

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****10 CFR Parts 475, 476, and 478****Removal of Obsolete Regulations****AGENCY:** Department of Energy.**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy is proposing to amend the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) to remove obsolete regulations relating to defunct programs of financial assistance for electric and hybrid vehicle research and methane transportation research. This action is being taken in response to the President's Regulatory Reinvention Initiative to eliminate obsolete regulations and streamline existing rules.

**DATES:** Comments on this proposed rule must be received in writing by January 4, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be submitted to Mr. Romulo L. Diaz, Jr., Director, Rulemaking Support, Office of the General Counsel, (GC-75), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-2902.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Romulo L. Diaz, Jr., Director, Rulemaking Support, Office of the General Counsel, (GC-75), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-2902.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In connection with the President's Regulatory Reinvention Initiative, the Department of Energy is engaged in a continuing and comprehensive review of its regulatory program. As part of that review, the Department is removing from Title 10 of the CFR regulations for which statutory authority has expired or has been superseded by subsequent legislation, and other regulations governing nonfunctioning and unfunded programs. As a result of this proposed action and prior actions, the

Department will have reduced its pages in the CFR by 514 pages.

The Department is proposing to remove from the CFR the following regulations, which it has determined to be obsolete:

10 CFR Part 475—Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Research, Development and Demonstration Program

The Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Research, Development and Demonstration Act of 1976, 15 U.S.C. 2501 et seq., authorized the Department to support research, development and demonstration of electric and hybrid vehicle technologies. Part 475 contains performance standards for electric vehicles which DOE developed for purposes of the demonstration program. The demonstration period extended, by law, through fiscal year 1986. 15 U.S.C. 2506(c)(3). Because the demonstration program has ended, these regulations are obsolete.

10 CFR Part 476—Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Research, Development and Demonstration Program Small Business Planning Grants

Section 9 of the Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Research, Development and Demonstration Act of 1976, 15 U.S.C. 2508(c)(2), authorized the Department to make grants to qualified small businesses that needed assistance in developing and submitting proposals for contracts. Part 476 contains regulations implementing the Act's provision for these small business planning grants. Congress has not appropriated funds for this program for the past 15 years. DOE does not expect the program to be revived.

10 CFR Part 478—Methane Transportation Research and Development; Review and Certification of Contracts, Grants, Cooperative Agreements and Projects

Part 478 provides procedures for grants, contracts, or cooperative

agreements to support research and development for methane-fueled vehicles. The regulations implement section 4(d) of the Methane Transportation Research, Development, and Demonstration Act. 15 U.S.C. 3801 et seq. The Department has not requested, and Congress has not provided, funds for this program for many years. The Department has no plans to seek revival of this program, and it considers these regulations to be obsolete.

The Department of Energy is publishing, elsewhere in this issue, a direct final rule, to remove these CFR parts. As explained in the preamble for the direct final rule, the Department considers this removal action to be uncontroversial and unlikely to generate significant adverse or critical comments. If no significant adverse comments are received by the Department, the direct final rule will become effective on January 16, 1996, and there will be no further action on this proposal. If such comments are received, the direct final rule will be withdrawn for those parts that are the subject of significant adverse comments. The public comments then will be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. The Department will not institute a second comment period on this action.

Issued in Washington, DC on November 29, 1995.

Robert R. Nordhaus,  
*General Counsel.*

**PARTS 475, 476, 478—[REMOVED]**

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, under the authority of 42 U.S.C 7101, Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations is proposed to be amended by removing parts 475, 476, and 478.

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