



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

MCPB
Item No. 1
1-6-04

January 3, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: Montgomery County Planning Board

FROM: Jeff Zyontz, Chief
Countywide Planning Division

SUBJECT: Draft Supplement Environmental Impact Statement for the Food and Drug Administration at the Federal Research Center at White Oak

Recommendation: Approval of Comments submitted to the Government Services Administration

The Food and Drug Administration anticipates that its total employment on the White Oak site will increase from 5,947 employees to 7,720 employees with expanded buildings, additional parking, a change in the placement of a day-care center, and a new access road to accommodate FDA employees commuting from points east of the site. The Government Services Administration requested staff comments on this matter before January 3. Staff wanted to give the Planning Board the opportunity to concur or amend staff's comments (Attachment 1).

In order to accommodate the additional employees, the DEIS includes alternates for creating an eastern entrance to the site from Cherry Hill Road. This proposal is consistent with the Fairland Master Plan. The alternative alignments reviewed in the Draft SEIS are attached to this memo. All of these alternatives cross the environmentally sensitive stream valley within the White Oak Federal Research Center.

Traffic associated with the FDA consolidation continues to be a concern to staff. The SEIS indicates that the impacts of the increased employee levels are, for the most part, mitigated according to Local Area Transportation Review (LATR) guidelines. Despite mitigating actions, however, congestion on area roadways will, in several locations, be

worse than policy area congestion standards. Staff has recommended to GSA that the Final EIS include a Transportation Management Program to more comprehensively address means by which FDA can reduce their peak period traffic volumes.

The following items are attached to this memo:

1. Staff comments sent to GSA, December 23, 2004
2. Alternatives for a new east side entrance
3. Critical Lane Volumes at nearby intersections
4. Staff comments to GSA, July 21, 2004

JZ:kcw
Attachments

mmo to MCPB re SEIS FDA.doc