

EPA has concluded that the project will not cause any significant adverse environmental impacts.

The remaining issues identified in the comment letters dealing with the effectiveness of the system, use of ANSI/IEEE standards, compliance with the 1983 MOU, impacts to the mahogany trees, environmental justice and the potential for cumulative impacts have been previously addressed in the FEIS and require no further discussion.

Conclusion

Existing ROTH systems in Virginia and Texas have already demonstrated the ability to reliably detect, track, and aid in the interception of light civil aircraft of the type used by drug traffickers. However, the Virginia and Texas ROTH systems and other surveillance methods provide incomplete coverage of the South American source countries, resulting in gaps that are exploited by drug traffickers. Early detection and tracking provided by the Puerto Rico ROTH will improve reaction time of counter-narcotic forces, increasing their efficiency and effectiveness.

Although the no action alternative would result in no environmental impacts, the minimal impacts associated with construction at the selected locations, as well as the benefits which will result from the ROTH, make the selected alternative the environmentally preferred alternative.

Questions regarding the Environmental Impact Statement prepared for this action may be directed to: Commander, Atlantic Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 1510 Gilbert Street, Norfolk, VA 23511-2699 (Attention: Ms. Linda Blount, Code 2032LB), telephone (757) 322-4892, E-mail blountld@efdlant.navfac.navy.mil or fax (757) 322-4894.

Dated: February 11, 1998.

Duncan Holaday,

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Facilities).

Dated: February 11, 1998.

Lou Rae Langevin,

Lt, JAGC, USN, Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-3903 Filed 2-13-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Submission for OMB review; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the submission for OMB review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before March 19, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Danny Werfel, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503. Requests for copies of the proposed information collection requests should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patrick J. Sherrill (202) 708-8196. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information 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 Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes this 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 at the address specified above. Copies of the requests are available from Patrick J. Sherrill at the address specified above.

Dated: February 10, 1998.

Gloria Parker,

Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of Educational Research and Improvement

Type of Review: Reinstatement.

Title: Field Test New Assessment Items for Third International Mathematics and Science Study Replication (TIMSS-R).

Frequency: Field test for new assessment items.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; Not-for-profit institutions.

Reporting Burden and Recordkeeping: Responses: 625. Burden Hours: 1,563.

Abstract: In order to provide international benchmarks against which to measure the mathematics performance of American students as part of the President's new voluntary test, and to measure progress toward the U.S. national goal of being first in the world in mathematics and science in the year 2000, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) desires to repeat TIMSS in the U.S. in 1999.

Office of the Under Secretary

Type of Review: Revision.

Title: Longitudinal Evaluation of School Change and Performance (LESCP).

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: State, local or Tribal Government, SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden: Responses: 13,690. Burden Hours: 45,901.

Abstract: The LESC is being conducted in response to the legislative requirement in P.L. 103-382, Section 1501 to assess the implementation of Title I and related education reforms. The information will be used to examine changes—over a 3-year period—that are occurring in schools and classrooms. Teachers and teacher aides will complete a mail survey, and district Title I administrators, principals, school-based staff, and parents will be interviewed during on-site field work.

[FR Doc. 98-3820 Filed 2-13-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Alternative Strategies for the Long-Term Management and Use of Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) announces the availability of the draft "Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Alternative Strategies for the Long-Term Management and Use of Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride" for public review and comment. This draft programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS), prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), assesses the potential environmental impacts of alternative strategies for long-term storage, use, and disposal of DOE's 560,000 metric tons of depleted uranium hexafluoride (UF₆) currently stored in steel cylinders at sites in Paducah, Kentucky; Portsmouth, Ohio; and Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Alternative management strategies evaluated in the draft PEIS include a no action alternative. DOE's preferred alternative for the long-term management of depleted UF₆ is to use its entire inventory as either uranium oxide, uranium metal, or a combination of both. DOE invites the general public, other government agencies, and all other interested parties to comment on this draft PEIS. The information obtained during the comment period will assist DOE in preparing the final PEIS.

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments should be transmitted or postmarked by April 23, 1998. Comments submitted after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

DOE will hold public hearings near Paducah, Kentucky; Portsmouth, Ohio; Oak Ridge, Tennessee; and Washington, D.C., to discuss issues and to receive oral and written comments on the draft PEIS. The dates, times, and locations for these public hearings are listed below and will be announced in local media prior to the hearing dates.

