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The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The meeting will be chaired by a presiding officer and will not be conducted as an evidentiary hearing; speakers will not be cross-examined, although the presiding officer and Naval Reactor Representatives present may ask clarifying questions of those who provide oral comments. To ensure that everyone has an adequate opportunity to speak, five minutes will be allotted for each speaker. Depending on the number of persons requesting to speak, the presiding officer may allow more time for elected officials, or speakers representing multiple parties, or organizations. Persons wishing to speak on behalf of organizations should identify the organization. Persons wishing to speak may either notify Mr. Overton in writing at the address below or register at the meeting. As time permits, individuals who have spoken subject to the five minute rule will be afforded additional speaking time. Written comments also will be accepted at the meeting.

8. Other Alternatives Considered

These alternatives include permanent on-site disposal. Such on-site disposal could involve building an entombment structure over the SIC Prototype Reactor plant or developing a below ground disposal area at the Windsor Site. Another alternative would be to remove the SIC Prototype Reactor plant as a single large reactor compartment package for offsite disposal. Each of these alternatives was considered but eliminated from detailed analysis.

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by the alternatives being evaluated by the Department is the central goal of the proposed Assessment.

The end of the Cold War and the east-west confrontation have significantly affected the way in which the United States and other countries approach the management of weapons usable fissile materials (primarily highly enriched uranium (HEU) and plutonium). The reductions of nuclear weapons agreed to by the United States and Russia in bilateral treaties and through other initiatives has reduced U.S. national security requirements for fissile materials and, as a result, substantial amounts of weapons usable fissile materials have been declared surplus to U.S. defense needs, and decisions about the storage of all weapons usable fissile materials and the disposition of plutonium will therefore be required. The national policy, as outlined by the President on September 27, 1993 (White House Press Release), is to seek to eliminate where possible the accumulation of stockpiles of HEU and plutonium and to ensure that where these materials already exist they are subject to the highest standards of safety, security and international accountability.

In addition, the President in September 1993 initiated a comprehensive review of long-term options for plutonium disposition, taking into account technical, nonproliferation, environmental, budgetary and economic considerations. The proposed Nonproliferation and Arms Control Assessment represents a vital part of that review.

In early 1994, the National Academy of Sciences published a report, Management and Disposition of Excess Weapons Plutonium. This study, commissioned by the President’s National Security Council, provides information regarding management and disposition of surplus nuclear materials, in particular plutonium.

In the United States, weapons usable fissile nuclear materials are currently stored at several DOE sites, including the Pantex Plant (Amarillo, Texas), the Hanford Site (Richland, Washington), Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (Idaho Falls, Idaho), the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (Golden, Colorado), the Savannah River Site (Aiken, South Carolina), Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (Livermore, California), Los Alamos National Laboratory (Los Alamos, New Mexico), and the Oak Ridge Reservation (Oak Ridge, Tennessee).

Recent reductions in production, arms control agreements and pledges, along with presidential decisions concerning what stocks of nuclear materials are surplus to national defense and defense-related program needs, will largely determine how much material will be available for disposition, and when.

The outline will be used to draft a Nonproliferation and Arms Control Assessment, which will then be reviewed and commented on by a panel of experts. This panel, which will be convened as a sub-committee of the Secretary of Energy’s Advisory Board (SEAB), will include members of the SEAB and other experts and will be chaired by a SEAB member. The comments by the SEAB panel will be incorporated into the draft assessment, which will then be published and made available for public comment and additional public meetings in the fall. Following those meetings and comments, a final assessment will be prepared and published by the end of 1996.

Alternatives Considered

The Department is evaluating the following reasonable long-term storage alternatives: (1) Upgrade or replacement of current Plutonium and HEU storage facilities at multiple DOE sites, (2) consolidation of Plutonium at a single DOE site, and (3) collocation of Plutonium and HEU at a single DOE site. The six candidate storage sites are: the Hanford Site, Washington; the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL), Idaho; the Nevada Test Site (NTS), Nevada; the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR), Tennessee; the Pantex Plant, Texas; and the Savannah River Site (SRS), South Carolina. For disposition, the Draft PEIS analyzes broader, programmatic strategies and technologies. 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.

