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[FR Doc. 00-30750 Filed 12-1-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4001-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

National Assessment Governing Board; Meeting

AGENCY: National Assessment Governing Board; Education.

ACTION: Notice of teleconference meetings.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting by teleconference of the Executive Committee of the National Assessment Governing Board. This notice also describes the functions of the Board. Notice of this meeting is required under Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

DATES: December 5, 2000.

TIME: 4:00-5:00 p.m.

LOCATION: National Assessment Governing Board, Suite 825, 800 North Capitol Street, N.W., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ray Fields, Assistant Director for Policy, National Assessment Governing Board, Suite 825, 800 North Capitol Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20002-4233, Telephone: (202) 357-6938.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Assessment Governing Board is established under section 412 of the National Education Statistics Act of 1994 (Title IV of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994), (Pub. L. 103-382).

The Board is established to formulate policy guidelines for the National

Assessment of Educational Progress. The Board is responsible for selecting subject areas to be assessed, developing assessment objectives, identifying appropriate achievement goals for each grade and subject tested, and establishing standards and procedures for interstate and national comparisons. Under Public Law 105-78, the National Assessment Governing Board is also granted exclusive authority over developing Voluntary National Tests pursuant to contract number RJ97153001.

On December 5, 2000, between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m., the Executive Committee of the National Assessment Governing Board will hold an open teleconference meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to review and take action on a proposal concerning assessment in urban school districts that was received from the Council of Great City Schools.

Because this is a teleconference meeting telephonic devices and seating space will be arranged to permit the public to have access to the Committee's deliberations.

Records are kept of all Board proceedings and are available for public inspection at the U.S. Department of Education, National Assessment Governing Board, Suite #825, 800 North Capitol Street, N.W., Washington, DC, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Dated: November 30, 2000.

Roy Truby,

Executive Director, National Assessment Governing Board.

[FR Doc. 00-30862 Filed 12-1-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Floodplain and Wetlands Statement of Findings for the Floodplain Strip Adjacent to the Boeing Property in Roane County, Tennessee

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Floodplain and wetlands statement of findings.

SUMMARY: This is a Floodplain and Wetlands Statement of Findings for the Floodplain Strip Adjacent to the Boeing Property in Roane County, Tennessee, in accordance with 10 CFR 1022, Compliance with Floodplain/Wetlands Environmental Review Requirements. A floodplains and wetlands assessment was conducted and is included in an Environmental Assessment (EA) that evaluated the potential impacts of transfer from DOE ownership. The floodplains and wetlands assessment describes the possible effects, alternatives, and measures designed to

avoid or minimize potential harm to floodplains and wetlands or their flood storage potential. DOE will allow 15 days of public review after publication of the Statement of Findings before implementation of the Proposed Action.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Katy Kates, Realty Officer, U.S. Department of Energy, Oak Ridge Operations Office, P.O. Box 2001, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831. Ms. Kates can also be reached at 865-576-0977 or facsimile 865-576-9204.

For Further Information on General DOE Floodplain/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. Ms. Borgstrom can also be reached at 202-586-4600 or by leaving a message at 1-800-472-2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A notice of Floodplain and Wetlands Involvement for the Floodplain Strip Adjacent to the Boeing Property was published in the **Federal Register** on May 3, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 86) and subsequently a floodplains and wetlands assessment was prepared and is included in an EA for divestiture of the Floodplain Strip from DOE ownership. The EA was prepared as part of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. The floodplain and wetlands assessment documented the floodplain and wetland communities on the Floodplain Strip, and assessed the potential impacts to floodplains and wetlands associated with conveyance of the 182-acre parcel. Alternatives considered include: (1) Conveyance of the Floodplain Strip to the abutting landowner for unrestricted use (the Preferred Alternative), (2) conveyance of the property to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), (3) conveyance of the property to the City of Oak Ridge or Roane County, (4) DOE retention of ownership but with DOE granting easements to the abutting landowner, and (5) No Action. Any land conveyance would include land from the ordinary low water mark inward to the Boeing Property. The floodplains and wetlands assessment identified 69 acres of wetlands on the Floodplain Strip.

Some minor, short-term impacts could occur due to limited, proposed construction on the Floodplain Strip and potential development on the adjacent Boeing Property, which would primarily be associated with runoff and erosion of soil particles. Based on the limited planned improvements in the

Floodplain Strip and types of subsequent activities that would occur under any alternative evaluated, DOE does not believe there would be any hazards to the public or property from flooding, nor would the activities jeopardize the wetlands' survival, quality, and natural beneficial values. The limited improvements planned for the property would be small in scale and by nature there would be no habitable structures within the floodplain or wetlands that could present a hazard or flooding risk. Additionally, any proposed structure in the floodplain (e.g., boat docks) would be subject to TVA's section 26(a) review. Any construction within jurisdictional wetlands as identified in the floodplains and wetlands assessment must comply with the Department of Army Wetlands Construction Restrictions contained in 33 CFR, sections 320 through 330, as amended, and any other applicable Federal, State, or local wetlands regulations.

