



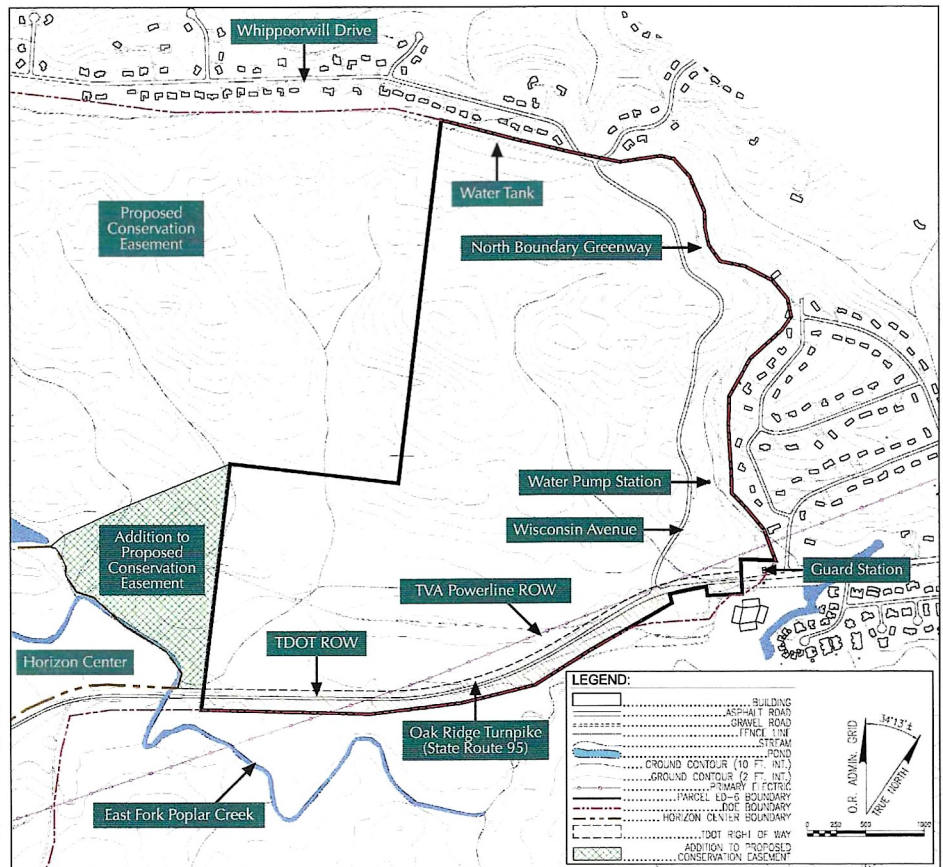
National Environmental Policy Act Environmental Assessment for the Conveyance of Parcel ED-6 to the City of Oak Ridge

Overview

The Department of Energy (DOE) is developing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of transferring Parcel ED-6 to the City of Oak Ridge.

The proposed action is to transfer excess DOE real property for economic development. The need for the proposed action is a result of a request from the City for the transfer under 10 CFR 770, entitled *Transfer of Real Property at Defense Nuclear Facilities for Economic Development*. This regulation establishes the process by which DOE may lease, sell, or give excess or underutilized property to interested entities (e.g., municipalities, community reuse organizations, individuals) in support of economic development. A NEPA review must be performed before the property can be transferred. Congress, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation must be notified 90 days prior to the transfer.

The City has identified residential development as the most likely use of the land, although the City may also incorporate complementary open space and recreational elements. The City has requested that the land be conveyed at no cost in fee simple title.



Property Description

Parcel ED-6 comprises approximately 360 acres on the west end of Oak Ridge. The parcel abuts the Oak Ridge Turnpike, adjoins Wisconsin Avenue, and runs south of Whippoorwill Drive. The parcel is bounded to the west by the Horizon Center Industrial Park and the proposed conservation easement. Residential neighborhoods are located north and east of the parcel. The

North Boundary Greenway trailhead begins at the DOE guard shack, near the southeast corner of the parcel, and runs along the eastern and northern boundaries. This greenway follows a DOE patrol road. A TVA power line right-of-way runs across the southern boundary. The northern portion of the parcel is predominately mixed hardwood and mixed pine/hardwood forest.



The North Boundary Greenway runs through Parcel ED-6.



The City of Oak Ridge has identified residential development as the primary use of Parcel ED-6 if it is transferred.

The NEPA Process

DOE is preparing this EA in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and the DOE NEPA Implementation Procedures (10 CFR 1021). The chart at right shows the major steps in the NEPA process.

