

**Preferred Alternative**

DOE has identified a preferred alternative in the draft PEIS. This preferred alternative does not represent a decision by DOE. The Record of Decision, when issued after completion of the final PEIS, will present DOE's decision for the long-term management of depleted UF<sub>6</sub>.

DOE's preferred alternative for the long-term management of depleted UF<sub>6</sub> is to use its entire inventory of material. Some (potentially all) of the depleted UF<sub>6</sub> would be used as an oxide, some (potentially all) of it would be used as metal, and some of it might be used in other DOE programs pursuant to other NEPA reviews and decisions. This alternative would include continued storage and safe, effective management of the cylinders prior to conversion, conversion of the depleted UF<sub>6</sub> into depleted uranium oxide and/or depleted uranium metal, and fabrication of depleted uranium products for uses by government and/or industry. The fluorine in the UF<sub>6</sub> would also be used. Potential uses for the depleted uranium include radiation shielding in both the oxide and metal forms and as metal in specialty markets, including industrial counterweights. Current possibilities for use of fluorine include use in the nuclear fuel cycle. The schedule and rate of conversion of the depleted UF<sub>6</sub> inventory into the oxide and/or metal forms would be determined by market demand for the conversion products.

**Subsequent Document Preparation**

DOE intends to prepare a response to comments received during the review of the draft PEIS and to complete the final PEIS in 1998. The availability of the final PEIS will be announced in the **Federal Register**. Additional NEPA analyses, as appropriate, will be prepared once a long-term depleted UF<sub>6</sub> management strategy has been selected and announced in a Record of Decision.

Issued in Washington, D.C., February 6, 1998.

**Terry R. Lash,**

*Director, Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Golden Field Office; Notice of Wetlands Involvement for the Kotzebue Wind Farm Project**

**AGENCY:** Golden Field Office, DOE.

**ACTION:** Notice of wetlands involvement.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy proposes to provide financial assistance to the Kotzebue Electric Association to expand its existing wind farm site near Kotzebue, Alaska. In accordance with 10 CFR Part 1022, DOE will prepare an environmental assessment, to include a wetland assessment, and will perform this proposed action in a manner so as to avoid or minimize potential harm to or within the affected wetlands.

**DATES:** Comments are due to the address below no later than March 4, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be addressed to Deborah A. Turner, U.S. Department of Energy, Golden Field Office, 1617 Cole Boulevard, Golden CO, 80401, Phone (303) 275-4746, Fax (303) 275-4788.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS PROPOSED ACTION, CONTACT:** Doug Hooker, U.S. Department of Energy, Golden Field Office, 1617 Cole Boulevard, Golden CO, 80401, Phone (303) 275-4780, Fax (303) 275-4753.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON GENERAL DOE WETLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW REQUIREMENTS, CONTACT:** Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, EH-42, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20585, Phone (202) 586-4600 or 1-800-472-2756, Fax (202) 586-7031.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Kotzebue Wind Farm Project that DOE is considering funding will involve the installation, operation, and maintenance of up to 20 wind turbines and ancillary equipment necessary to maintain the site. The proposed project would be located on an existing 148-acre wind farm site located near Kotzebue, Alaska. The entire 148-acre land parcel as well as the town of Kotzebue and the local airport are located on land that has been designated as wetlands.

In accordance with DOE regulations for compliance with floodplain and wetlands environmental review requirements (10 CFR Part 1022), DOE will prepare an environmental assessment, to include a wetlands assessment, for this proposed DOE action.

Issued in Golden Colorado on February 16, 1998.

**Frank M. Stewart,**

*Manager, Golden Field Office.*

[FR Doc. 98-3844 Filed 2-13-98; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Office of Energy Research****Energy Research Financial Assistance Program Notice 98-10; Biological Research Program, Use of Model Organisms to Understand the Human Genome**

**AGENCY:** Office of Energy Research, U.S. Department of Energy

**ACTION:** Notice inviting grant applications.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Biological and Environmental Research (OBER) of the Office of Energy Research (ER), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), hereby announces its interest in receiving peer-reviewable applications for research in support of the Biological Research Program. This Program is a coordinated multidisciplinary research effort to develop creative, innovative approaches, resources, and technologies that lead to a molecular understanding of the human genome. This solicitation is for research that capitalizes on our understanding and the manipulability of the genomes of model organisms, including yeast, nematode, fruitfly, Zebra fish, and mouse, to speed understanding of human genome organization, regulation, and function.

**DATES:** Potential applicants are encouraged to submit a brief preapplication. All preapplications, referencing Program Notice 98-10, should be received by DOE by 4:30 P.M. E.S.T., March 26, 1998. A response to the preapplications discussing the potential program relevance of a formal application generally will be communicated within 7 days of receipt.

The deadline for receipt of formal applications is 4:30 P.M., E.D.T., May 7, 1998, in order to be accepted for merit review and to permit timely consideration for award in FY 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Preapplications, referencing Program Notice 98-10, should be sent by E-mail to

joanne.corcoran@oer.doe.gov, however, preapplications will also be accepted if mailed to the following address: Ms. Joanne Corcoran, Office of Biological and Environmental Research, ER-72, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290.

Formal applications, referencing Program Notice 98-10, should be sent to: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Research, Grants and Contracts Division, ER-64, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290, ATTN: Program Notice 98-10, Ms. Debbie Greenawalt. This address must be used when submitting applications