

regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500–1508 and 10 CFR Part 1021. These decisions affect activities under the authority of the U.S. Department of the Navy, and the Navy was a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement. Pursuant to 10 CFR § 1021.315, the Department of Energy may revise the Record of Decision at any time, so long as the revised decision is adequately supported by an existing environmental impact statement. Implementation of the Record of Decision as amended is subject to compliance with all applicable federal statutes, regulations and orders, including the Anti-Deficiency Act.

Issued in Washington, DC, this 28th day of February 1996.

Hazel R. O'Leary,

Secretary of Energy.

[FR Doc. 96–5561 Filed 3–7–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) announces the availability of the Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Storage and Disposition Draft PEIS) for public review and comment. The Department has prepared this Storage and Disposition Draft PEIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500–1508), and the Department's NEPA Implementing Procedures (10 CFR Part 1021). The PEIS analyzes alternatives for two proposed actions: (1) to provide a long-term storage system for weapons-usable fissile materials that meets all applicable environmental, safety, and health standards while reducing storage and infrastructure cost; and (2) to provide for disposition of surplus plutonium (Pu) and Pu that may be declared surplus in the future, in order to achieve proliferation resistance by making the Pu as inaccessible and difficult to retrieve after disposition as the Pu in spent fuel from commercial reactors (referred to as the Spent Fuel Standard). Throughout this Notice, reference to Pu or to plutonium refers only to weapons-usable plutonium.

DATES: The public is invited to comment on the Storage and Disposition Draft PEIS during the public comment period

that begins on March 8, 1996 and continues until May 7, 1996. Comments postmarked after that date will be considered to the extent practicable. The Department will hold eight public meetings to discuss and receive comments on the Storage and Disposition Draft PEIS. The times and locations of these meetings are provided in the Supplementary Information to this Notice of Availability.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the Storage and Disposition Draft PEIS and related information should be directed to: Office of Fissile Materials Disposition (MD-4), Attention: Storage and Disposition PEIS, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20585, or by calling 1-800-820-5134.

Written comments on the Storage and Disposition Draft PEIS should be mailed to the following address: DOE-Office of Fissile Materials Disposition, P.O. Box 23786, Washington, DC 20026–3786. Comments may also be submitted orally (to a recording machine) or by fax by calling 1-800-820-5156.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Information regarding the DOE National Environmental Policy Act process should be directed to: Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance (EH-42), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-4600 or by calling 1-800-472-2756.

Availability of the Storage and Disposition Draft PEIS: Copies of the Storage and Disposition Draft PEIS are being distributed to Federal, State, Indian tribal, and local officials, as well as agencies, organizations and individuals who may be interested or affected. Copies of the draft PEIS are also available for public review along with supporting technical reports at the locations listed at the end of this Notice.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On June 21, 1994, the Department published a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register (59 FR 31985) to prepare a programmatic EIS (PEIS) for weapons-usable fissile materials. The purpose of the NOI was to inform the public of the proposed scope of the Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials PEIS, to solicit public input, and to announce that public scoping meetings would be conducted from August through October 1994. Twelve public meetings were held throughout the United States to obtain input regarding the scope, alternatives, and issues associated with weapons-

usable fissile materials that should be addressed in the Storage and Disposition PEIS. On March 30, 1995, the Implementation Plan for the PEIS was issued, which provided guidance and the schedule for the preparation of the PEIS.

Alternatives Considered

The Storage and Disposition Draft PEIS assesses environmental impacts of the proposed actions, which include activities that would result in:

- The long-term storage of inventories of non-surplus weapons-usable Pu and highly enriched uranium (HEU);
- The storage of inventories of weapons-usable Pu and HEU that have been or may be declared surplus, pending disposition; and,
- The disposition of weapons-usable Pu that has or may be declared surplus (disposition of surplus HEU is being addressed in a separate Disposition of Surplus Highly Enriched Uranium Environmental Impact Statement).