After the draft EA is issued, DOE will hold a 30-day comment period. Following the comment period, DOE will evaluate the comments received and revise the document accordingly. DOE will notify the public after it makes a determination and issues the final EA. DOE will either issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and proceed with the action or make a determination that an Environmental Impact Statement should be prepared.



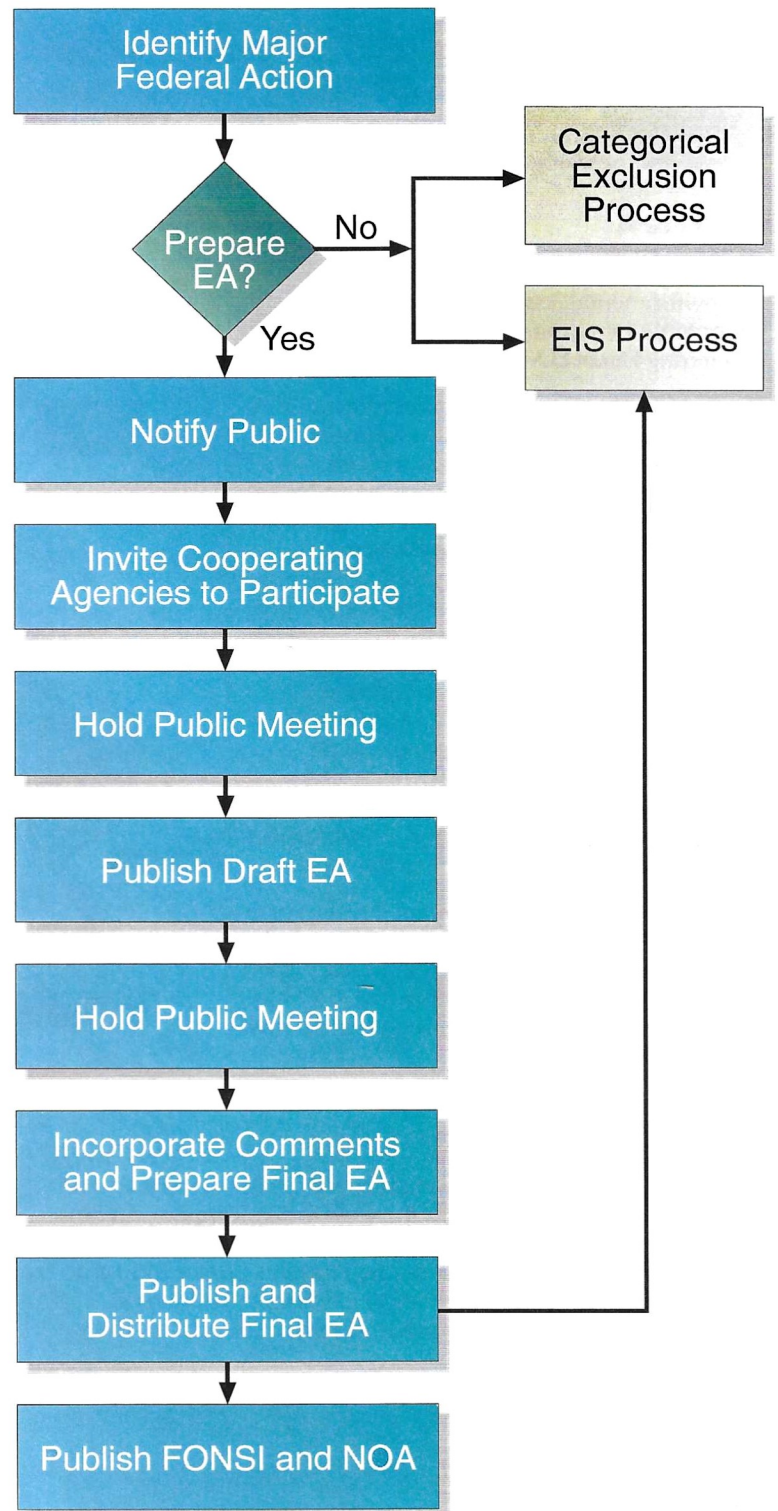
The environmental habitat found on Parcel ED-6 is being surveyed as part of the NEPA environmental review.

For Further Information

DOE welcomes public participation. For additional information, contact Walter Perry, DOE Public Affairs Office, at:

Public Affairs Office
U. S. Department of Energy
P. O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-8502

Phone: (865) 576-0885
E-mail: perrywn@oro.doe.gov



Major Steps in the NEPA Process