



United States Department of Energy
Berkeley Site Office News

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DOE Finds No Significant Environmental Impacts Regarding the Proposed Demolition of Building 51 and the Bevatron at Berkeley Lab

Berkeley, Calif. - The proposed demolition of Building 51 and the Bevatron at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory would not significantly affect the environment, according to an Environmental Assessment released today by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

“Based on the analysis in the Environmental Assessment for the proposed demolition, DOE has determined that no significant environmental impacts are expected,” Aundra Richards, Manager of DOE’s Berkeley Site Office which prepared the assessment, announced today.

During its operation from 1954 until 1993, the Bevatron was among the world’s leading particle accelerators, and during the 1950s and 1960s, four Nobel Prizes were awarded for work conducted in whole or in part there.

The Bevatron, which is non-functional and has not operated since 1993, and Building 51 are no longer needed by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. The Building 51 structure housing the Bevatron is deteriorating, and maintenance costs have escalated. In addition, Building 51 does not meet current building codes, the roof leaks in several locations, and portions of the structure do not comply with current seismic design standards.

A Draft Environmental Assessment was made available for public comment during a 63-day comment period beginning March 21, 2006 and ending May 22, 2006. The Draft Environmental Assessment was revised based on public comments, and completed in March 2008.

The public comments and the DOE responses to those comments are presented in Appendix F of the Environmental Assessment. The Environmental Assessment (DOE/EA-1541) and Finding of No Significant Impact may be reviewed and copies of the document obtained from the following locations:

- U.S. Department of Energy, Berkeley Site Office, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, 1 Cyclotron Road, MS 90-1023, Berkeley, CA 94720, (510) 486-4353
- On the web at www.lbl.gov/Community/env-rev-docs.html

The Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact may also be reviewed at the Central Branch of the Berkeley Public Library, located at 2090 Kittredge, Berkeley, CA 94704.