

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces the availability of a Final EIS (FEIS) entitled "Management of Spent Nuclear Fuel from the K Basins at the Hanford Site, Richland, Washington." DOE/EIS-0245F. The FEIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts of managing spent nuclear fuel (SNF) located in the K-East (KE) and K-West (KW) SNF storage basins at the Hanford Site located in southeastern Washington State. The FEIS was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA in 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508; and DOE's NEPA implementing procedures in 10 CFR Part 1021. The FEIS consists of the Draft EIS (DEIS) and an Addendum containing (1) public comments on the DEIS and DOE's responses to the comments, and (2) a compilation of errata.

The FEIS has been filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and has also been distributed to interested members of the public and federal and state agencies. The FEIS will also be available for viewing by the public in the DOE public reading rooms and information repositories identified in this notice. DOE plans to issue a record of decision on the FEIS no sooner than 30 days after the publication of the notice of availability of the FEIS in the Federal Register.

**ADDRESSES AND FURTHER INFORMATION:** Requests for copies of the FEIS and further information on the FEIS should be directed to: Dr. Phillip G. Loscoe, U.S. Department of Energy, P.O. Box 550, M/S S7-41, Richland, Washington 99352. Dr. Loscoe may be contacted by telephone at (509) 376-7434 or at (800) 321-2008. General information on the DOE NEPA process may be obtained from Ms. Carol Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance (EH-42), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20585. Ms. Borgstrom may be reached by telephone at (202) 586-4600 or by leaving a message at (800) 472-2756.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

DOE issued a notice of availability and public hearing for the DEIS and the EPA published a notice of availability in the Federal Register on November 9, 1995 (60 FR 56581, 56590). The public

comment period on the DEIS ended on December 29, 1995. One public hearing on the DEIS was held in Pasco, Washington on December 12, 1995. All written and oral public comments on the DEIS were assessed and considered by DOE both individually and collectively.

Because there were no additional alternatives identified from the public and agency review process, DOE determined that an Addendum to the DEIS could be prepared in lieu of rewriting the DEIS. Comment letters, public hearing transcripts, the DOE responses to comments, and a compilation of errata are printed in the Addendum. The DEIS and the Addendum constitute the FEIS under the CEQ regulation at 40 CFR 1503.4(c).

Responses to some comments resulted in errata. Responses to other comments included answers to questions, explanations of technical issues, references to information in DOE's Programmatic SNF EIS (DOE/EIS-0203-F), references to the Draft EIS, explanations of the relationship of this EIS to other related DOE NEPA documents, statements of government policy, or indications that the comment was beyond the scope of this EIS.

**Alternatives Considered**

The FEIS, like the DEIS, addresses the potential environmental impacts of alternative ways to provide for the safe management and storage of SNF currently stored in the Hanford K Basins. DOE's preferred alternative in the FEIS is the same as in the DEIS, i.e., drying/passivation (conditioning) of the SNF followed by dry vault storage. This alternative would provide for drying the SNF, placing it in multi-canister overpacks in an inert atmosphere, and storing it in a vault for up to 40 years. The FEIS compares the environmental impacts that would be expected to occur from continuing storage in the KE and KW basins (the no action alternative) with the consequences that would be expected to occur if DOE implemented the preferred alternative or one of five other alternatives. The five other alternatives are (1) an enhanced K Basin storage alternative under which SNF would be consolidated in the KW Basin; (2) removal of the SNF and subsequent storage in a new wet storage facility at Hanford; (3) removal of the SNF followed by calcination and dry storage at Hanford; (4) removal of the SNF followed by processing at Hanford and dry storage of the recovered uranium and plutonium at Hanford; and (5) removal of the SNF followed by foreign processing and dry storage of the

recovered uranium and plutonium at Hanford.

