

cooling with groundwater back-up water supply) would use a combined wet/dry cooling system. The dry portion would use an air-cooled condenser as a heat transfer mechanism and the wet portion of the system would be used in parallel to the dry system, as needed, to achieve full unit output on warmer days. Both alternatives would require installation of groundwater production wells and a pipeline system to convey groundwater to the proposed plant site. Other changes described in the Supplemental Draft EIS include plant water usage, water treatment, and wastewater management. There are no other significant changes to the Proposed Action as described in Section 2.2 of the Draft EIS.

The Supplemental Draft EIS evaluates the environmental impacts of the proposed Project on air quality, water resources (groundwater, floodplains, surface water), geology, minerals, paleontological resources, soils, biological resources (vegetation, wildlife, fisheries, special status species, wetland/riparian areas), cultural and historical resources, land use (land use planning, public facilities, recreation, agricultural practices and prime and unique farmland), infrastructure, public health, waste management, visual resources, noise, social and economic values, environmental justice, and cumulative impacts.

Western maintains a mailing list of those interested in the Big Stone II Project EIS. Copies of the complete Supplemental Draft EIS or the Executive Summary have been distributed to all persons and groups on the mailing list that requested a copy. A distribution has been made to various libraries in the proposed Project area.

Oral comments on the Supplemental Draft EIS will be accepted only during the public hearing scheduled for the date and location provided above. Those wishing to make oral comments may do so at the scheduled public hearing. Speakers will be asked to register at the door prior to the beginning of the hearing. Speakers are encouraged to provide a written version of their oral comments for the record. Each speaker will be allowed 5 minutes to present comments unless more time is requested and available. Comments will be recorded by a court reporter at the hearing and will become part of the public hearing record. Western will conduct an open house information session 2 hours prior to the public hearing to field questions and provide information to the public.

Copies of the Supplemental Draft EIS are available for public review at the offices and public libraries listed below:

Public Libraries

Ortonville Public Library, 412 Second Street Northwest, Ortonville, Minnesota.

Morris Public Library, 102 East 6th Street, Morris, Minnesota.

Granite Falls Public Library, 155 7th Avenue, Granite Falls, Minnesota.

Appleton Public Library, 322 W. Schlieman Avenue, Appleton, Minnesota.

Canby Public Library, 110 Oscar Avenue North, Canby, Minnesota.

Willmar Public Library, 410 5th Street Southwest, Willmar, Minnesota.

Kerkhoven Public Library, 208 10th Street North, Kerkhoven, Minnesota.

Benson Public Library, 200 13th Street South, Benson, Minnesota.

Grant County Public Library, 207 Park Avenue East, Milbank, South Dakota.

Watertown Regional Library, 611 Bruhn Avenue NE., Watertown, South Dakota.

The Draft EIS is also available at DOE Reading Rooms at the following addresses:

U.S. Department of Energy, Forrestal Building, Reading Room 1E-190, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585; Western Area Power Administration, Corporate Services Office, 12155 West Alameda Parkway, Lakewood, Colorado 80228; and Western Area Power Administration, Upper Great Plains Customer Service Region, South Dakota Maintenance Office, 200 4th Street, SW., Huron, South Dakota 57350.

Western will consider all written comments postmarked or received during the public comment period in preparing the Final EIS. Decisions by each of the involved Federal agencies will be made after considering comments on the Draft, Supplemental Draft, and Final EIS. The decisions to be made by Western, RUS, and USACE regarding the proposed Big Stone II Power Plant and Transmission Project will be issued following the Final EIS in the form of separate records of decision for each agency.

Dated: October 19, 2007.

Timothy J. Meeks,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. E7-21088 Filed 10-25-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-8487-8]

Science Advisory Board Staff Office; Request for Additional Expertise for the Science Advisory Board Asbestos Expert Panel

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) Staff Office is seeking public nominations of additional experts in the formation of the Asbestos Expert Panel in the areas of biostatistics, statistical modeling, epidemiology, meta-analysis, Bayesian analysis and toxicology of inhaled particles. Previous nominations of individuals for this asbestos panel need not be re-submitted, as they will still be considered.

DATES: New nominations should be submitted by November 16, 2007.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Members of the public who wish to obtain further information regarding this announcement may contact Ms. Vivian Turner, Designated Federal Officer, by telephone: (202) 343-9697 or e-mail at: turner.vivian@epa.gov. The SAB Mailing address is: U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board (1400F), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460. General information about the SAB as well as any updates concerning this request for nominations may be found on the SAB Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/sab>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) requested the Science Advisory Board (SAB) provide technical advice on the proposed methodology to estimate cancer potency from inhalation exposure to asbestos. In 71 FR 48926-48927, the SAB announced the formation of an Asbestos Expert Panel and solicited nominations for members to that Panel. In response to that **Federal Register** Notice, the SAB Staff Office received nominations in the areas of clinical and pulmonary medicine, epidemiology, occupational and public health, pathology, inhalation toxicology; biology, mineralogy; environmental fate and transport, environmental sampling and detection methods, biostatistics, statistical modeling and risk assessment.

The Science Advisory Board Staff Office is now seeking additional nominations for nationally and internationally recognized non-EPA scientists who have expert knowledge in

biostatistics, statistical modeling, epidemiology, meta-analysis, Bayesian analysis and toxicology of inhaled particles.

