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Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Joseph Schubart at (202) 708-9266 or to his e-mail address Joe.Schubart@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

[FR Doc. 03-10325 Filed 4-25-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Change in National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Compliance Approach for the Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride (DUF6) Conversion Facilities Project

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of revised approach.

SUMMARY: On September 18, 2001, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) published a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the **Federal Register**, announcing its intention to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a proposed action to construct, operate, maintain, and decontaminate and decommission two depleted uranium hexafluoride (DUF6) conversion facilities at Portsmouth, Ohio, and Paducah, Kentucky. DOE held three scoping meetings to provide the public with an opportunity to present comments on the scope of the EIS, and to ask questions and discuss concerns with DOE officials regarding the EIS. The scoping meetings were held in Piketon, Ohio on November 28, 2001; in Oak Ridge, Tennessee on December 4, 2001, and in Paducah, Kentucky, on December 6, 2001. The purpose of this Notice is to inform the public of the change in the approach for the NEPA review for the DUF6 conversion projects for Paducah and Portsmouth, and to invite public comments on the revised approach.

DATES: Comments received by May 30, 2003, will be considered in the

preparation of the draft EISs. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Comments and suggestions can be forwarded to Gary Hartman, U.S. Department of Energy—Oak Ridge Operations Office, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831, telephone (865) 576-0273, fax: (865) 576-0746, e-mail: hartmangs@oro.doe.gov. Also contact Mr. Hartman with any questions regarding the DOE DUF6 conversion project.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information on the DOE NEPA process, contact Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (EH-42), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-0119, telephone (202) 586-4600 or leave a message at (800) 472-2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 18, 2001, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) published a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the **Federal Register** (66 FR 48123), announcing its intention to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a proposed action to construct, operate, maintain, and decontaminate and decommission two depleted uranium hexafluoride (DUF6) conversion facilities at Portsmouth, Ohio, and Paducah, Kentucky. DOE held three scoping meetings to provide the public with an opportunity to present comments on the scope of the EIS, and to ask questions and discuss concerns with DOE officials regarding the EIS. The scoping meetings were held in Piketon, Ohio on November 28, 2001; in Oak Ridge, Tennessee on December 4, 2001, and in Paducah, Kentucky, on December 6, 2001. The alternatives identified in the NOI included a two-plant alternative (two conversion plants would be built, one at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant site and another at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant site), a one-plant alternative (only one plant would be built either at the Paducah or the Portsmouth site), a use of existing UF6 conversion capacity alternative (DOE would consider using already-existing UF6 conversion capacity at commercial nuclear fuel fabrication facilities in lieu of constructing one or two new plants), and the no action alternative. For alternatives that involved constructing one or two new plants, DOE planned to consider alternative conversion technologies, local siting alternatives within the Paducah and Portsmouth plant boundaries, and the shipment of DUF6 cylinders stored at the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) near Oak Ridge, Tennessee, to either the

Portsmouth or Paducah sites. The technologies to be considered in the EIS were those submitted in response to a Request for Proposals (RFP) for conversion services that DOE had issued in October 2000, plus any other technologies that DOE believed must be considered.

Then, on August 2, 2002, the U.S. Congress passed the *2002 Supplemental Appropriations Act for Further Recovery From and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States* (Public Law 107-206). In pertinent part, this law required that, within 30 days of enactment, DOE award a contract for the scope of work described in the October 2000 RFP, including design, construction, and operation of a DUF6 conversion plant at each of the Department's Paducah, Kentucky and Portsmouth, Ohio sites. Accordingly, the DOE awarded a contract to Uranium Disposition Services, LLC, on August 29, 2002.

In light of Public Law 107-206, and DOE's award of the contract to Uranium Disposition Services, DOE reevaluated the appropriate scope of its NEPA review and decided to prepare two separate EIS's, one for the plant proposed for the Paducah site and a second for the Portsmouth site. The proposed alternatives to be considered in each EIS would focus primarily on where the conversion facilities will be sited at the respective sites, and a no action alternative. DOE will also consider impacts arising from shipment of ETTP cylinders for conversion to each site.

Schedule

Both draft EISs are scheduled to be published in July 2003. A 45-day comment period on the draft EISs is planned, which will include public hearings to receive comments. Availability of the draft EISs, the dates of the public comment period, and information about the public hearings will be announced in the **Federal Register** and in the local news media.

The final EISs are scheduled for publication in January 2004. The Records of Decision would be issued no sooner than 30 days after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency notices of availability of the final EISs are published in the **Federal Register**. As directed by Pub. L. 107-206, construction of the DUF6 conversion facilities is scheduled to begin not later than July 31, 2004.