The outline and the subsequent study will review the nonproliferation and arms control implications of the reasonable alternatives under evaluation, assess the relative nonproliferation and arms control benefits and vulnerabilities of each alternative, and identify potential steps that could be taken to maximize the associated benefits and to minimize the associated liabilities. The report will be used in conjunction with environmental impact analyses, analyses of the cost, schedule and technical viability assessments of each option, other reports and public comments in making a final decision on how to store weapons usable fissile materials and dispose of surplus plutonium.

Dated: June 26, 1996.

Kenneth N. Luongo,
Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Energy for Nonproliferation Policy and Director, Office of Arms Control and Nonproliferation,

Outline for Nonproliferation and Arms Control Assessment of Weapons Usable Fissile Material Storage and Disposition Alternatives

(A) Introduction and Summary
I. Current situation and upcoming developments
II. Need for action
   (a) Internal U.S. management of materials
   (b) International imperatives/objectives
III. Background and previous studies
IV. Alternatives under consideration
V. Main nonproliferation considerations
   (a) Technical factors
   (b) Policy factors

(B) Policy Factors
I. Relevant policy documents
   (a) Relevant Presidential Decision Directives and statements
   (b) US/Russian & P-8 summit statements
   (c) Other documents and guidance
II. International initiatives/cooperation
(C) Long-Term Storage of Fissile Materials
I. Description of four main storage alternatives (contained in Draft PEIS)
   (a) Upgrade facilities at multiple sites (separate/multiple HEU and Pu Storage sites)
   (b) Consolidation of Plutonium storage
   (c) Collocation of Plutonium and Highly enriched uranium storage
   (d) No action
II. Nonproliferation and arms control analysis of four main storage alternatives
   (a) Nonproliferation and arms control-related benefits—Technical
      —Policy
   (b)—Nonproliferation and arms...
control liabilities/vulnerabilities
—Technical
—Policy
III. Identify/Recommend steps to maximize positive and reduce negative impacts of main storage options

(D) Disposition Options for Surplus Plutonium

I. Description and analysis of four groups of options (See Figure 1 for factors to be considered)
(a) Reactor Options (US and/or European MOX fabrication)
   Evolutionary LWRs
   Partially Completed LWRs
   Existing LWRs

(b) Immobilization
   Vitrification
   Ceramic Immobilization
   Electrometallurgical Treatment
(c) Deep Borehole Review
   Direct Disposition
   Immobilized Disposition
(d) No Action

II. Nonproliferation analysis of three main categories of options (See Figure 1).
(a) Nonproliferation and arms control benefits
   Technical
   Policy
(b) Nonproliferation and arms control liabilities/vulnerabilities

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Algonquin states that the purpose of this filing is to flow through $177,225.78 of take-or-pay charges billed to Algonquin by National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation under the revised allocation methodology. Algonquin requests that the Commission grant any waiver that may be necessary to place these tariff sheets into effect on the date requested.

Algonquin states that copies of this filing were mailed to all customers of Algonquin and interested state commissions.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest this filing should file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are available for public inspection in the Public Reference Room. Lois D. Cashell, Secretary.

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Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP96–282–000]
Algonquin Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

June 25, 1996.

Take notice that on June 20, 1996, Algonquin Gas Transmission Company (Algonquin) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Fourth Revised Volume No. 1, the following revised tariff sheets, with a proposed effective date of July 20, 1996:

Twenty-eighth Revised Sheet No. 20A
Original Sheet No. 93C
Fourth Revised Sheet No. 700
Third Revised Sheet No. 701
Second Revised Sheet No. 702
Fourth Revised Sheet No. 703

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Colorado Interstate Gas Company; Notice of Compliance Filing

June 25, 1996.

Take notice that on June 21, 1996, Colorado Interstate Gas Company (CIG), tendered for filing a semiannual compliance filing consisting of work papers detailing accrued interest payments made by CIG to its affected customers related to the unused portion.