The Storage and Disposition Draft PEIS analyzes the following reasonable long-term storage alternatives: (1) upgrade or replacement of current Pu and HEU storage facilities at multiple DOE sites, (2) consolidation of Pu at a single DOE site, and (3) collocation of Pu and HEU at a single DOE site. The six candidate storage sites are: Hanford Site, Washington; Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL), Idaho; Nevada Test Site (NTS), Nevada; Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR), Tennessee; Pantex Plant, Texas; and Savannah River Site (SRS), South Carolina. For disposition, the Draft PEIS analyzes broader, programmatic strategies and technologies; DOE will prepare subsequent, tiered site specific NEPA documentation as necessary for disposition. The reasonable disposition alternatives fall into three categories: (1) the Deep Borehole Category consisting of two alternatives—Direct Disposition, and Immobilized Disposition; (2) the Immobilization Category consisting of three alternatives—Vitrification, Ceramic Immobilization, and Electrometallurgical Treatment; and (3) the Reactor Category consisting of four alternatives—Existing Light Water Reactors (LWRs), Evolutionary LWRs, Partially Completed LWRs, and the Canadian Deuterium Uranium (CANDU) Reactor. In addition, No Action Alternatives are analyzed, in which no change in storage and/or no disposition would occur.

Under the upgrade at multiple sites long-term storage alternative, DOE would either modify certain existing facilities or build new facilities

depending on the site's requirements to meet standards for nuclear material storage facilities, and would utilize existing site infrastructure to the extent possible. These modified or new facilities would be designed to operate for up to 50 years. Pu materials currently stored at Hanford, INEL, Pantex, and SRS would remain at those four sites, and HEU would remain at ORR. Pu materials at Rocky Flats would be moved to one or more of these four sites. Currently, NTS does not generally store weapons-usable fissile materials within the scope of this PEIS and, therefore, is not a candidate site for this alternative.

Under the consolidation of Pu long-term storage alternative, Pu materials at the above four existing sites, plus those at Rocky Flats, would be removed, and the entire DOE inventory of Pu would be consolidated at one site, while the HEU inventory would remain at ORR. Again, the four sites with existing Pu storage are candidate sites for Pu consolidation. In addition, NTS and ORR are also candidate sites for this alternative.

Under the collocation of Pu and HEU long-term storage alternative, the entire DOE inventory of Pu described above would be consolidated and collocated at the same site as the HEU inventory. The six candidate sites are the same as those for the consolidation of Pu alternative.

With respect to the disposition alternatives, the first step in Pu disposition would be to remove the surplus Pu from storage, then process this material in a pit disassembly and conversion facility or a Pu conversion facility (for non-pit metal and oxides) at a DOE site, so that the Pu material would be in a suitable form for disposition.

For the deep borehole category of disposition alternatives, surplus weapons-usable Pu would be disposed of in deep boreholes that would be drilled at least 4 km (2.5 mi) into ancient, geologically stable rock formations beneath the water table. The deep borehole would provide a geologic barrier against potential proliferation. A generic site for the borehole is analyzed in the draft PEIS. The borehole complex would consist of five major facilities: processing, drilling, emplacing/sealing, waste management, and support (security, maintenance, utilities). Under the deep borehole direct disposition alternative, the surplus Pu would be converted to a form suitable for emplacement, packaged, shipped, and placed in a deep borehole. The deep borehole would be sealed to isolate the Pu from the ambient environment. Under the deep borehole immobilized

disposition alternative, the surplus Pu would first be immobilized in cylindrical ceramic pellets at a ceramic immobilization facility, and the ceramic pellets would then be emplaced in the borehole.

For the immobilization category of disposition alternatives, surplus Pu would be immobilized to create a chemically stable form for the domestic high-level waste (HLW) program, and possible future disposal in a HLW repository. For all alternatives in this category, the Pu material would be mixed with HLW or other radioactive isotopes and immobilized to create a radiation field that would serve as a proliferation deterrent, thereby achieving the Spent Fuel Standard. Under the vitrification immobilization alternative, surplus Pu would be mixed with glass frit and the highly radioactive isotope cesium-137 (Cs-137) to produce borosilicate glass logs. Under the ceramic immobilization alternative, surplus Pu would be mixed with nonradioactive ceramic materials and Cs-137 to produce ceramic disks. Under the electrometallurgical treatment immobilization alternative, surplus Pu would be mixed with zeolites (aluminum silicate materials), glass frit, and Cs-137. This mixture would be immobilized through an electrorefining processing to produce glass-bonded zeolite forms, shaped like large hockey pucks.