**Availability of Copies of the FEIS**

Copies of the FEIS have been distributed to federal, state, and local officials and agencies, organizations and individuals known to be interested in the EIS, and to persons and agencies that commented on the DEIS. Copies of the FEIS may be obtained by contacting Dr. Loscoe at the above address or telephone numbers.

Copies of the FEIS, including reference materials, comment letters, public hearing transcripts, and the DOE responses to comments, will be available for public review at the DOE public reading rooms and information repositories listed below.

(1) U.S. Department of Energy, Headquarters, Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190 Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20585, (202) 586-6020, Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

(2) U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, Public Reading Room, 100 Sprout Road, Room 130W, Richland, WA 99352, (509) 376-8583, Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

(3) University of Washington, Suzzallo Library, Government Publications Room, Seattle, WA 98185, (206) 685-9855, Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

(4) Gonzaga University, Foley Center, East 502 Boone Avenue, Spokane, WA 99258, (509) 328-4220 ext. 3829, Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m. to midnight, Friday 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Sunday 11:00 a.m. to midnight.

(5) Portland State University, Branford Price Millar Library, SW Harrison and Park, Portland, OR 97207, (503) 725-3690, Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

(6) Nuclear and Mixed Waste Library, Washington State Department of Ecology, 300 Desmond Dr. S.E., Lacey, WA 98504, (360) 407-7097, Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Potential users should call ahead to verify the open hours at the reading room of interest.

Signed in Richland, WA this 25th day of January, 1996, for the United States Department of Energy.

John D. Wagoner,

Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office.

[FR Doc. 96-2241 Filed 2-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

**Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Nevada Test Site and Off-Site Locations Within the State of Nevada**

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy (DOE) announces the availability of the Draft Sitewide Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the Nevada Test Site and Off-site Locations in the State of Nevada (DOE/EIS-0243), for public review and comment. DOE also announces the dates, times, and locations for public hearings on the Draft EIS. Alternative uses for the land and facilities at the site are analyzed in the Draft EIS.

**DATES:** DOE filed the Draft EIS with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on January 26, 1996, with an expected Federal Register publication date for the notice of availability of February 2, 1996. Written or oral comments on the Draft EIS are invited from the general public, other government agencies, and all other interested parties. Comments received or postmarked by May 3, 1996, whether written or oral, submitted directly to the Department, or presented during a public hearing, will be given equal consideration in preparation of the final EIS. Comments received or postmarked after that date, will be considered to the extent practicable. DOE will use the comments received to help prepare the final version of the EIS.

The dates and locations for the public meetings are listed below. All meetings are scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m.: March 5, 1996, Dixie Center Convention Facilities, 425 South 700 East, St. George, Utah; March 13, 1996, Bob Ruud Community Center, 150 North Highway 160, Pahrump, Nevada; March 19, 1996, University of Nevada, Student Union Bldg., Reno, Nevada; March 26, 1996, Cashman Field Convention Center, 850 Las Vegas Blvd. North, Las Vegas, Nevada.

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for a copy of the Draft EIS and written comments on the Draft Site-wide EIS should be directed to: Donald R. Elle, Director, Environmental Protection Division, U.S. Department of Energy, Nevada Operations Office, P.O. Box 14459, Las Vegas, NV 89114, phone (702) 295-1433. Oral comments may be submitted at the public hearing or by calling the Nevada Test Site EIS Hotline, 1-800-405-1140 or (702) 794-1550, and recording comments or suggestions.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For general information on the Department's NEPA process, please contact: Ms. Carol

Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20585, 202-586-4600 or leave a message at 1-800-472-2756.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

