE COPIES OF THE EA AND AMENDED FONSI ARE AVAILABLE FROM:

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE NEPA PROCESS, PLEASE CONTACT:

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BACKGROUND: Background information included in this amended FONSI supplements the original EA and FONSI to the extent necessary to support DOE's decision. The STAR Center encompasses approximately 99 acres in the center of Pinellas County, Florida. The Center is owned by the County and managed as a light industrial complex. Provisions in the transfer of ownership from DOE to the County require DOE to complete remediation of contaminated ground water resulting from operations during DOE ownership of the facility.

Under the provisions of RCRA, as amended by HSWA, the EPA issued the STAR Center a HSWA Permit in 1990. In November 2000, the State of Florida received HSWA authorization from the EPA. The FDEP issued a new HWSA Permit to DOE in January 2002. This permit sets forth the conditions and requirements for RCRA corrective actions at the STAR Center. A corrective action is a measure or measures taken to protect human health and the environment from all releases of hazardous waste or constituents from any solid waste management unit (SWMU). Through the RCRA corrective action process, the Northeast Site has been identified as a SWMU needing corrective action. In July 1998, during a quarterly sampling event, NAPL was discovered in the surficial aquifer at the Northeast Site. Following a technology evaluation and communication with the regulators, a smaller area of NAPL contamination, Area A,

consisting of less than one-eighth of an acre, was used as a pilot study to test technological capabilities of removing oils and NAPL.

SITE DESCRIPTION: The site description as presented in the EA and original FONSI is sufficient for purposes of this amendment and will not be repeated in its entirety in this document. Briefly, the STAR Center is located midway between the major municipalities of Clearwater and St. Petersburg. The closest cities are Largo and Pinellas Park. Light industry, including warehousing operations, is conducted at the STAR Center and surrounding areas. The closest residential area is approximately 0.3 miles from the plant. The Northeast Site, comprising approximately 20 acres, is entirely within the boundaries of the STAR Center. Access to the Northeast Site is strictly controlled. Area B, subject to this amendment, is less than five acres in size with the vertical extent of ground water contamination extending to a depth of 40 feet. The NAPL-contaminated ground water is within the boundaries of Area B.

PROPOSED ACTION: DOE is proposing to conduct a short-term corrective action measure to remove oil and NAPL from the surficial aquifer beneath the Northeast Site, Area B. The action, anticipated to be completed within a 24-week timeframe, will include a combination of steam injection and electrical heating to remove contamination from the surficial aquifer. Oils and NAPL, which serve as a source of continuing contamination, must be removed to complete long-term ground water remediation. The treated ground water would be discharged to the Pinellas County Sewer System.

Additional treatment infrastructure would be installed within an 80 x 80 foot area (approximately 0.15 acre). Approximately 86,400 gallons of ground water per day will be treated during the short-term corrective action. The interim measure would be performed in accordance with the HSWA Permit and the EPA- and FDEP- approved interim measure work plan. Copies of this amended FONSI will be transmitted to stakeholders and regulatory agencies.

NO ACTION: The no action alternative would result in leaving a continuing source of ground water contamination in place and would adversely affect the success of long-term ground water

remediation. Because regulatory agencies have agreed with the proposed action, the no action alternative could also result in non-compliance with the objectives of the HWSA Permit.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: The impacts of the proposed action would be the same or very similar to those already assessed in the EA. NAPL would be removed in an expedited manner resulting in a positive impact to ground water quality. Although volatile organic compounds and hazardous air pollutants emissions would temporarily increase, the estimated increased emissions would still be at or below the emissions analyzed in the EA. In addition, the emissions would be well below the Clean Air Act Title V levels which require a permit. However, there is the potential for short-term exceedances of emission standards if the power to the vapor extraction system fails. To address the potential for exceedances, a back-up generator would be installed to run the vapor extraction system in the event of a power failure. The proposed action would not result in a change to any existing federal or state environmental permits, but may require obtaining additional permits. For example, storm water permitting, if required, will be accomplished in accordance with FDEP water quality regulations.

FINDING: Based on the analyses in the EA, the DOE has determined that the proposed action does not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the NEPA. Therefore, an environmental impact statement for the proposed action is not required. DOE is issuing this amended FONSI to address the proposed action described herein. This amended FONSI supplements the original EA and FONSI and continues to recognize the validity of these documents.

Issued at Grand Junction, Colorado, on this 24 day of February 2003.

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