

assessment." To the contrary, DOE believes the RWEIS ERA was conducted in accordance with the most current EPA guidance.

The objective of the RWEIS ERA was to determine, as accurately as possible under the existing L-Lake characteristics, the probable outcome of a CERCLA ERA.<sup>10</sup> The RWEIS ERA is adequate because it used maximum contaminant concentrations in its risk assessments. In fact, all radiological risks were within dosimetry-based limits acceptable to the International Atomic Energy Agency. Where the maximum concentrations of some non-radiological contaminants showed a risk potential, either the average concentration of the contaminant was compared to background levels or, alternately, the contaminant concentration was compared with more contaminant-specific information available in accepted scientific literature. This procedure is part of the typical process of interpreting the results and uncertainties of an ERA and represents the general ERA approach recommended in the EPA guidance for Superfund. EPA, Ecological Risk Assessment for Superfund: Process for Designing and Conducting Ecological Risk Assessments, Review Draft, (1996).

DOI also asserted that the "[c]onclusions of no risk are inconsistent with actual research findings." DOI cited specific DOE studies sent to USFWS during the formal Endangered Species Act consultation. The studies DOI cited assessed DNA changes found in blood samples of various wildlife species present on the SRS. In response to this assertion, DOE notes that, in no case did any of the studies suggest that an observable change in a wildlife population would result from the exposure to low levels of radionuclides found in L-Lake. Accordingly, this supports the RWEIS ERA finding that significant potential risks to ecological receptors from contaminants are not likely.

Finally, DOI commented on various DOE studies showing the presence of elevated mercury concentrations in the SRS environment. However, DOI's comment does not reflect the fact that

the presence of mercury in the SRS environment is not the result of releases attendant to SRS operations. Indeed, mercury is elevated throughout areas of the southeastern United States due to atmospheric deposition, not due to SRS operations. Reflecting and restating this fact, SCDHEC issued a fish consumption advisory for numerous lakes and rivers in South Carolina based on mercury concentrations in fish. Again, the presence of this mercury was not and cannot be correlated to any SRS operations. Accordingly, DOE has no control over and is not responsible for the atmospheric deposition of mercury at SRS, or in other areas of the southeastern United States. Consequently, a returning L-Lake water level to the original Steel Creek stream bed would not exacerbate this regional phenomenon or increase ecological risk.

### Conclusion

After consideration of all relevant information and data, DOE selects the No Action alternative as the most appropriate action for the future of the River Water System at the Savannah River Site at this time. This operational decision is made in recognition of all beneficial and adverse environmental impacts, monetary costs, regulatory implications and commitments under the FFA, and dictates of relevant statutes.

Signed this 23rd day of December, 1997, at Aiken, South Carolina.

**Greg Rudy,**

*Acting Manager, Savannah River Operations Office.*

[FR Doc. 98-1947 Filed 1-27-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Hydrogen Technical Advisory Panel

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. No. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770, as amended), notice is hereby given of the following advisory committee meeting: Hydrogen Technical Advisory Panel.

**Date:** Monday, March 2, 1998, 9:00 A.M.–4:30 P.M., Tuesday, March 3, 1998, 9:00 A.M.–3:30 P.M.

**Place:** Sheraton Premiere Hotel at Tysons Corners, 8631 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, Virginia 22182; Telephone: 800-572-7666.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Russell Eaton, Designated Federal Official, Department of Energy, Golden Field Office, 1617 Cole Blvd, Golden, CO 80401, Telephone: 303-275-4740.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Purpose of the Panel:** The Hydrogen Technical Advisory Panel (HTAP) will advise the Secretary of Energy who has the overall management responsibility for carrying out the programs under the Matsunaga Hydrogen Research, Development, and Demonstration Program Act of 1990, Pub. L. No. 101-566 and the Hydrogen Future Act of 1996, Public Law No. 104-271. The Panel will review and make any necessary recommendations to the Secretary on the following items: (1) The implementation and conduct of programs required by the Act, and (2) the economic, technological, and environmental consequences of the deployment of hydrogen production and use systems.

### Tentative Schedule

**Monday, March 2, 1998**

9:00 AM, Introduction and Opening Comments—A. Lloyd  
9:15, Opening Comments and Introduction of New Panelists—A. Lloyd/A. Hoffman  
9:45, DOE Federal Report—R. Eaton  
10:00, Report of the President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology (P-CAST), 11-Lab Study—S. Gronich  
10:30, Break  
10:45, Russian-American Fuel Cell Consortium (RAFCO)—R. Bradshaw  
11:15, DOE's Fuel Cell Coordination Committee—R. Bradshaw  
12:00 PM, Lunch  
1:30, Strategic Directions Draft Plan—Bailey/Kamal/Zalosh  
2:30, DOE Fuel Cell Program for Transportation—P. Patil  
3:00, Break  
3:15, California Hydrogen Business Council—D. Moard  
3:30, Public Comments—Audience  
4:00, HTAP Panel Comments—Panel  
4:30, Adjourn  
6:00, Reception

**Tuesday, March 3, 1998**

9:00 AM, HTAP Report to Congress—A. Lloyd  
12:00 PM, Lunch  
1:30, HTAP Report to Congress—Discussion  
2:45, Public Comments  
3:15, HTAP Panel Discussion and Roundup Panel  
3:30, Adjourn

**Public Participation:** The meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Committee either before or after the meeting. Individuals who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact Russell Eaton's office at the address or telephone number listed above. Requests must be received 5 days prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation in the agenda. The Designated Federal Official is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Each individual wishing to make public comment will be provided a maximum of 5 minutes to present their comments.

