

Engineers (Corps) for a permit to discharge fill material into wetlands to facilitate the construction and operation of an open pit copper/nickel/cobalt/precious metals mine in the low grade polymetallic disseminated magmatic sulfide NorthMet deposit in northeastern Minnesota, approximately 6 miles south of the town of Babbitt. The mining process would require the construction of waste and product stockpiles near the open pit. Ore processing would be conducted at a currently inactive taconite processing plant (modifications would be necessary), and ore tailings would be disposed of in a currently inactive taconite tailings basin adjacent to the processing plant. The processing plant and tailings basin are located about 8 miles west of the NorthMet deposit and about 5 miles north of the town of Hoyt Lakes. Ore would be transported from the mine to the processing plant via an existing railroad line. Construction of a railroad spur to the mine and a connecting railroad line to the plant site would be required. Project plans call for the mining of up to 32,000 tons of ore per day after overburden and waste rock stripping and stockpiling. Mining operations would be conducted 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, over the 20-year life of the project. Processing the ore would involve crushing, grinding, flotation, and hydrometallurgical processing. Cathode copper (high purity metal) would be produced on-site by solvent extraction and electrowinning. The processing would produce other metals (nickel, cobalt, palladium, platinum, and gold) as precipitates rather than as finished metal. The precipitates would be shipped offsite for further refining.

The project would require dredging or discharging fill material into an estimated 1,257 acres of wetlands. While some of the wetlands may be isolated, the majority of the wetlands are adjacent to the Partridge River, which is a tributary to the St. Louis River, which is a navigable water of the United States. A specific compensatory wetland mitigation plan has not yet been developed for the project. PolyMet Mining, Inc., has expressed interest in working with various interested federal and state agencies to develop an acceptable plan that would meet federal and state compensatory mitigation requirements. The discharge of fill material into waters of the United States requires a permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The final environmental impact statement will be used as a basis for the permit decision and to ensure compliance with the

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions concerning the DEIS can be addressed to Mr. Jon K. Ahlness, Regulatory Branch by letter at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 190 Fifth Street East, St. Paul MN 55101-1638, by telephone at (651) 290-5381, or by e-mail at jon.k.ahlness@mvp02.usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Corps and the State of Minnesota will jointly prepare the DEIS. The Corps is the lead federal agency and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) is the lead state agency. The U.S. Forest Service is a cooperating agency. The Corps and the MnDNR will prepare and release to the public a Scoping Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) and a Draft Scoping Decision Document. The public will have 30 days to provide comments on those two documents. The Corps and the MnDNR will conduct a public scoping meeting in Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota during the 30-day public comment period. A notice will be published or aired in local media once the meeting has been scheduled. Additional meetings will be conducted as needed. In accordance with 40 CFR 1506.5(c) and Corps policy, a third party contractor will be selected to prepare the DEIS. We anticipate that the DEIS will be available to the public in the summer of 2006.

The DEIS will assess impacts of the proposed action and reasonable alternatives, identify and evaluate mitigation alternatives, and discuss potential environmental monitoring. Significant issues and resources to be identified in the DEIS will be determined through coordination with responsible federal, state, and local agencies; the general public; interested private organizations and parties; and affected Native American Tribes. Anyone who has an interest in participating in the development of the DEIS is invited to contact the St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers. Major issues identified to date for discussion in the DEIS are the impacts of the proposed project on:

1. Natural resources including: Fishery, wildlife, vegetation, waters of the U.S., including wetlands, and riparian areas.
2. Water quality, water quantity, groundwater, erosion, and sedimentation.
3. Air quality.
4. Social and economic resources.
5. Downstream resources.

Additional issues of interest may be identified through the public scoping meeting and agency meetings.

The development of an open pit sulfide ore mine and associated ore processing and tailings facilities would be considered major in scope. The project: (1) Would have a significant adverse effect on wetlands (which are special aquatic sites), (2) has the potential to significantly affect water quality and groundwater, and (3) would also adversely affect plankton, fish, and wildlife. Our environmental review will be conducted to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Council of Environmental Quality Regulations, Endangered Species Act of 1973, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and applicable laws and regulations.

Dated: June 23, 2005.

Michael F. Pfennig,

Colonel, Corps of Engineers District Engineer.