February 19, 1998

5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Executive Inn and Conference Center, One Executive Boulevard, Paducah, Kentucky 42001

February 24, 1998

5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Ramada Inn and Suites, 420 South Illinois Avenue, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

February 26, 1998

5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Vern Riffe Pike County Vocational School, 23365 State Route 124, Piketon, Ohio 45661

March 10, 1998

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., U.S. Department of Energy, Forrestal Building, Room 1E-245, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585

ADDRESSES: Comments and requests for copies of this draft PEIS can be

submitted by calling the toll-free number 1-800-517-3191, by faxing them to 301-428-0145, or by mailing them to: Charles E. Bradley, Jr., Program Manager, Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride Management Program, Office of Facilities (NE-40), Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290.

Comments and requests for copies of this draft PEIS may also be submitted electronically via the Depleted UF₆ World Wide Web site at <http://www.ead.anl.gov/uranium.html> or via electronic mail at depleted_uf6@ccmail.gmt.saic.com.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information on the DOE NEPA process, please contact: Carol Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, Office of Environment, Safety and Health, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585-0119, 202-586-4600 or 1-800-472-2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On January 25, 1996, DOE issued a Notice of Intent (61 FR 2239) to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement on alternative strategies for the long-term management and use of depleted UF₆. The unique properties and value of depleted UF₆, such as its high purity and density, as well as the large volume (about 560,000 metric tons) in storage, make it appropriate to evaluate, analyze, and decide the long-term management of this material separately from other DOE materials in storage or awaiting disposition.

The purpose of the PEIS is to assess and consider the potential environmental impacts of a range of reasonable alternative strategies for the long-term management of depleted UF₆ currently stored at DOE sites near Paducah, Kentucky; Portsmouth, Ohio; and Oak Ridge, Tennessee. A management strategy is a series of activities needed to achieve the safe long-term storage, use, or disposal of the depleted UF₆ inventory. The PEIS addresses the potential environmental impacts of the activities that make up each strategy. Following the issuance of the final PEIS and a Record of Decision, DOE will prepare additional project-specific NEPA documents as appropriate.

During February 1996, public scoping meetings were held in Paducah, Kentucky; Piketon, Ohio; and Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The draft PEIS

incorporates the public comments received during scoping.

Copies of this PEIS and related documents prepared by DOE are available at the following locations:

Kentucky

U.S. Department of Energy, Environmental Information Center, 175 Freedom Boulevard, Kevil, Kentucky 42053, 502-462-2550

Ohio

U.S. Department of Energy, Environmental Information Center, 105 West Emmitt Avenue, Suite 3, Waverly, Ohio 45690, 614-947-5093

Tennessee

U.S. Department of Energy, Information Resource Center, 105 Broadway, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830, 423-241-4582

Tennessee

U.S. Department of Energy, Oak Ridge Operations Office, Public Reading Room, American Museum of Science and Energy, 300 South Tulane Avenue, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830, 423-241-4780

Washington, DC

U.S. Department of Energy, Freedom of Information Reading Room, Room 1E-190, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585-0117, 202-586-3142.

Alternatives Considered

The draft PEIS evaluates alternative management strategies for the depleted UF₆ inventory, including a no action alternative. These alternative management strategies are described briefly below:

- No Action Alternative:
 - Continued storage as depleted UF₆ at the existing sites
- Long-Term Storage Alternatives:
 - 1—Storage at a consolidated site as depleted UF₆
 - 2—Storage at a consolidated site after conversion to uranium oxide
- Use Alternatives:
 - 1—Use as radiation shielding after conversion to uranium metal
 - 2—Use as radiation shielding after conversion to uranium oxide
- Disposal Alternative:
 - Disposal after conversion to uranium oxide
- Preferred Alternative:
 - Use the entire inventory as either uranium oxide, uranium metal, or a combination of both

Preferred Alternative

DOE has identified a preferred alternative in the draft PEIS. This preferred alternative does not represent a decision by DOE. The Record of Decision, when issued after completion of the final PEIS, will present DOE's decision for the long-term management of depleted UF₆.