**Minutes:** The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000

<sup>10</sup> The CERCLA ERA will be used to aid the determination of a final remedial action at L-Lake. A final action is typically made only after the lake bed is characterized in detail using information such as groundwater hydrogeology, extent of groundwater contamination, and existing burial area contamination profiles. Presently, these areas are under as much as 50 feet of water and cannot be adequately characterized. As a result, a complete risk assessment cannot be performed and a final remedial alternative cannot be selected until L-Lake returns to the original Steel Creek stream bed.

Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585, between 9:00 A.M. and 4 P.M., Monday–Friday, except Federal holidays. Minutes will also be available by writing to Russell Eaton, Department of Energy, Golden Field Office, 1617 Cole Blvd., Golden, CO 80401, or by calling (303) 275–4740.

Issued at Washington, DC, on January 23, 1998.

**Rachel Samuel,**

*Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 98–2047 Filed 1–27–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Secretary of Energy Advisory Board; Notice of Open Meeting

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**SUMMARY:** Consistent with 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:* Secretary of Energy Advisory Board—Openness Advisory Panel.

*Date and Time:* Friday, February 13, 1998, 8:30 A.M.—3:30 P.M.

*Place:* Doubletree Hotel, Columbia Room, 802 George Washington Way, Richland, Washington 99352.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Richard C. Burrow, Secretary of Energy Advisory Board (AB–1), US Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20585, (202) 586–1709.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the Openness Advisory Panel is to provide advice to the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board regarding the status and strategic direction of the Department's classification and declassification policies and programs, and other aspects of the Department's ongoing Openness Initiative. The Panel's work will help institutionalize the Department's Openness Initiative.

#### Tentative Agenda

*Friday, February 13, 1998*

8:30–9:00 AM, Opening Remarks & Introductions—R. Meserve, Chairman  
9:00–9:30 AM, Subgroup Report:  
Observations from the February 4 Meeting of the Hanford Openness Workshop—T. Cotton, OAP Member  
9:30–10:15 AM, Presentation & Discussion:  
Hanford Openness Workshop Overview—Objectives, Issues, Observations & Status—Hanford Openness Workshop Spokesperson  
10:15–10:30 AM, Break

10:30–11:30 AM, Status Report: Records Management Implementation Strategy & Status Report—Howard Landon, DOE Office of Information Management  
11:30–12:00 PM, Public Comment Period  
12:00–1:00 PM, Lunch

1:00–1:45 PM, Status Report: Declassification Implementation Strategy & Status—Richard Lyons, DOE Office of Declassification

1:45–2:45 PM, Panel Discussion:  
Declassification & Records Management Issues: A Path Forward—Guest Panelists & OAP Members

2:45–3:15 PM, Public Comment Period  
3:15 PM, Adjourn

This tentative agenda is subject to change. A final agenda will be available at the meeting.

*Public Participation:* The Chairman of the Panel is empowered to conduct the meeting in a way which will, in the Chairman's judgment, facilitate the orderly conduct of business. During its meeting in Richland, Washington the Panel welcomes public comment. Members of the public will be heard in the order in which they sign up at the beginning of the meeting. The Panel will make every effort to hear the views of all interested parties. Written comments may be submitted to Skila Harris, Executive Director, Secretary of Energy Advisory Board, AB–1, US Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585.

*Minutes:* Minutes and a transcript of the meeting will be available for public review and copying approximately 30 days following the meeting at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E–190 Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., between 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., Monday through Friday except Federal holidays. Information on the Openness Advisory Panel may also be found at the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board's web site, located at <http://www.hr.doe.gov/seab>.

Issued at Washington, D.C., on January 23, 1998.

**Rachel M. Samuel,**

*Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 98–2048 Filed 1–27–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP98–183–000]

### ANR Pipeline Company; Notice of Application

January 22, 1998.

Take notice that on January 14, 1998, ANR Pipeline Company (ANR), 500 Renaissance Center, Detroit, Michigan 48243, filed in Docket No. CP98–183–000, an application pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act, as amended,

and Sections 157.7 and 157.18 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Regulations for permission and approval to abandon a natural gas exchange service with Koch Gateway Pipeline Company (Koch), all as more fully set forth in the application on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

ANR states that the exchange service was originally authorized by Commission order issued November 15, 1983, in Docket No. CP83–457–000. ANR further states that under the terms of the agreement, ANR is authorized to exchange up to 10,000 Mcf of natural gas per day with Koch. ANR indicates that this agreement is designated as Rate Schedule X–138 in ANR's FERC Gas Tariff, Original Volume No. 2.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make protest with reference to said application should on or before February 12, 1998, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, a motion to intervene or a protest in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214 or 385.211) and the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.10). All protests filed with the Commission will be considered by it in determining the appropriate action to be taken but will not serve to make the protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party to a proceeding or to participate as a party in any hearing therein must file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules.

Take further notice that, pursuant to the authority contained in and subject to the jurisdiction conferred upon the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by Sections 7 and 15 of the Natural Gas Act and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a hearing will be held without further notice before the Commission or its designee on this application if no motion to intervene is filed within the time required herein, if the Commission on its own review of the matter finds that permission and approval for the proposed abandonment are required by the public convenience and necessity. If a motion for leave to intervene is timely filed, or if the Commission on its own motion believes that a formal hearing is required, further notice of such hearing will be duly given. Under the procedure provided for, unless otherwise advised, it will be