Issued in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, on November 27, 2000.

James L. Elmore,

Alternate National Environmental, Policy Act Compliance Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-30766 Filed 12-1-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Science; Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Notice 01-12: Natural and Accelerated Bioremediation Research (NABIR) Program

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice inviting grant applications.

SUMMARY: The Office of Biological and Environmental Research (OBER) of the Office of Science (SC), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), hereby announces its interest in receiving applications for research grants in the Natural and Accelerated Bioremediation Research (NABIR) Program. Applications should describe research projects that address the scientific aims of individual NABIR Science Elements including Biogeochemistry, Biotransformation, Community Dynamics, as well as Assessment projects that relate to those elements. Applications for research in other elements will not be considered at this time. Applications for research on Bioremediation and its Societal Implications and Concerns (BASIC) have been solicited under a separate announcement (Notice 00-21).

DATES: Researchers are strongly encouraged (but not required) to submit a preapplication for programmatic review. The deadline for preapplications is January 8, 2001. A brief preapplication should consist of one or two pages of narrative describing the research objectives and methods.

The deadline for receipt of formal applications is 4:30 p.m., E.S.T., February 28, 2001, to be accepted for merit review and to permit timely consideration for award late in Fiscal Year 2001 or in early Fiscal Year 2002. An original and seven copies of the application must be submitted; however, applicants are requested not to submit multiple applications using more than one delivery or mail service.

ADDRESSES: If submitting a preapplication, referencing Program Notice 01-12, it should be sent by e-mail to:

anna.palmisano@science.doe.gov.

Formal applications referencing Program Notice 01-12 on the cover page must be forwarded to: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Grants and Contracts Division, SC-64, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290, ATTN: Program Notice 01-12. This address must also be used when submitting applications by U.S. Postal Service Express Mail or any other commercial overnight delivery service, or when hand-carried by the applicant.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Anna Palmisano, Environmental Sciences Division, SC-74, Office of Biological and Environmental Research, Office of Science, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290, telephone: (301) 903-9963, e-mail: anna.palmisano@science.doe.gov, fax: (301) 903-8519. The full text of Program Notice 01-12 is available via the Internet using the following web site address: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The mission of the NABIR Program is to provide the fundamental science to serve as the basis for development of cost-effective bioremediation of radionuclides and metals in the subsurface at DOE sites. In particular, the program focuses on research that will lead to immobilization of radionuclides and/or metals in place, or that will reduce re-mobilization. NABIR research encompasses both intrinsic bioremediation by naturally occurring microbial communities, as well as accelerated bioremediation through the use of nutrient amendments (inorganic, organic or enzymatic) or microbial amendments. The program consists of

seven interrelated scientific research elements (Biogeochemical Dynamics, Biotransformation, Community Dynamics and Microbial Ecology, Biomolecular Science and Engineering, Biotransformation and Biodegradation, Bacterial Transport, and Systems Integration/Data Management). The program also includes an element addressing ethical, legal and social issues of bioremediation called Bioremediation and its Societal Implications and Concerns (BASIC). The NABIR program has established a Field Research Center (FRC) at the Y-12 site near Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). The FRC is a focal point of NABIR field research and can provide investigators with DOE-relevant samples contaminated with uranium and other radionuclides or metals. Additional information about NABIR and the Field Research Center can be accessed from the NABIR Homepage: <http://www.lbl.gov/NABIR/>.

Program Focus

The NABIR Program supports hypothesis-driven research that will help determine the potential for, and advance the field of, bioremediation as a cleanup option for radionuclides and metals in subsurface environments (both vadose and saturated zones, below the root zone) at the DOE sites. Contaminants of particular interest are the radionuclides uranium, technetium, and plutonium and the metals chromium and mercury. While the focus of the NABIR Program is on field-scale research, the research program will support laboratory, theoretical, modeling, and other non-field research projects, if they fill gaps that would be necessary to complete understanding required for field-scale applications. Problems characterized by large areas with low-concentration of contaminants are emphasized over problems of localized, high concentrations. NABIR research will focus on research leading to immobilization rather than mobilization scenarios for bioremediation of metals and radionuclides. Although the program is directed at specific goals, it supports research that is more fundamental in nature than demonstration projects.

NABIR will not support research leading to ex situ treatments, nor will research on phytoremediation be supported. Research on bioremediation of organic contaminants, such as solvents and complexing agents will not be considered, except to the extent that they influence the primary goal of understanding the remediation of radionuclides and metals. The NABIR