

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Opportunity for Leadership Entity:  
Beijing Energy-Efficiency and  
Renewable Energy Demonstration  
Building**

**AGENCY:** Office of Policy and International Affairs, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Identification of entity.

**SUMMARY:** The Department published a notice of opportunity on December 16, 1998 (63 FR 69267), to identify an entity to lead future activities for the Beijing Energy-Efficiency and Renewable Energy Demonstration Building, assuming the Department decides to proceed with this demonstration project. This notice announces the identification of that entity.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** O. Cleveland Laird, Jr., Phone (202) 586-0979, FAX (202) 586-4447, E-mail: Cleveland.Laird@hq.doe.gov; or Mary Beth Zimmerman, Phone (202) 586-7249, FAX (202) 586-4447, E-mail: MaryBeth.Zimmerman@hq.doe.gov

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department carefully reviewed all responses to the notice of opportunity and has identified the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) as the entity to lead and make the necessary decisions for phases two and three of the China Energy Efficiency Demonstration Building Project, assuming the Department and China decide to proceed with this demonstration project.

The NRDC response accepts full responsibility for the project including all requirements for funding. The NRDC was found to have a sound approach, related capability and relevant experience. The Department and the NRDC have agreed to proceed with developing the formal agreement covering the responsibilities of both the Department and the NRDC under this project. This agreement will be consummated and signed as quickly as possible.

The NRDC has identified Mr. Robert Watson, Director, International Energy Project, as their project leader for this effort. Mr. Watson may be reached by telephone (212) 727-4489, by fax (212) 727-1773 or by e-mail: rwatson@nrdc.org. His mailing address is: Mr. Robert Watson, Director, International Energy Project, Natural Resources Defense Council, 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011.

The Department thanks the other responders for their interest and hopes they will contact the NRDC regarding their potential contribution to this effort

under the NRDC leadership, if they are interested. Further, the Department invites any organization having a continuing interest under this project to contact the NRDC to express such interest. The NRDC has assured the Department they welcome any such responses.

Issued in Washington, DC on March 4, 1999.

**Abraham E. Haspel,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy,  
Environmental and Economic Policy  
Analysis.*

[FR Doc. 99-6063 Filed 3-10-99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-U**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Notice of Availability; Draft DOE  
Manual Requirement on Use of Non-  
DOE Facilities for Low-Level Waste  
and Mixed Low-Level Waste Disposal**

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy (DOE) announces the availability of its draft requirement for the use of commercial facilities for treatment, storage, and disposal of radioactive waste. This draft requirement is consistent with the decision by DOE to continue its current policy of relying on DOE waste disposal facilities and of using commercial (non-DOE) facilities by exemption when DOE disposal is not practical. This decision is based on the results of DOE's policy analysis on the use of commercial facilities for Low-Level Waste (LLW) and Mixed Low-Level Waste (MLLW) disposal.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Martin Letourneau, U.S. Department of Energy, EM-35, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, Maryland 20874, by telephone at 301-903-7656, or by e-mail at: martin.letourneau@em.doe.gov. For additional information on the policy analysis, please contact: Jay Rhoderick, at the above address, or by telephone at 301-903-7174. Electronic copies of the draft Order and Manual are available on the Internet at: <http://www.explorer.doe.gov:1776/htmls/draft.html> under the title "Series 400 Work Process." Copies of the policy analysis are available through the Center for Environmental Management Information at 1-800-736-3282.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** DOE announced in its March 19, 1998, Notice of Intent (63 FR 13396) that it would conduct an analysis of its use of commercial disposal facilities for LLW and MLLW and solicited comments from the public and interested

organizations. DOE's current policy is to rely on its own facilities for the disposal of its wastes, and by exemption where necessary, make limited use of commercial facilities that have licenses from either the Nuclear Regulatory Commission or an Agreement State.

The policy analysis concluded that DOE should continue its preference for use of DOE disposal facilities for DOE wastes and to use commercial facilities under an exemption process when DOE disposal is not practical. Where on-site DOE disposal is not practical, use of both off-site DOE facilities and commercial facilities may be necessary, and this provides DOE with greater flexibility to ensure cost efficiency. DOE has delegated the exemption authority for determining when commercial facilities should be used to the DOE Field Office Managers to facilitate the exemption process when use of commercial facilities is necessary and in DOE's best interest. The DOE Field Office Managers are required to consult with the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Environment Safety and Health prior to granting the exemption.

Therefore, DOE will continue its policy of disposing its LLW and MLLW at the site at which it is generated, if practical, or if on-site disposal capability is not available, at another DOE disposal facility. DOE may approve exemptions from this policy. However, where an exemption is sought, the policy requires that the commercial disposal facility under consideration be in compliance with all applicable Federal, State, and local requirements, and that it have all of the necessary permits, licenses and approvals for disposal of the specific wastes involved.

The policy analysis was not completed on August 6, 1998, when DOE made available a revised draft of its Order and Manual on radioactive waste management (63 FR 42012). These draft documents set forth the requirements that DOE programs and contractors must follow in managing DOE radioactive waste to provide for radiological protection from DOE facilities, operations, and activities. The draft Order and Manual will replace the existing DOE Order on radioactive waste management, DOE 5820.2A.

The section of the draft Manual pertaining to the use of non-DOE facilities for treatment, storage, and disposal of radioactive waste was reserved pending the outcome of the policy analysis. The draft requirement is consistent with the results of the policy analysis and will be included in the section of the draft Manual that is reserved (DOE M 435.1, Chapter I, General Requirements and