The SAB is a chartered Federal Advisory Committee, established by 42 U.S.C. 4365, to provide independent scientific and technical advice, consultation, and recommendations to the EPA Administrator on the technical bases for EPA policies and actions. The SAB expert panel will provide technical advice to EPA through the chartered SAB. The SAB Asbestos Panel will comply with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and all appropriate SAB procedural policies.

Request for Nominations: The SAB Staff Office is requesting nominations for nationally and internationally recognized non-EPA scientists with demonstrated expertise in biostatistics, statistical modeling, epidemiology, meta-analysis, Bayesian analysis and toxicology of inhaled particles. The previously submitted nominations of individuals for this Asbestos Expert Panel need not be re-submitted, as they will still be considered.

Process and Deadline for Submitting Nominations: Any interested person or organization may nominate individuals qualified in the areas of expertise described above to serve on the SAB Asbestos Expert Panel. Nominations may be submitted in electronic format through the *Form for Nominating Individuals to Panels of the EPA Science Advisory Board* which can be accessed through a link on the blue navigational bar on the SAB Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/sab>. Please follow the instructions for submitting nominations carefully, and include all of the information requested on that form. The nominating form requests contact information of the person making the nomination; contact information for the nominee; the disciplinary and specific areas of expertise of the nominee; the nominee's curriculum vita; and a biographical sketch of the nominee indicating current position, educational background, research activities, and recent service on other national advisory committees or national professional organizations. Anyone unable to submit nominations using the electronic form, or who may have questions concerning the nomination process or any other aspect of this notice may contact Ms. Vivian Turner, DFO, at the contact information. Nominations should be submitted in time to arrive no later than November 16, 2007.

The process for forming an SAB panel is described in the *Overview of the*

Panel Formation Process at the Environmental Protection Agency, Science Advisory Board (EPA-SAB-EC-COM-02-010), on the SAB Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/sab/pdf/ec02010.pdf>. The SAB Staff Office will acknowledge receipt of nominations and inform nominees of the panel for which they have been nominated. From the nominees identified by respondents to this **Federal Register** notice (termed the "Widecast"), the SAB Staff Office will develop a smaller subset (known as the "Short List") for more detailed consideration. The Short List will be posted on the SAB Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/sab> and will include the nominee's name and biographical sketch. Public comments on the Short List will be accepted for 21 calendar days. During this comment period, the public will be requested to provide information, analysis or other documentation on nominees that the SAB Staff Office should consider in evaluating candidates for the panel.

For the SAB, a balanced panel is characterized by inclusion of nominees who possess the necessary domains of knowledge, the relevant scientific perspectives (which, among other factors, can be influenced by work history and affiliation), and the collective breadth of experience to adequately address the charge. Public responses to the Short List will be considered in the selection of the panel members, along with information provided by nominees and information independently gathered by SAB Staff (e.g., financial disclosure information and computer searches to evaluate a nominee's prior involvement with the topic under review). Specific criteria to be used in evaluating Short List nominees include: (a) Scientific and/or technical expertise, knowledge, and experience (primary factors); (b) absence of financial conflicts of interest; (c) scientific credibility and impartiality; (d) availability and willingness to serve; and (e) ability to work constructively and effectively on committees.

Dated: October 19, 2007.

Anthony F. Maciorowski,
Deputy Director, EPA Science Advisory Board
Staff Office.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL6692-4]

Environmental Impact Statements and Regulations; Availability of EPA Comments

Availability of EPA comments prepared pursuant to the Environmental Review Process (ERP), under section 309 of the Clean Air Act and section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act as amended. Requests for copies of EPA comments can be directed to the Office of Federal Activities at 202-564-7167.

An explanation of the ratings assigned to draft environmental impact statements (EISs) was published in FR dated April 6, 2007 (72 FR 17156).

Draft EISs

EIS No. 20070285, ERP No. D-COE-K35044-CA, Berth 136-147 [TraPac] Container Terminal Project, Upgrade Existing Wharf Facilities, Install a Buffer Area between the Terminal and Community, US Army COE Section 10 and 404 Permit, West Basin Portion of the Port of Los Angeles, CA.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns because the preferred alternative may not represent the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative, as required under the Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines. EPA also expressed environmental concerns about impacts to air quality and minority and low-income communities, and requested that the Final EIS discuss mitigation in more detail. Rating EC2.

EIS No. 20070296, ERP No. D-AFS-K65332-CA, Eldorado National Forest Public Wheeled Motorized Travel Management Project, Proposes to Regulate Unmanaged Public Wheeled Motor Vehicle, Implementation, Alpine, Amador, El Dorado and Placer Counties, CA.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns about impacts to water quality, meadows, riparian areas, critical habitat, and watersheds, and requested additional information on the above issues, monitoring and enforcement commitments. Rating EC2.

EIS No. 20070297, ERP No. D-AFS-J65486-UT, Big Creek Vegetation Treatment Project, To Treat 4,800 Acres of Aspen Conifer and Sagebrush Communities, Ogden Ranger District, Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Rich County, UT.

Summary: While EPA does not object to the proposed action, it requested