alternatives carried forward for detailed study, is disclosed in Chapter 2 of the Final EIS.

6. Scoping Process: A Notice of Intent to prepare a Draft EIS for the Proposed Point Thomson Project was published in the Federal Register on December 4, 2009. The Corps of Engineers conducted public scoping, Alaska Native Tribal consultations, and resource agency meetings in AK prior to preparing the Draft EIS. Over 300 issue-specific comments were identified. Results from the scoping process were summarized a Public Scoping Document and are addressed in the Draft EIS.

7. Draft EIS Review: The Draft EIS comment period began November 18, 2011 with the publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. It was originally scheduled to end on January 3, 2012 but was extended until January 18, 2012 after requests for an extension were received. Open house and public comment meetings were held between December 5–15, 2011 in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, and Barrow, AK. The Corps of Engineers received over 240 comment submissions during the comment period. Over 660 individual comments were recorded and responded to. Based on comments received, errors in the Draft EIS were corrected and sections edited for clarity. The Final EIS is the result of these changes and additions. Overall impact findings did not change between the Draft and Final EIS, although some descriptions did change.


A printed Executive Summary, which includes 2 Compact Disks containing the entire Final EIS, may be obtained by contacting Mr. Baij at the above contact information.

Printed copies of the Final EIS are available for review at the following public libraries and schools: Harold Kaveoolook School, Kaktovik, Alaska; Nuiqsut Trapper School, Nuiqsut, Alaska; Tuzzy Consortium Library, Barrow, Alaska; Noel Wein Library, Fairbanks, Alaska; Z.J. Loussac Library, Anchorage, Alaska; Alaska Resources Library and Information Services, Anchorage, Alaska; and University of Alaska, Anchorage Library, Anchorage, Alaska.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

National Nuclear Security Administration

Notice of Availability of the Draft Surplus Plutonium Disposition Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement


ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces the availability of the Draft Surplus Plutonium Disposition Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SPD Supplemental EIS; DOE/EIS–0283–S2) for public comment. DOE also is announcing the dates, times and locations for public hearings to receive comments on the Draft SPD Supplemental EIS. The Draft SPD Supplemental EIS analyzes the potential environmental impacts of alternatives for disposition of 13.1 metric tons (14.4 tons) of surplus plutonium for which DOE has not made a disposition decision, including 7.1 metric tons (7.8 tons) of plutonium from pits that were declared excess to national defense needs. It also updates previous DOE NEPA analyses on plutonium disposition to consider additional options for pit disassembly and conversion, which entails processing plutonium metal components to produce an oxide form of plutonium suitable for disposition, and the use of mixed oxide (MOX) fuel fabricated from surplus plutonium in domestic commercial nuclear power reactors to generate electricity, including five reactors at two specific Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) reactor plants.

DOE is not revisiting the decision to fabricate 34 metric tons (37.5 tons) of surplus plutonium into MOX fuel in the MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility (MFFF) (65 FR 1608, January 11, 2000 and 68 FR 20134, April 24, 2003), now under construction at DOE’s Savannah River Site (SRS) in South Carolina, and to irradiate the MOX fuel in commercial nuclear reactors used to generate electricity.

TVA is a cooperating agency on this SPD Supplemental EIS. TVA is considering the use of MOX fuel, produced as part of DOE’s Surplus Plutonium Disposition Program, in its nuclear power reactors.

DATES: DOE invites Federal agencies, state and local governments, Native American tribes, industry, other interested organizations, and members of the public to comment on the Draft SPD Supplemental EIS during a 60-day public comment period which starts with the publication of the Environmental Protection Agency’s Notice of Availability in the Federal Register and ends on September 25, 2012. Comments received after this date will be considered to the extent practicable. DOE will hold public hearings on the Draft SPD Supplemental EIS; the dates, times and locations are listed under SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

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