

SUMMARY: This announces the availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) which assesses the potential environmental impacts of the construction and operation of a facility to pilot test the chemical neutralization process followed by supercritical water oxidation (SCWO) as a potential disposal technology for bulk agent VX stored at Newport Chemical Depot (NECD).

DATES: The public review period will end 30 days following the publication of the Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: To obtain copies of the FEIS contact Ms. Mona Harney, Newport Outreach Office, 140 South Main Street, Newport, Indiana 47966.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Catherine Herlinger at (800) 488-0648 or (410) 463-2583.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed facility will be used to demonstrate, as part of a research and development program, the neutralization process followed by SCWO to destroy VX agent currently stored in containers at NECD.

The alternatives considered in this FEIS are the proposed action and no action (continued storage of VX in ton containers). Although the no action alternative is not viable under Pub. L. 99-145, it was analyzed to provide a comparison with the proposed action. In addition, the no action alternative would not comply with Pub. L. 102-484, which specifies that the Army must consider using a technological alternative to incineration.

The FEIS concludes that VX stored in bulk containers can be pilot tested at NECD using the neutralization process, followed by SCWO, in a safe and environmentally acceptable manner. At one time, the option of sending the neutralization hydrolysate to an off-site biotreatment facility was under consideration by the Army. However, technical and programmatic evaluations have concluded that off-site biotreatment is not suitable at this time. Therefore, off-site biotreatment is not addressed further in this EIS.

A Notice of Availability was published on June 12, 1998 (63 FR 32207), which provided notice that the Draft EIS was available for comment. Comments from the DEIS have been considered and responses are included in this FEIS. After a 30-day waiting period the Army will publish a Record of Decision.

Copies of the FEIS may also be obtained by calling the Newport Outreach Office at (765) 492-4445.

Questions may be forwarded to Office of the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization, ATTN: SFAE-CD-P) (Ms. Herlinger) Building E4585, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21010-5401; or via e-mail at cherlin@cdra.apgea.army.mil.

Dated: December 22, 1998.

Raymond J. Fatz,

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health) OASA(I,L&E).

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Advisory Committee Meeting Notice

AGENCY: U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC).

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), announcement is made of the following meeting:

Name of Committee: Distance Learning/Training Technology Subcommittee of the Army Education Advisory Committee.

Date: 20-22 January 1999.

Place: Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Time: 1400-1630 on 20 January 1999; 0830-1630 on 21 January 1999; and 0830-1130 on 22 January 1999.

Proposed Agenda: Review and discussion of the status of Army Distance Learning.

Purpose of the Meeting: The members will advise the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff (ADCST), HQ Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), on matters pertaining to education and training technologies to be used for Army Distance Learning and resident instruction.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

All communications regarding this subcommittee should be addressed to Mr. Richard Karpinski, at Commander, Headquarters TRADOC, ATTN: ATTG-CF (Mr. Karpinski), Fort Monroe, VA 23651-5000; telephone number (757) 728-5531.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Meeting of the advisory committee is open to the public. Because of restricted meeting space, attendance will be limited to those persons who have notified the Advisory Committee Management Office in writing at least five days prior to the meeting of their intention to attend. Contact Mr. Karpinski (757)

728-5531 for meeting agenda and specific locations.

Any member of the public may file a written statement with the committee before, during, or after the meeting. To the extent that time permits, the committee chairman may allow public presentations or oral statements at the meeting.

Mary V. Yonts,

Alternate Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.120A]

Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year 1999 under the Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program.

Purpose of Program

The Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program (MSEIP) is designed to effect long-range improvement in science education at predominantly minority institutions and to increase the flow of underrepresented ethnic minorities, particularly minority women, into scientific careers.

Eligibility for Grants

With the October 7, 1998 enactment of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998, Pub. L. 105-244, the criteria for eligibility for grants under MSEIP were amended. Congress also relocated MSEIP from Title X to Title III of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA). Under section 361 of the HEA, as now amended, eligibility for grants is now defined as follows:

Eligibility to receive grants under this part is limited to—

- (1) Public and private nonprofit institutions of higher education that:
 - (A) Award baccalaureate degrees; and
 - (B) Are minority institutions;
- (2) Public or private nonprofit institutions of higher education that:
 - (A) Award associate degrees; and
 - (B) Are minority institutions that:
 - (i) Have a curriculum that includes science or engineering subjects; and
 - (ii) Enter into a partnership with public or private nonprofit institutions of higher education that award baccalaureate degrees in science and engineering;
- (3) Nonprofit science-oriented organizations, professional scientific