The reactor category of disposition alternatives considered in the Storage and Disposition PEIS would utilize surplus Pu in mixed oxide (MOX) fuel, for use in commercial nuclear reactors that generate electricity. Under the existing LWRs alternative, the MOX fuel containing surplus Pu would be fabricated and transported to two or more existing commercial LWRs in the U.S., either pressurized water reactors (PWRs) or boiling water reactors (BWRs), for use in place of conventional uranium dioxide (UO_2) fuel. Under the partially completed LWRs alternative, commercial LWRs on which construction has been halted would be completed. The completed reactors would use MOX fuel containing surplus Pu. The characteristics of these LWRs would be essentially the same as those of the existing LWRs discussed in the existing LWR alternative. Under the evolutionary LWRs alternative, improved versions of existing commercial LWRs would be used. Two design approaches for evolutionary LWRs are considered in the Storage and Disposition PEIS. The first is a large PWR or BWR similar to the size of the existing PWRs and BWRs. The second is a small PWR approximately one-half the

size of a large PWR. Under the CANDU reactor alternative, the MOX fuel containing surplus Pu would be fabricated in a domestic or foreign facility, and then transported for use in a commercial heavy water reactor in Canada.

Preferred Alternative

A preferred alternative has not yet been identified. After considering comments on the draft PEIS and after completion of technical, schedule, cost, and policy assessments, DOE will identify a preferred alternative in the Storage and Disposition Final PEIS.

Invitation To Comment

The public is invited to submit written and oral comments on any or all portions of the Storage and Disposition Draft PEIS. DOE's responses to comments received during the public comment period will be presented in the Storage and Disposition Final PEIS.

The Department particularly invites public comment on the reasonableness of the deep borehole category of alternatives. DOE is considering whether to drop the deep borehole category of alternatives from the final PEIS. These alternatives were included in the draft PEIS in response to a report from the National Academy of Sciences.

Public Meetings

DOE will hold eight public meetings, each with a combination of morning, afternoon or evening sessions in each location (except for the Washington, D.C. meeting as noted below), as detailed in the following schedule. The meeting format will provide for collection of written and oral comments and will enable the public to discuss issues and concerns with DOE officials. Participants are asked to register for the meetings in advance by calling 1-800-820-5134. Morning sessions will be from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Afternoon sessions will be from Noon to 5:00 p.m. Evening sessions will be from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Meetings on the dates identified with an asterisk (*) are being coordinated with the public meetings for other EISs such as the Stockpile Stewardship and Management PEIS and the Pantex Site-Wide EIS. This will provide the public with a better opportunity to participate in the process for each of these documents which are occurring in the same time frame, may involve some of the same sites, and may have relationships between some of the activities.

March 26, 1996
Afternoon & Evening
Denver, CO,
Arvada Center,

6901 Wadsworth Boulevard,
Arvada, CO 80003,
(303) 431-3082

March 28 & 29, 1996*
3/28 Evening, 3/29 Morning
Las Vegas, NV,
Sands Convention Center,
201 East Sands Avenue,
Las Vegas, NV 89109,
(702) 733-5369

April 2, 1996*
Morning & Evening
Oak Ridge, TN,
Garden Plaza,
215 South Illinois Street,
Oak Ridge, TN 37830,
(423) 481-2468

April 11, 1996
Afternoon & Evening,
Richland, WA,
Red Lion/Hanford House,
802 George Washington Way,
Richland, WA 99352,
(509) 946-7611

April 15, 1996
Afternoon & Evening
Idaho Falls, ID,
Shilo Inn,
780 Lindsay Boulevard,
Idaho Falls, ID 83402,
(208) 523-0088

April 18, 1996*
Morning
Washington, D.C.,
U.S. Department of Energy,
Forrestal Building, Room 1E-245,
1000 Independence Avenue, SW.,
Washington, D.C. 20585,
(202) 586-4513

April 22 & 23, 1996*
4/22 Evening, 4/23 Morning &
Afternoon
Amarillo, TX,
Radisson Inn,
Amarillo Airport,
7909 I-40,
East Amarillo, TX 79104,
(806) 373-3303

April 30, 1996*
Morning & Evening
North Augusta, SC,
North Augusta Community Center,
495 Brookside Avenue,
North Augusta, SC,
(803) 441-4290