The purpose of this Notice is to inform the public of the change in the approach for the NEPA review for the DUF6 conversion projects for Paducah

and Portsmouth, and to invite public comments on the revised approach.

David R. Allen,

NEPA Compliance Officer, Oak Ridge Operations Office.

[FR Doc. 03-10373 Filed 4-25-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Paducah

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Paducah. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Thursday, May 15, 2003, 5:30 p.m.–9 p.m.

ADDRESSES: 111 Memorial Drive, Barkley Centre, Paducah, Kentucky.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: W. Don Seaborg, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, Department of Energy Paducah Site Office, Post Office Box 1410, MS-103, Paducah, Kentucky 42001, (270) 441-6806.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of the Board: The purpose of the Board is to make recommendations to DOE and its regulators in the areas of environmental restoration and waste management activities.

Tentative Agenda

- 5:30 p.m. Informal Discussion
 6:00 p.m. Call to Order; Introductions; Approve April Minutes; Review Agenda
 6:10 p.m. DDFO's Comments
- Budget Update
 - ES & H Issues
 - EM Project Updates
 - CAB Recommendation Status
 - Other
- 6:30 p.m. Federal Coordinator Comments
 6:40 p.m. Ex-officio Comments
 6:50 p.m. Public Comments and Questions
 7:00 p.m. Review of Action Items
 7:15 p.m. Break
 7:25 p.m. Presentation
- Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 Budget—Judy Penry (Oak Ridge Chief Financial Officer [CFO])
 - Waste Disposition Environmental Assessment (EA) Addendum
- 8:10 p.m. Public Comments and Questions

8:20 p.m. Task Force and Subcommittee Reports

- Water Task Force
- Waste Operations Task Force
- Long Range Strategy/Stewardship
- Community Concerns
- Public Involvement/Membership

8:55 p.m. Administrative Issues

- Preparation for September Chairs' Meeting
- June Dinner Meeting
- Review of Workplan
- Review Next Agenda
- Final Comments

9:10 p.m. Adjourn

Copies of the final agenda will be available at the meeting.

Public Participation: The meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Committee either before or after the meeting. Individuals who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact David Dollins at the address listed above or by telephone at (270) 441-6819. Requests must be received five days prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation in the agenda. The Deputy Designated Federal Officer is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Each individual wishing to make public comment will be provided a maximum of five minutes to present their comments as the first item of the meeting agenda.

Minutes: The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday–Friday, except Federal holidays. Minutes will also be available at the Department of Energy's Environmental Information Center and Reading Room at 115 Memorial Drive, Barkley Centre, Paducah, Kentucky between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday or by writing to David Dollins, Department of Energy Paducah Site Office, Post Office Box 1410, MS-103, Paducah, Kentucky 42001 or by calling him at (270) 441-6819.

Issued at Washington, DC, on April 23, 2003.

Belinda G. Hood,

Acting Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-10374 Filed 4-25-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. ER03-610-000]

Allegheny Energy Supply Units 3, 4, & 5, LLC; Notice of Issuance of Order

April 21, 2003.

Allegheny Energy Supply Units 3, 4, & 5, LLC (Allegheny 3, 4 & 5) filed an application for market-based rate authority, with an accompanying tariff. The proposed market-based rate tariff provides for the sale of capacity and energy at market-based rates, as well as sale of ancillary services into PJM Interconnection LLC, New York Independent System Operator, Inc., and ISO New England, Inc. at market-based rates. Allegheny 3, 4, & 5 also requested waiver of various Commission regulations. In particular, Allegheny 3, 4, & 5 requested that the Commission grant blanket approval under 18 CFR part 34 of all future issuances of securities and assumptions of liability by Allegheny 3, 4, & 5.

On April 18, 2003, pursuant to delegated authority, the Director, Division of Tariffs and Market Development—South, granted the request for blanket approval under part 34, subject to the following:

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest the blanket approval of issuances of securities or assumptions of liability by Allegheny 3, 4, & 5 should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's rules of practice and procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214).

Notice is hereby given that the deadline for filing motions to intervene or protests, as set forth above, is May 19, 2003.

Absent a request to be heard in opposition by the deadline above, Allegheny 3, 4, & 5 is authorized to issue securities and assume obligations or liabilities as a guarantor, indorser, surety, or otherwise in respect of any security of another person; provided that such issuance or assumption is for some lawful object within the corporate purposes of Allegheny 3, 4, & 5 compatible with the public interest, and is reasonably necessary or appropriate for such purposes.

The Commission reserves the right to require a further showing that neither public nor private interests will be adversely affected by continued approval of Allegheny 3, 4, & 5's