

that the original selection list would remain in effect.

The complainant requested review of the SLA's stipulated decision by a Federal arbitration panel. The panel was convened on April 17, 1998.

#### Arbitration Panel Decision

The issue before the arbitration panel was whether the SLA's stipulated decision to make a determination concerning the continuation of the special assignment process at the time a military base became available was inconsistent with the ALJ's determination.

The arbitration panel ruled that, at the time a military base contract became available, there may be a compelling reason that would benefit both the program and the complainant that would justify not assigning complainant to a military base food service facility.

The panel further ruled that the SLA had the authority to end an exceptional practice promulgated under the Business Enterprise Program (BEP) Manual and pursuant to the Act and implementing regulations. However, the panel found that complainant's reliance on this exception entitled him to special consideration when the next military base facility becomes available. If he applies for such an assignment and is not selected, but is determined to be qualified to successfully operate the facility, the SLA will use the authority granted to it under the special assignment provision of the BEP Manual to assign Mr. Underhill to the facility. The panel ruled that complainant need not be provided this priority if he applies for a new facility under the regular selection process.

One panel member dissented.

The views and opinions expressed by the panel do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the U.S. Department of Education.

Dated: June 9, 1999.

**Curtis L. Richards,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Public Hearing on the Supplement to the Draft Surplus Plutonium Disposition Environmental Impact Statement

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy (DOE) will hold a public hearing on the

Supplement to the Surplus Plutonium Disposition Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft SPD EIS). The hearing will be held on June 15, 1999, in Washington, DC, and will focus on issues associated with the analysis of the specific commercial reactors that the Department proposes to use for the irradiation of mixed oxide fuel in addition to other changes to the Draft SPD EIS presented in the Supplement. The purpose of this hearing is to facilitate an exchange of information and to provide a forum for receiving public comments on the supplement. Members of the public are invited to attend.

**DATES:** The hearing will be held on June 15, 1999, in Washington, DC.

**ADDRESSES:** Questions about the hearing should be addressed to: Bert Stevenson (202-586-5368; bert.stevenson@hq.doe.gov); by mail to DOE, Office of Fissile Materials Disposition, P.O. Box 23786, Washington, DC 20026-3786; or through the program web site at www.doe-md.com. Preregistration for the hearing is available by calling 1-800-820-5134 or by fax at 1-800-820-5156. The hearing will be held at the Hotel Washington, 15th St. and Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC, (202) 638-5900.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bert Stevenson, NEPA Compliance Officer, Office of Fissile Materials Disposition, Department of Energy. (202) 586-5368.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Draft Surplus Plutonium Disposition EIS (DOE/EIS-0283-D) was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and issued in July 1998. It identified the potential environmental impacts of reasonable alternatives for the proposed siting, construction and operation of three facilities for plutonium disposition. The draft also included the potential environmental impacts of using from three to eight commercial nuclear reactors to irradiate mixed oxide fuel. The potential impacts were based on a generic reactor analysis that used actual reactor data and a range of potential site conditions. Subsequently, six specific reactors at three sites have been selected through a competitive procurement process that included an environmental review specified in DOE's NEPA Regulations (10 CFR 1021.216). The Supplement describes the potential environmental impacts of irradiating mixed oxide fuel in these specific reactors. The proposed reactors are the Catawba Nuclear Station near York, South Carolina; the McGuire Nuclear Station near Huntersville, North

Carolina; and the North Anna Power Station near Mineral, Virginia. Each of the proposed sites has two operating nuclear reactors that would be used to irradiate mixed oxide fuel assemblies.

The public hearing will provide the public the opportunity to present comments, ask questions, and discuss concerns related to plutonium disposition by the irradiation of the surplus plutonium as mixed oxide fuel in the six commercial reactors at the three sites. The Department will receive oral and written comments on the Supplement to the Draft SPD EIS. Written and oral comments will be given equal weight in preparing the final SPD EIS. Input from this hearing along with comments received by other means (phone, mail, fax, website) will be used by the Department in preparing the final SPD EIS. The public hearing will be held in the Washington Room of the Hotel Washington, 15th St. and Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC. Two sessions will be held on that date. The first session will start at 9 am and the second session will begin at 1:30 pm. Advanced registration for the hearing is requested but not required. Please call 1-800-820-5134 and leave your name and the session or sessions you plan to attend. This information will be used to determine the size and number of rooms needed for the hearing.

Issued in Washington, DC on this 4th day of June 1999, for the United States Department of Energy.

**Laura S.H. Holgate,**

*Director, Office of Fissile Materials Disposition.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Energy Information Administration

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Energy Information Administration, DOE.

**ACTION:** Agency information collection activities: Proposed collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The Energy Information Administration (EIA) is soliciting comments on the proposed extension to the "Recordkeeping Requirements of DOE's General Allocation and Price Rules," ERA-766R.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before August 16, 1999. If you anticipate difficulty in submitting