U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services

Office of the Director
1100 Vermont Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Finding of No Significant Impact
April 8, 2003

Action Location

The Proposed Action is a nation-wide program that provides federal funding directly to state and local law enforcement agencies to assist in the eradication of clandestine laboratories.

Federal Action

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA"), codified at 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq., the attached environmental assessment has been prepared for the Methamphetamine Initiative, a federal grant program that is funded and administered by both the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services ("COPS") and the Office of Justice Programs ("OJP") for the purpose of assisting state and local law enforcement agencies in the seizure and closure of clandestine drug laboratories. This is a national program and the completed environmental assessment covers the use of federal funds for the following related activities: training of law enforcement officers in methamphetamine-related issues; salaries and benefits of law enforcement personnel; purchase of approved equipment and supplies; interdiction and removal of laboratories, finished products and precursor chemicals and hazardous materials resulting from the production of methamphetamine; proper transportation and storage of finished products, precursor chemicals and hazardous materials that were retrieved from the laboratories and/or preventive efforts to reduce the spread of the production and use of methamphetamine.

Environmental Impacts

The Environmental Assessment evaluates the environmental impacts of a range of issues as they relate to the Proposed Action. The Environmental Assessment identified a variety of possible risks to the human environment under this action as a result of the illicit production of methamphetamine and the resulting improper storage, use and disposal of hazardous chemical materials. As it relates to the illicit operation of laboratories, possible adverse affects were identified regarding the quality of the air, water, and soil in the vicinity of the laboratory sites and in areas where hazardous materials or equipment were improperly stored and disposed. Individuals at risk as a result of such illicit activity include the operators of laboratories and individuals who live near or frequent the areas where the laboratories operate.

The Environmental Assessment determined that the potential risk to the human environment resulting from the Proposed Action is not significant because the Proposed Action would mitigate any adverse environmental impacts that may occur as a result of the clean up of illegally operated clandestine laboratories. This mitigation is based upon the grant recipients' certification that as a condition of receiving federal funding they will adhere to all federal, state and local regulatory requirements that apply to the seizure and closure clandestine laboratories. Specifically, the Environmental Assessment identified no or less than significant effects as a result of the implementation of the Proposed Action for the following environmental issues: (1) air, water and soil quality; (2) human health and safety, including the impact on children; (3) energy impacts; (4) environmental justice; (5) historical preservation; (6) wild and scenic rivers; (7) threatened and endangered species; (8) floodplain management and protection of wetlands; (9) farmland protection and (10) cumulative impacts.

Determination

Based on the Environmental Assessment, the COPS Office has determined that the Proposed Action and mitigating conditions would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, within the meaning of NEPA. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required and the COPS Office is issuing this FONSI.

April 8, 2003

Carl Peed, Director **Date**
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