[FR Doc. 05-13018 Filed 6-30-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Meeting of the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences

AGENCY: Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

ACTION: Quarterly Meeting Notice; The Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

SUMMARY: The actions that will take place are the approval of the minutes from the Board of Regents meetings on May 19-20, 2005; departmental reports; and degrees from the USU School of Medicine. The President, USU; Dean, USU School of Medicine; and Dean, USU Graduate School of Nursing will also present reports. These actions are necessary in order to remain an accredited medical school and to pursue our mission, which is to provide trained medical personnel to our uniformed services. This meeting is in Harrisburg, PA to allow observation of a medical field exercise.

DATES: July 18, 2005, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

ADDRESSES: Hilton Harrisburg and Towers, 1 North Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barry W. Wolcott, M.D., Executive Secretary, Board of Regents, 301-295-3981.

Dated: June 24, 2005.

Jeannette Owings-Ballard,

*OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer,
Department of Defense.*

[FR Doc. 05-13006 Filed 6-28-05; 4:30 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Proposed Agency Information Collection

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) invites public comment on a proposed collection of information that DOE is developing for submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The Office of Science reports annually in the President's Budget Request the numbers of researchers, post docs, graduate students and technicians supported through Research Grants and Field Work Proposals (FWPs). However, these data are based on forecasts by the principal investigator (*i.e.*, PIs) at the time the grants and FWPs were initially funded. These estimates are unreliable because they are based on the best guess of the PIs at the time of funding. While the PI's initial estimate could be accurate at the time of the request, the reliability of the initial estimate decreases as the project matures. Further, the forecasts by the PIs are subjective. Therefore, it is not possible to quantify the inaccuracies with any confidence. To better plan for future investments, the Office of Science must better understand the actual impact of its budget on the technical manpower supported. A short (approximately 17 minutes) web-based survey has been developed to collect actual workforce data from a small sample of researchers currently supported by the Office of Science. The result will be compared to proposal data to estimate the average and range of variation and to derive a statistically valid methodology for approximating budgetary impacts on the technical manpower supported. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and

clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

DATES: Comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before August 30, 2005. If you anticipate difficulty in submitting comments within that period, contact the person listed below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be sent to:

Christine Chalk, Office of Science, SC-1.22, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20585.

or by fax at 202-586-7203, or by e-mail at christine.chalk@science.doe.gov

and to:

Sharon A. Evelin, Director, IM-11, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, Maryland 20874

or by fax, 301-903-9061 or by e-mail at sharon.evelin@hq.doe.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Christine Chalk at the address listed above in **ADDRESSES**.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This package contains: (1) OMB No. {enter "New"}; (2) Package Title: DOE 2005 Technical Manpower Online Survey; (3) Type of Review: {New}; (4) Purpose: To improve planning efforts by improving the quality of data regarding the numbers and types of personnel supported through research grants; (5) Respondents: 366; (6) Estimated Number of Burden Hours: approximately 17 minutes per respondent times 366 respondents is 103.7 hours. Statutory Authority: Department of Energy Organization Act (Pub. L. 95-91, as amended) Sec. 209 defines the duty and the responsibilities of the Director of Office of Science to include: Advising the Secretary with respect to education and training activities required for effective short- and long-term basic and applied research activities of the Department; and Advising the Secretary with respect to grants and other forms of financial assistance required for effective short-

and long-term basic and applied research activities of the Department.

Issued in Washington, DC, on June 23, 2005.

Sharon A. Evelin,

*Director, Records Management Division,
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 05-13008 Filed 6-30-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Agency Information Collection Extension

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE), pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 intends to extend for three years, an information collection package with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) concerning Security requirements for DOE contractors. The collections consist of information (1) for the nuclear materials control and accountability for DOE-owned and leased facilities and DOE-owned nuclear materials at other facilities that are exempt from licensing by the NRC; (2) for the protection of classified information, special nuclear materials and other national security assets (DOE site self-assessments and site security plans); and (3) on DOE Federal and contractors traveling to foreign countries; for tracking and recording background information on foreign nationals having access to DOE facilities and information; and collection of Foreign Ownership, Control or Influence data from bidders on DOE contracts requiring personnel security clearances. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the extended collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection.