

collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment.

The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: December 4, 2008.

**Angela C. Arrington,**

*Leader, Information Management Case Services Team Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

#### Office of the Secretary

*Type of Review:* Extension.

*Title:* Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunity for Applicants.

*Frequency:* Annually.

*Affected Public:* Businesses or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.

*Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:*

Responses: 18,800.

Burden Hours: 1,503.

*Abstract:* To ensure equal opportunity for all applicants including community-based, faith-based and religious groups, it is essential to collect information that allows Federal agencies to determine the level of participation of such organizations in Federal grant programs while ensuring that such information is not used in grant-making decisions.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 3857. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., LBJ, Washington, DC 20202-4537. Requests may also be electronically mailed to [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov) or faxed to 202-401-0920. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be electronically mailed to [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@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. E8-29180 Filed 12-9-08; 8:45 am]

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#### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

##### Extension of Public Comment Period on the Draft Global Nuclear Energy Partnership Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

**AGENCY:** Office of Nuclear Energy, U.S. Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of extension of public comment period.

**SUMMARY:** On October 17, 2008, DOE published a Notice of Availability and Public Hearings (73 FR 61845) for the *Draft Global Nuclear Energy Partnership Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (Draft GNEP PEIS, DOE/EIS-0396). That notice commenced a 60-day public comment period and provided the schedule for 13 public hearings to receive comments on the Draft GNEP PEIS. Today, DOE announces an extension of the public comment period by 90 days. The public comment period on the Draft GNEP PEIS will end March 16, 2009.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Please direct questions regarding the extension of the public comment period, requests for additional information, or requests for copies of the Draft GNEP PEIS to Mr. Francis Schwartz, GNEP PEIS Document Manager, Office of Nuclear Energy (NE-5), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585. Questions also may be telephoned, toll free, to 1-866-645-7803.

For general information regarding the DOE NEPA process contact: Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (GC-20), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585, telephone 202-586-4600, or leave a message at 1-800-472-2756. Additional information regarding DOE NEPA activities and access to many of DOE's NEPA documents are available on the Internet through the DOE NEPA Web site at <http://www.gc.energy.gov/NEPA>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On October 17, 2008, DOE published a Notice of Availability and Public Hearings (73 FR 61845) for the *Draft Global Nuclear Energy Partnership Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (Draft GNEP PEIS, DOE/EIS-0396). That notice commenced a 60-day public comment period and provided the schedule for 13 public hearings to receive comments on the Draft GNEP PEIS. Today, DOE announces an extension of the public comment period by 90 days.

In response to public requests, DOE is extending the comment period by 90 days to allow for additional review and comment on the Draft GNEP PEIS. DOE invites comments on the Draft GNEP PEIS during the public comment period, which ends on March 16, 2009. DOE will consider comments received after this date to the extent practicable as it prepares the Final GNEP PEIS.

Written comments on the Draft GNEP PEIS should be submitted to Mr. Francis Schwartz, GNEP PEIS Document Manager, Office of Nuclear Energy (NE-5), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave, SW., Washington, DC 20585, by facsimile to 866-489-1891, or electronically through <http://www.regulations.gov>. Please mark correspondence "Draft GNEP PEIS Comments." Additional information regarding commenting on the Draft GNEP PEIS may be found at <http://www.gnep.energy.gov/peis/commenting.html>.

The Draft GNEP PEIS and supporting references are available in public reading rooms (listed below) and on the Internet at <http://www.gnep.energy.gov>. In addition, the Draft GNEP PEIS is available on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> and on the DOE NEPA Web site at <http://www.gc.energy.gov/NEPA>.

U.S. Department of Energy, FOIA/Privacy Act Group, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585, Phone: (202) 586-3142;

Carlsbad Field Office, U.S. Department of Energy, WIPP Information Center, 4021 National Parks Highway, PO Box 2078,

Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220, Phone: 1-800-336-WIPP;

Chicago Operations Office, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science Public Reading Room, Document Department, University Library, The University of Illinois at Chicago, 801 South Morgan Street, 3rd Floor Center, Chicago, Illinois 60607, DOE Contact: Gary Pitchford, Phone: (630) 252-2013;

Idaho Operations Office, U.S. Department of Energy, Public Reading Room, 1776 Science Center Drive, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83415-2300, Reading Room Contact: Gail Willmore, Phone: (208) 526-9162;

Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, Department of Energy, Environmental Information Center and Reading Room, 115 Memorial Drive, Barkley Centre, Paducah, Kentucky 42001, Phone: (270) 554-6979;

Los Alamos Site Office, LANL Research Library, Technical Area 3, Building 207, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545, Phone: (505) 667-5809;

Oak Ridge Operations Office, DOE Oak Ridge Information Center, 475 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830, Phone: (865) 241-4780 or (toll-free) 1(800) 382-6938, option 6;

Richland Operations Office, U.S. Department of Energy, Public Reading Room, MSIN H2-53, P.O. Box 999, Richland, Washington 99352, Contact: Terri Traub, Phone: (509) 372-7443;

Savannah River Operations Office, U.S. Department of Energy, Public Reading Room, 471 University Parkway, Aiken, South Carolina 29801, Contact: Paul Lewis, Phone: (803) 641-3320;

Albuquerque Operations Office, FOIA Reading Room and DOE Reading Rooms, Government Information Department, Zimmerman Library, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131-1466, Contact: Dan Barkley, Phone: (505) 277-7180;

Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant, Department of Energy, Environmental Information Center, 1862 Shyville Road, Room 220, Piketon, Ohio 45661.