This sitewide EIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts of four possible resource management alternatives being considered for the Nevada Test Site (NTS), the Tonopah Test Range, and the formerly operated DOE sites in the state of Nevada: the Project Shoal Area, the Central Nevada Test Area, and portions of the Nellis Air Force Range Complex. Three additional sites in Nevada, Coyote Spring Valley, Dry Lake Valley, and Eldorado Valley are evaluated for colocation of solar energy production facilities. The four alternatives include No Action (continue to operate at the level maintained for the past 5 years); Discontinue Operations (discontinue operations and interagency programs and close the site); Expanded Use (maximize use of NTS and its resources to support defense and nondefense programs; and Alternate Use of Withdrawn Lands (discontinue all defense-related activities at NTS; continue waste management operations in support of NTS environmental restoration efforts; expand nondefense research). Environmental impacts were assessed for each alternative by analyzing, to the extent possible, the discrete and cumulative environmental impacts associated with defense, waste management, environmental restoration, nondefense research and development, and work for others programs.

**Related Documentation**

The Department will prepare transcripts of the oral comments received during the Draft EIS public hearings. The records of all comments, both oral and written, received during the comment period will be made available for public review in the reading rooms listed below. Additional background documents and references identified as pertinent during the EIS process will also be made available in the reading rooms.

1. DOE Public Reading Room, 2621 Losee Road, North Las Vegas, NV 89030
2. Las Vegas Public Library, 833 N. Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89101
3. Carson City Public Library, 900 N. Roop St., Carson City, NV 89701
4. Tonopah Public Library, 171 Central St. Tonopah, NV 89049

5. Doris Shirkey Library, 2101 E. Calvada Blvd., Pahrump, NV 89041
6. Caliente Branch Library, 100 Depot Avenue, Caliente, NV 89008
7. University of Nevada, Reno, Noble H. Getchell Library, Reno, NV 89557
8. University of Nevada, Las Vegas, James Dickenson Library, 4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89154
9. Freedom of Information Reading Room, Forrestal Bldg. 1000 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20585
10. Fallon Public Library, Churchill County Library, 553 S. Main, Fallon, NV 89406-3387
11. Washington County Library, 50 S. Main, St. George, UT 84770

**Cooperating Agencies**

The preparation of this Site-wide EIS required the participation of several Federal agencies and a local government, including the Department of Defense (Air Force and Defense Nuclear Agency), the Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management and Fish and Wildlife Service), and Nye County, Nevada.

**Public Hearings Registration and Format**

Oral and written comments may be presented at the public hearings. Persons desiring to speak at any of these hearings should register by calling the Nevada Test Site EIS Hotline by 3:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time, two working days in advance of the public hearing; or by writing to the Director of the Environmental Protection Division at the above address. Persons wishing to speak that have not registered in advance may register at the entrance of the meeting room. Individuals speaking on behalf of an organization should identify the organization represented. In order to solicit individual viewpoints and facilitate interactive communication between participants and representatives of the Department, opportunities will be provided at the public hearings for questions and informal discussions regarding the issues to be addressed in this EIS.

**Subsequent Document Preparation**

After the completion of the public hearing process for the Draft EIS, the Department will consider all comments prior to publication of the Final EIS and the Record of Decision.

Issued in Washington, DC, this 29th day of January, 1996.

Gary T. Palmer,

*Environmental Specialist, Office of Environmental Support, Defense Programs.*

[FR Doc. 96-2240 Filed 2-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

### **Savannah River Operations Office Financial Assistance Award; Intent To Award a Noncompetitive Cooperative Agreement**

**AGENCY:** Savannah River Operations Office, DOE.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The DOE announces that it plans to award a cooperative agreement to the University of Georgia Research Foundation (UGARF), University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602. The cooperative agreement, "Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL) Program," will be awarded for a five-year period at a projected funding level of \$70,000,000. Funds of \$12,000,000 are available for the first budget period, subject to the availability of funds; the remainder will be awarded thereafter. Pursuant to Section 10 CFR Part 600.7(b)(2)(i)(A) of the DOE Assistance Regulations (10 CFR Part 600), DOE has determined that a noncompetitive award is appropriate since the SREL Program is a continuation of the program presently being funded by DOE, and for which competition for support would have a significant adverse effect on continuity or completion of the activity.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Charlene Smith, Office of Procurement and Contractor Human Resources, U.S. Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office, P.O. Box A, Aiken, SC 29802, Telephone: (803) 725-7644.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Procurement Request Number:* 09-96SR18546.000.

