

environmental non-governmental organizations and industry representatives on Tuesday, January 30, 2001, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in Room 1408 of the U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street NW, Washington, DC. To arrange for their entrance into the building, attendees should provide to Eunice Mourning of the Office of Environmental Policy, U.S. Department of State (tel. 202-647-9266, fax 202-647-5947) their name, organization, date of birth and Social Security number by noon on Monday, January 29, 2000. Attendees should enter the C Street entrance and bring picture identification with them. For further information, please contact Dr. Marie Ricciardone, U.S. Department of State, Office of Environmental Policy (OES/ENV), Room 4325, 2201 C Street NW, Washington DC 20520, phone 202-736-4660, fax 202-647-5947, e-mail RicciardoneMD@state.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The UNEP POPs Negotiations

The POPs treaty is the first global treaty to address in a comprehensive manner the risks to human health and the environment of POPs chemicals. The treaty will in the first instance deal with twelve substances: aldrin, endrin, hexachlorobenzene, toxaphene, chlordane, dieldrin, heptachlor, mirex, DDT, PCBs, dioxins and furans. These substances fall into three categories: pesticides, industrial chemicals, and unintended by-products of combustion and industrial processes.

The global agreement is an ambitious undertaking, since it encompasses a broad range of measures to address POPs of transboundary concern. These range from controls on production and use for commercial chemicals, restrictions on POPs wastes, and controls on by-products that come from combustion and industrial processes. For many countries, this will be the first time that manufacture and use of these substances have been restricted, and the effects are likely to be far-reaching.

Since the U.S. and other developed countries have already taken actions on these chemicals, a major goal for the agreement is broad participation by developing countries and, consequently, meaningful reductions in the amount of pollutants that are released into the environment. A critical part of the agreement is the technical and financial assistance mechanisms to help developing countries effectively implement their obligations.

Timetable and Point of Contact

The public meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 20, 2001 from 10 a.m.

to 11 a.m. in Room 1408 of the U.S. Department of State. Some members of the interagency working group who participated in the negotiation will provide an overview of the fifth session. The U.S. Department of State is issuing this notice to help ensure that interested and potentially affected parties are aware of and knowledgeable about the conclusion of these negotiations, and have an opportunity to offer comments. Those organizations or individuals which cannot attend the meeting, but wish to either submit a written comment or to remain informed, should provide Eunice Mourning of the Office of Environmental Policy, U.S. Department of State (phone 202-647-9266; fax 202-647-5947) with their statement and/or their name, organization, address, telephone and fax numbers, and their e-mail address.

Dated: January 16, 2001.

Daniel T. Fantozzi,

Director, Office of Environmental Policy, U.S. Department of State.

[FR Doc. 01-1834 Filed 1-19-01; 8:45 am]

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TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Tennessee Valley Authority (Meeting No. 1526).

TIME AND DATE: 9 a.m. (EST), January 24, 2001.

PLACE: TVA West Tower Auditorium, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee.

STATUS: Open.

AGENDA: Approval of minutes of meeting held on November 15, 2000.

NEW BUSINESS:

C—Energy

C1. Revision of TVA Policy and Principles on the Environment.

C2. TVA Business Practice entitled "The Sale or Use of Coal Combustion By-Products and Related Services."

C3. Supplement to Contract No. 95P6F-133445 with Day & Zimmermann NPS, Inc., for modification and supplemental maintenance work at TVA's western region fossil facilities.

C4. Contract with KVB-Enertec for selective catalytic reduction flue gas analyzer systems at Allen, Bull Run, Colbert, Cumberland, Kingston, Paradise, and Widows Creek Fossil Plants.

C5. Supplement to Contract No. 00PPW-264807 with Foster Wheeler Energy Corporation for the design and

supply of superheater and reheater elements for Widows Creek Fossil Plant Unit 7 and other TVA Fossil Plants.

E—Real Property Transactions

E1. Grant of a permanent easement to the City of Decatur, Alabama, for a sewerline and wastewater treatment plant affecting approximately 2.2 acres of land on Wheeler Reservoir in Morgan County, Alabama, Tract No. XTWR-113SP.

E2. Deed modification affecting approximately 9.3 acres of former TVA land located at Nitrate Plant No. 1 in Colbert County, Alabama, Tract No. XNPT-32, to allow the City of Sheffield to lease the property for the production of movies and for film-making education.

F—Other

F1. Designation of Maureen H. Dunn as Secretary and Clifford L. Beach, Jr., and James E. Norris as Assistant Secretaries of TVA.

F2. Approval to file condemnation cases to acquire the right to remove and dispose of trees that could endanger transmission lines and the temporary right to enter upon land to survey, appraise, and preform title investigations for an easement and right-of-way. The affected transmission lines are Kentucky Dam-Nashville Tap to Ashland City in Cheatham County, Tennessee, and Hanceville-Bremen in Cullman County, Alabama.

Information Items

1. Approval of an Amendment to the Trust Agreement between the Board of Directors of the TVA Retirement System and Fidelity Management Trust Company.

2. Approval of WRH Partners II as a new investment manager for the TVA Retirement System and approval of the Investment Management Agreement between the TVA Retirement System and the new investment manager.

3. Appointment of Karl Dudley, General Manager, Pickwick Electric Cooperative, as a member of Regional Resource Stewardship Council.

4. Approval of the modification of Contract No. P98P01-203507 with Thunder Basin Coal Company, LLC, for coal supply to Allen, Gallatin, Paradise, Johnsonville, Colbert, and Shawnee Fossil Plants.

