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Information is obtained from the record subjects by means of ARPC Form 222-1-R, Individual Daily Record, and ARPC Form 222-3-R, Individual Daily Executive Level.

EXEMPTIONS CLAIMED FOR THE SYSTEM:

None.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Electrometallurgical Treatment Research and Demonstration Project in the Fuel Conditioning Facility at Argonne National Laboratory-West Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment and Notice of Public Meetings

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of availability and public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) announces the availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Electrometallurgical Treatment Research and Demonstration Project in the Fuel Conditioning Facility at Argonne National Laboratory-West. DOE also announces the dates, times, and locations for public meetings on the Draft EA. The proposed project would be conducted at the Fuel Conditioning Facility at Argonne National Laboratory-West (ANL-W) near Idaho Falls, Idaho, to demonstrate the feasibility of an advanced spent fuel treatment technology using a small quantity of spent nuclear fuel from the Experimental Breeder Reactor-II (EBR-II), which is also located at the ANL-W

site. The purpose of the proposed project would be to assess the reliability and performance of the facility and the process equipment and provide information on the characteristics of the waste forms resulting from the treatment of the fuel.

DATES: Written and oral comments on the Draft EA are invited from the public and other interested parties and organizations. DOE will consider the comments in preparing the final version of the EA. The public comment period will begin on February 5, 1996, and end on March 22, 1996. Written comments should be postmarked by March 22, 1996, to ensure consideration; comments postmarked after that date will be considered to the extent practicable. Public meetings on the Draft EA will be held as follows:

Idaho Falls, Idaho—February 21, 1996, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., the Shilo Inn, 780 Lindsay Boulevard
Washington, D.C.—February 27, 1996, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Loew's L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, Ballroom D, 480 L'Enfant Plaza, SW

The meetings will provide opportunities for the submittal of oral and written comments as well as for information exchange and discussion.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the Draft EA, written comments on the Draft EA, or other matters regarding this environmental review should be addressed to: Mr. Greg Bass, NEPA Document Manager, Argonne Group-West, U.S. Department of Energy, P.O. Box 2528, Idaho Falls, ID 83403. Mr. Bass may be contacted by telephone at (208) 533-7184 and facsimile at (208) 533-7422.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information on the DOE NEPA process, contact: Ms. Carol Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, EH-42, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20585. Ms. Borgstrom may be contacted by leaving a message at (800) 472-2756 or by calling (202) 586-4600. For general information on the Electrometallurgical Treatment Research and Demonstration Project, contact: Mr. Robert G. Lange, Associate Director, Office of Facilities, NE-40, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874. Mr. Lange may be contacted by calling (301) 903-2915.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DOE is preparing an environmental assessment to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of a proposal to conduct research and demonstration at the

Argonne National Laboratory-West (ANL-W) of electrometallurgical technology for the treatment of sodium-bonded spent nuclear fuel. Without some form of treatment, sodium-bonded spent nuclear fuel is unlikely to be suitable for disposal in a geologic repository because the fuel is saturated with sodium, a reactive material. Electrometallurgical treatment of the fuel is expected to stabilize the reactive metallic sodium by converting it to common table salt (i.e., sodium chloride) and allow the fission products to be collected, concentrated, and stabilized together with the transuranic elements for disposal.

The proposed research and demonstration project would be conducted in the Fuel Conditioning Facility at the ANL-W site near Idaho Falls, Idaho. A small quantity of Experimental Breeder Reactor-II (EBR-II) spent nuclear fuel consisting of both driver fuel (highly-enriched uranium fuel that was located in the center of the reactor core to power the reactor) and blanket assemblies (depleted uranium fuel that was located around the periphery of the core to provide shielding for the reactor vessel) would be treated to determine whether electrometallurgical treatment is a feasible management option for sodium-bonded spent nuclear fuel. The proposed project would also assess the reliability and performance of the facility and the process equipment and provide needed information about the waste forms predicted to result from the treatment of the fuel. To achieve these objectives, up to 100 EBR-II spent fuel driver assemblies and 25 irradiated blanket assemblies may be treated.

DOE will distribute copies of the Draft EA to interested members of the public, Congressional members and committees, the State of Idaho, American Indian tribal governments, local county governments, other Federal agencies, and other interested organizations.

Signed in Washington, D.C., this 25th day of January, 1996, for the United States Department of Energy.

Terry R. Lash,

Director, Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology.

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Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Management of Spent Nuclear Fuel From the K Basins at the Hanford Site, Richland, Washington

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy.