

above, with two modifications. The preferred alternative will involve removing the SNF from the basins, vacuum drying, conditioning and sealing the SNF in inert-gas filled canisters for dry vault storage for up to 40 years pending decisions on its ultimate disposition. The preferred alternative also calls for transfer of the basin sludge to Hanford's double-shell tanks for management, disposal of non-SNF basin debris in a low-level burial ground at Hanford, disposition of the basin water at the 200 Area State-Approved Land Disposal Site (SALDS), and deactivation of the basins pending decommissioning.

The first modification is with respect to sludge management. In the preferred alternative, sludge is to be dispositioned as waste in Hanford's double-shell tanks. However, while in the basins, the sludge will continue to be managed as spent nuclear fuel. Should it not be possible to put the sludge into the double-shell tanks, the sludge will either continue to be managed and treated as SNF, or grouted and packaged to meet the Solid Waste Burial Ground waste acceptance criteria. The impacts of alternate sludge management were analyzed in the FEIS and are small. By mass the sludge is about 0.5% of the SNF and impacts of continuing to manage the sludge as SNF would be negligible by comparison.

The second modification is with respect to the timing of the placement of the MCOs into the transportation casks. In the preferred alternative, the fuel baskets would be loaded into the MCO's, then drained and vacuum dried prior to placement in the transportation casks. However, placing the MCOs in the transportation casks prior to loading the fuel baskets into the MCOs will reduce the exposure of the workers to radiation during draining and vacuum drying.

The DOE selected the preferred alternative principally because it will alleviate concerns for protection of workers, public health and safety, and the environment (by expeditious removal of the SNF from the vicinity of the Columbia River), will utilize a partially completed existing facility (the CSB), will have few, if any, impacts on the physical environment (minimal new construction) and will be implemented at a cost on par with or substantially less than that of the other alternatives.

#### Mitigation

Implementation of the preferred alternative, which is drying/passivation (conditioning) with dry vault storage at the CSB site, is not expected to result in adverse impacts. As a consequence,

preparation of a Mitigation Action Plan (10 CFR 1021.331) in the event of adverse impacts is not planned. Nevertheless, DOE is responding to Executive Order 12856 (58 FR 41981) and associated DOE Orders and guidelines by reducing the use of toxic chemicals, improving emergency planning, response and accident notification, and encouraging the development of clean technologies and the testing of innovative pollution prevention technologies. The pollution prevention program at the Hanford Site is formalized in a Hanford Site Waste Minimization and Pollution Prevention Awareness Program Plan. Moreover, DOE aggressively applies the principle of reducing exposure to both radioactive and toxic chemicals to as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA) throughout its operations.

#### Issued

This Record of Decision for the Management of Spent Nuclear Fuel from the K Basins at the Hanford Site, Richland, Washington is issued by the Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, Richland, Washington on March 4, 1996.

John D. Wagoner,

Manager, DOE Richland Operations Office.

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BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

#### Electric Vehicle Field Test Program

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy (DOE), Idaho Operations Office (ID).

**ACTION:** Notice of solicitation.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Idaho Operations Office, in accordance with the Financial Assistance regulations in 10 CFR 600, announces competitive Solicitation Number DE-PS07-96ID13413 for DOE's Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Program. With this solicitation DOE intends to make financial assistance awards to support an Electric Vehicle Field Test Program.

#### AVAILABILITY OF SOLICITATION:

Prospective applicants should send a written request for a copy of the solicitation and a DOE application instruction package (which includes standard forms, assurances and certifications) to the U.S. Department of Energy, Idaho Operations Office, 850 Energy Drive, MS-1221, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401-1563, Attn: SOL DE-PS07-96ID13413 Connie Osborne, Contract Specialist (Telephone Number: 208-526-0093). Requests transmitted by facsimile at (208) 526-5548 will be accepted. It is advised that prospective

applicants submit their requests in writing no later than March 29, 1996.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Electric and Hybrid Vehicle program focusses on long-term and high-risk drive train and energy storage research in collaboration with industry. The program validates the results of its research activities using laboratory and field tests. The purpose of the solicitation is to select two or three independent test teams which are qualified to perform Baseline Performance, Reliability and Fleet tests of light duty electric vehicles. The tests in this request for applications will identify commercially viable electric vehicles. This is not a demonstration nor a deployment activity.

DOE anticipates awarding two or three Cooperative Agreements in accordance with DOE Financial Assistance Regulations appearing at Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter II, Subchapter H, Part 600 (hereafter called 10 CFR 600) if funding is available. Approximately \$1.2 million in federal funds are expected to be available to fund the first year of a three year testing effort. Cooperative Agreements will be in place for three years contingent upon receipt of program funding. No fee or profit will be paid to the award recipients. All testing work will be cost shared with DOE on a 50-50 basis, and the data generated under this testing program will be made public.

The statutory authority for this program is the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-486 as amended by Public Law 103-437 on November 2, 1994). A copy of the solicitation may be accessed on DOE's Business Opportunities Home Page using the following Universal Resource Locator address: 'http://www.pr.doe.gov/propp.html'. The deadline for receipt of applications is 4:00 p.m. MDT, May 16, 1996.

Procurement Request Number: 07-96ID13413.000

Dated: March 1, 1996.

Brad G. Bauer,

Acting Director, Procurement Services Division.

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#### Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Oak Ridge

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) notice is