Issued in Washington, DC on December 4, 2008.

**Dennis R. Spurgeon,**

*Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### National Nuclear Security Administration

#### Amended Record of Decision: Surplus Plutonium Disposition; Waste Solidification Building

**AGENCY:** National Nuclear Security Administration, U.S. Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Amended Record of Decision.

**SUMMARY:** The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), a

separately organized agency within the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), is amending the Record of Decision (ROD) for the *Surplus Plutonium Disposition Environmental Impact Statement* (SPD EIS) (DOE/EIS-0283, November 1999). In the SPD EIS ROD (65 FR 1608; January 11, 2000), DOE announced decisions for implementing the U.S. Surplus Plutonium Disposition Program, including affirming its January 1997 decision (62 FR 3014) to pursue a hybrid approach for the safe and secure disposition of up to 50 metric tons of surplus weapons-usable plutonium using both immobilization and mixed oxide (MOX) fuel technologies as evaluated in the *Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (Storage and Disposition PEIS) (DOE/EIS-0229, November 1996). Decisions announced in the SPD EIS ROD included construction and operation of three new facilities at the Savannah River Site (SRS) near Aiken, South Carolina, to disposition approximately 17 tons of surplus plutonium using the immobilization approach and the use of up to 33 metric tons as MOX fuel that would be irradiated in commercial reactors. The three new facilities were identified as a pit disassembly and conversion facility (PDCF), an immobilization facility,<sup>1</sup> and a MOX fuel fabrication facility (MFFF). These facilities as analyzed in the SPD EIS were to be constructed in F-Area at SRS and included capabilities for management of wastes generated as part of the processing activities in each of the facilities. DOE/NNSA is today announcing its decision to construct and operate a standalone building, the waste solidification building (WSB), for treating and solidifying liquid transuranic waste and certain liquid low-level radioactive wastes from MFFF and PDCF, specifically a high-activity (high-alpha) waste stream from MFFF, a low-activity stripped-uranium waste stream from MFFF, and a low-activity laboratory waste stream from PDCF.<sup>2</sup> This decision is based on the *Supplement Analysis for Construction*

<sup>1</sup> In an April 19, 2002, amended ROD (67 FR 19432), DOE announced cancellation of the immobilization component of the U.S. Surplus Plutonium Disposition Program.

<sup>2</sup> The decision announced in this amended ROD is consistent with the approach discussed in the Construction Authorization Request and the License Application submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) by DOE/NNSA's contractor for the Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility. The decision also is consistent with the approach discussed in the NRC's *Environmental Impact Statement on the Construction and Operation of a Proposed Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility at the Savannah River Site, South Carolina* (NUREG-1767).

*and Operation of a Waste Solidification Building at the Savannah River Site* (WSB SA) (DOE/EIS-0283-SA-2) prepared pursuant to DOE procedures implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (10 CFR 1021.314). The WSB SA demonstrates that construction and operation of a standalone WSB represent neither substantial changes relevant to environmental concerns nor significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns from those evaluated in previous NEPA documents.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information concerning construction and operation of the waste solidification building, or to obtain copies of this amended ROD, contact: Ms. Sachiko W. McAlhany, Office of Site Engineering and Construction Management, U.S. Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration, Savannah River Site, Aiken, South Carolina 29802, Telephone: (803) 952-6110, E-mail: [sachiko-w.mcalhany@nnsa.srs.gov](mailto:sachiko-w.mcalhany@nnsa.srs.gov).

For information on the DOE's NEPA process, contact: Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance, GC-20, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-0103, (202) 586-4600, or leave a message at (800) 472-2756.

This Amended ROD, the WSB SA, and other DOE NEPA documents are available on the DOE NEPA Web site at <http://www.gc.energy.gov/NEPA>.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The U.S. Surplus Plutonium Disposition Program was first evaluated under NEPA in the Storage and Disposition PEIS. Among the alternatives evaluated, the Reactor Category and Common Activities Alternative included a MOX fuel fabrication facility conceptual design with a standalone building to manage wastes. The ROD for the Storage and Disposition PEIS (62 FR 3014) outlined DOE's decision to pursue a hybrid disposition strategy that allowed for both immobilization of surplus weapons-usable plutonium for disposal in a geologic repository and fabrication of MOX fuel for use in existing domestic, commercial nuclear power reactors followed by disposal of the spent MOX fuel in a geologic repository.

Subsequent to the Storage and Disposition PEIS, DOE prepared the SPD EIS, which supported selection of specific technologies and sites for