*Project Scope:* The proposed cooperative agreement allows UGARF to continue the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL) program. SREL provides an independent evaluation of the ecological effects of Savannah River Site (SRS) operations through a program of ecological research, education and outreach. This program will continue basic and applied environmental research with emphasis upon expanding the understanding of ecological processes and principles, and upon evaluating the impacts of industrial and land use activities on the environment. The program will provide DOE and the public with an independent view of the

environmental management of the SRS. Publication of SREL's scientific findings in peer-reviewed journals will provide independent, verifiable science as a basis for DOE-SRS policy decisions. Collaboration will continue with the other SRS contractors and National Environmental Research Park participants. SREL will respond to mission priorities to increase understanding in such areas as biodiversity, ecosystem management, restoration/remediation ecology, geographic information systems and landscape ecology, radioecology, toxicology, ecological risk assessment, environmental transport of contaminants, dose responses of organisms, and predictive modeling of impacts of restoration processes on population structure and genetics of organisms in the environment.

Based on the documentation presented and appropriate evaluation, it is determined that this award to UGARF on a noncompetitive basis is appropriate and is in the best interest of DOE.

Issued in Aiken, South Carolina, on: January 9, 1996.

Ronald D. Simpson,

*DOE Savannah River Operations Office, Head of Contracting Activity, Designee.*

[FR Doc. 96-2243 Filed 2-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-M

### **Environmental Management Advisory Board**

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770), notice is hereby given of the following Advisory Committee meeting:

*Name:* Environmental Management Advisory Board; formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program Committee.

*Date and Times:* Thursday, February 15, 1996 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

*Place:* SAIC Headquarters, 301 Laboratory Road, First Floor Conference Room, Oak Ridge, TN 37831, (423) 481-8200.

*For Further Information Contact:* James T. Melillo, Executive Director, Environmental Management Advisory Board, EM-22, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-4400. The Internet address is: James.Melillo@em.doe.gov.

*Supplementary Information:* Purpose of the Board. The purpose of the Board is to provide the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management (EM) with advice and recommendations on issues confronting the Environmental Management program and the Programmatic Environmental Management Impact Statement, from the perspectives of affected groups and State and local Governments. The Board will help to

improve the Environmental Management Program by assisting in the process of securing consensus recommendations, and providing the Department's numerous publics with opportunities to express their opinions regarding the Environmental Management Program including the Formerly Utilized Site Remedial Action Program.

#### **Tentative Agenda**

*Thursday, February 15, 1996*

5:00 p.m.—Chairman Opens Public Meeting.

5:05 p.m.—Review of FUSRAP Committee's Mission and Final Report.

7:00 p.m.—Dinner Break.

8:00 p.m.—Public Comment Session Opens.

9:00 p.m.—Chairman Concludes Public Comment Session.

A final agenda will be available at the meeting.

*Public Participation:* The meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Board either before or after the meeting. Members of the public who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact James T. Melillo at the address or telephone number listed above. Individuals wishing to orally address the Committee during the public comment session should call (800) 736-3282 and leave a message. Individuals may also register on February 15, 1996 at the meeting site. Every effort will be made to hear all those wishing to speak to the Committee, on a first come, first serve basis. Those who call in and reserve time will be given the opportunity to speak first. This notice is being published less than 15 days before the date of the meeting due to programmatic issues that had to be resolved prior to publication. The Chairman is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business.

*Transcripts and Minutes:* Meeting minutes 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 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Issued at Washington, DC on January 30, 1996.

Rachel M. Samuel,

*Acting Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 96-2245 Filed 2-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

### **Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Oak Ridge**

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) notice is hereby given of the following Advisory Committee meeting: Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Oak Ridge.