DOE Public Reading Rooms

Copies of the draft Storage and Disposition PEIS, as well as technical data reports and other supporting documents, are available for public review at the following locations:

Albuquerque Operations Office,
National Atomic Museum, 20358
Wyoming Boulevard, SE, Kirtland
AFB, NM 87117, 505-284-3243

Amarillo Area Office

1. U.S. Department of Energy,
Amarillo College, Lynn Library/
Learning Center, 2201 South
Washington, P.O. Box 447,
Amarillo, TX 79178, 806-371-5400

2. U.S. DOE Reading Room, Carson
County Library, 401 Main Street,
P.O. Box 339, Panhandle, TX
79068, 806-537-3742

Chicago Operations Office,
Office of Planning, Communications &
EEO,
U.S. Department of Energy,
9800 South Cass Avenue,
Argonne, IL 60439,
708-252-2013

Headquarters, Department of Energy,
U.S. Department of Energy,
Room 1E-190, Forrestal Building,
1000 Independence Avenue, SW,
Washington, DC 20585,
202-586-3142

Idaho Operations Office,
Idaho Public Reading Room,
1776 Science Center Drive,
Idaho Falls, ID 83402,
208-526-0271

Los Alamos National Laboratory,
U.S. Department of Energy,
c/o Los Alamos Community Reading
Room,
1350 Central, Suite 101,
Los Alamos, NM 87544,
505-665-2127

Nevada Operations Office,
Nevada Operations Office,
U.S. Department of Energy,
Public Reading Room,
2621 Losse Road,
North Las Vegas, NV 89030,
702-295-1128,

Oak Ridge Operations Office,
U.S. Department of Energy,
Public Reading Room,
55 South Jefferson Circle, Room 112,
P.O. Box 2001,
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-8501,
423-241-4780

Richland Operations Office,
Washington State University,
Tri-Cities Branch Campus,
100 Sprout Road, Room 130 West,
Richland, WA 99352,
509-376-8583

Rocky Flats Office,
Front Range Community College
Library,
3645 West 112th Avenue,
Westminster, CO 80030,
303-469-4435,
Sandia National Laboratory,
Livermore Public Library,
1000 S. Livermore Avenue,
Livermore, CA 94550,
510-373-5500

Savannah River Operations Office,
Gregg-Graniteville Library,
University of South Carolina-Aiken,
171 University Parkway,

Aiken, SC 29801,
803-641-3320

Issued in Washington, DC, March 5, 1996.

Gregory P. Rudy,
*Acting Director, Office of Fissile Materials
Disposition.*
[FR Doc. 96-5562 Filed 3-7-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Savannah River Site

AGENCY: Department of Energy.
ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) notice is hereby given of the following Advisory Committee meeting: Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Savannah River Site.

Dates and Times: Monday, March 25, 1996: 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. (public comment session); Tuesday, March 26, 1996: 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Addresses: The public comment session will be held at: Sheraton Augusta Hotel, 2651 Perimeter Parkway, (Off Bobby Jones Expressway 520), Augusta, Georgia.

The Board meeting will be held at: Savannah River Site Main Administration, Building 703-41 A, Aiken, South Carolina.

For Further Information Contact: Tom Heenan, Manager, Environmental Restoration and Solid Waste, Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office, P.O. Box A, Aiken, S.C. 29802 (803) 725-8074.

Supplementary Information:

Purpose of the Board: The purpose of the Board is to make recommendations to DOE and its regulators in the areas of environmental restoration, waste management and related activities.

Tentative Agenda: Monday, March 25, 1996.

6:00 p.m. Public Comment Session (5-minute rule).

7:00 p.m. Adjourn.

Tuesday, March 26, 1996.

8:30 a.m.

Approval of Minutes, Agency Updates (~ 15 minutes)

Public Comment Session (5-minute rule) (~ 30 minutes)

Recommendation Update (~ 1 hour)

Environmental Restoration & Waste Management Subcommittee (~ 1.5 hours)

Fiscal Year 1998 Budget Prioritization Recommendation (~ 30 minutes)

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m.

Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee (~ 1 hour)

Plutonium Forum Discussion (~ 30 minutes)

Budget Subcommittee Report (~ 10 minutes)

Membership Replacement Election (~ 30 minutes)

4:00 p.m. Adjourn