5. Approval to file a condemnation case to acquire a right-of-way easement for the Weaver-Young Cane transmission line in Union County, Georgia.

6. Approval of a deed modification, at the request of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, affecting

approximately 6.1 acres of land on Fort Loudoun Reservoir in Blount County, Tennessee, Tract No. XTFL-13.

7. Approval of recommendations resulting from the 65th Annual Wage Conference 2000—Construction Project Agreement (Hourly) Wage Rates.

8. Approval of recommendations resulting from the 65th Annual Wage Conference, 2000—Wage Rates of Annual Trades and Labor Employees and Teamsters.

9. Approval of negotiated revisions to General Agreement and related Memorandums of Understanding covering Annual Trades and Labor Employees.

For more information: Please call TVA Public Relations at (865) 632-6000, Knoxville, Tennessee. Information is also available at TVA's Washington Office (202) 898-2999. People who plan to attend the meeting and have special needs should call (865) 632-6000.

Dated: January 17, 2001.

Charles L. Young,

Assistant General Counsel, and Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-1993 Filed 1-18-01; 12:52 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

[Docket OST-2001-8696]

DOT Guidance to Recipients on Special Language Services to Limited English Proficient (LEP) Beneficiaries

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of Transportation is publishing policy guidance on Title VI's prohibition against national origin discrimination as it affects limited English proficient persons.

DATES: This guidance is effective immediately. Comments must be submitted on or before March 23, 2001. DOT will review all comments and will determine what modifications to the policy guidance, if any, are necessary

ADDRESSES: Interested persons should submit written comments to Marc Brenman, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Civil Rights, Department of Transportation, 400 7th St. SW., Washington, DC 20590, or marc.brenman@ost.dot.gov; comments may also be submitted by facsimile at 202-366-9371.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marc Brenman, Office of Civil Rights,

400 7th St. SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202-366-1119; e-mail marc.brenman@ost.dot.gov; or David Tochen, Office of the General Counsel, 400 7th St. SW., Washington, DC 20590, 202-366-9153, e-mail david.tochen@ost.dot.gov.

Arrangements to receive the policy in an alternative format may be made by contacting the named individuals.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d, *et seq.* and its implementing regulations provide that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin under any program or activity that receives federal financial assistance.

The purpose of this policy guidance is to clarify the responsibilities of recipients of federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) ("recipients"), and assist them in fulfilling their responsibilities to limited English proficient (LEP) persons, pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and implementing regulations. The policy guidance reiterates DOT's longstanding position that in order to avoid discrimination against LEP persons on the grounds of national origin, recipients must take reasonable steps to ensure that such persons have meaningful access to the programs, services, and information those recipients provide, free of charge.

The policy guidance includes an appendix. Appendix A summarizes DOT's Title VI regulations, as they apply to LEP persons.

Dated: January 16, 2001.

Ronald A. Stroman,

Director, Departmental Office of Civil Rights, Department of Transportation.

DOT Guidance to Recipients on Special Language Services to Limited English Proficient (LEP) Beneficiaries

I. Background

On August 11, 2000, President Clinton signed Executive Order 13166, entitled "Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency." 65 FR 50121 (September 16, 2000). On the same day, the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights issued a Policy Guidance Document titled "Enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964—National Origin Discrimination Against Persons With Limited English Proficiency" (hereinafter referred to as "DOJ LEP Guidance"), reprinted at 65 FR 50123 (September 16, 2000).

Executive Order 13166 requires Federal departments and agencies extending financial assistance to

develop and make available guidance on how recipients should, consistent with the DOJ LEP Guidance and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, assess and address the needs of otherwise eligible limited English proficient persons seeking access to the programs and activities of recipients of federal financial assistance. The DOJ LEP Guidance, in turn, provides general guidance on how recipients can ensure compliance with their Title VI obligation to "take reasonable steps to ensure 'meaningful' access to the information and services they provide." DOJ LEP Guidance, 65 FR at 50124. The DOJ LEP Guidance goes on to provide,

[w]hat constitutes reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access will be contingent on a number of factors. Among the factors to be considered are the number or proportion of LEP persons in the eligible service population, the frequency with which LEP individuals come in contact with the program, the importance of the service provided by the program, and the resources available to the recipient.

Id. The DOJ LEP Guidance explains that the identification of "reasonable steps" to provide oral and written services in languages other than English is to be determined on a case-by-case basis through a balancing of all four factors.

The failure to assure that people who are not proficient in English can effectively participate in, and have meaningful access to, a Department of Transportation (DOT) financial assistance recipient's programs and activities may constitute national origin discrimination prohibited by Title VI and implementing regulations. Supreme Court precedent, and longstanding congressional provisions and federal agency regulations have repeatedly instructed that a nexus exists between language and national origin. As used throughout this Guidance, "DOT" is intended to include all the Department's operating administrations, components, and Secretarial offices.

This LEP Guidance addresses the key elements that DOT encourages its recipients to consider to ensure meaningful access to programs and activities by all people regardless of race or national origin. The purpose of the Guidance is to assist recipients in complying with their Title VI responsibilities to ensure that access to their programs or activities, normally provided in English, are accessible to LEP persons. The Guidance is consistent with the requirements of Executive Order 13166 and with the DOJ LEP Guidance.

During the development of this Guidance, DOT has ensured that stakeholders, such as LEP persons, their