DOE's preferred alternative for the long-term management of depleted UF₆ is to use its entire inventory of material. Some (potentially all) of the depleted UF₆ would be used as an oxide, some (potentially all) of it would be used as metal, and some of it might be used in other DOE programs pursuant to other NEPA reviews and decisions. This alternative would include continued storage and safe, effective management of the cylinders prior to conversion, conversion of the depleted UF₆ into depleted uranium oxide and/or depleted uranium metal, and fabrication of depleted uranium products for uses by government and/or industry. The fluorine in the UF₆ would also be used. Potential uses for the depleted uranium include radiation shielding in both the oxide and metal forms and as metal in specialty markets, including industrial counterweights. Current possibilities for use of fluorine include use in the nuclear fuel cycle. The schedule and rate of conversion of the depleted UF₆ inventory into the oxide and/or metal forms would be determined by market demand for the conversion products.

Subsequent Document Preparation

DOE intends to prepare a response to comments received during the review of the draft PEIS and to complete the final PEIS in 1998. The availability of the final PEIS will be announced in the **Federal Register**. Additional NEPA analyses, as appropriate, will be prepared once a long-term depleted UF₆ management strategy has been selected and announced in a Record of Decision.

Issued in Washington, D.C., February 6, 1998.

Terry R. Lash,

Director, Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology.

[FR Doc. 98-3845 Filed 2-13-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Golden Field Office; Notice of Wetlands Involvement for the Kotzebue Wind Farm Project**

AGENCY: Golden Field Office, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of wetlands involvement.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy proposes to provide financial assistance to the Kotzebue Electric Association to expand its existing wind farm site near Kotzebue, Alaska. In accordance with 10 CFR Part 1022, DOE will prepare an environmental assessment, to include a wetland assessment, and will perform this proposed action in a manner so as to avoid or minimize potential harm to or within the affected wetlands.

DATES: Comments are due to the address below no later than March 4, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Deborah A. Turner, U.S. Department of Energy, Golden Field Office, 1617 Cole Boulevard, Golden CO, 80401, Phone (303) 275-4746, Fax (303) 275-4788.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS PROPOSED ACTION, CONTACT: Doug Hooker, U.S. Department of Energy, Golden Field Office, 1617 Cole Boulevard, Golden CO, 80401, Phone (303) 275-4780, Fax (303) 275-4753.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON GENERAL DOE WETLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW REQUIREMENTS, CONTACT: Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, EH-42, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20585, Phone (202) 586-4600 or 1-800-472-2756, Fax (202) 586-7031.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Kotzebue Wind Farm Project that DOE is considering funding will involve the installation, operation, and maintenance of up to 20 wind turbines and ancillary equipment necessary to maintain the site. The proposed project would be located on an existing 148-acre wind farm site located near Kotzebue, Alaska. The entire 148-acre land parcel as well as the town of Kotzebue and the local airport are located on land that has been designated as wetlands.

In accordance with DOE regulations for compliance with floodplain and wetlands environmental review requirements (10 CFR Part 1022), DOE will prepare an environmental assessment, to include a wetlands assessment, for this proposed DOE action.

Issued in Golden Colorado on February 16, 1998.

Frank M. Stewart,

Manager, Golden Field Office.

[FR Doc. 98-3844 Filed 2-13-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Office of Energy Research****Energy Research Financial Assistance Program Notice 98-10; Biological Research Program, Use of Model Organisms to Understand the Human Genome**

AGENCY: Office of Energy Research, U.S. Department of Energy

ACTION: Notice inviting grant applications.

SUMMARY: The Office of Biological and Environmental Research (OBER) of the Office of Energy Research (ER), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), hereby announces its interest in receiving peer-reviewable applications for research in support of the Biological Research Program. This Program is a coordinated multidisciplinary research effort to develop creative, innovative approaches, resources, and technologies that lead to a molecular understanding of the human genome. This solicitation is for research that capitalizes on our understanding and the manipulability of the genomes of model organisms, including yeast, nematode, fruitfly, Zebra fish, and mouse, to speed understanding of human genome organization, regulation, and function.

DATES: Potential applicants are encouraged to submit a brief preapplication. All preapplications, referencing Program Notice 98-10, should be received by DOE by 4:30 P.M. E.S.T., March 26, 1998. A response to the preapplications discussing the potential program relevance of a formal application generally will be communicated within 7 days of receipt.

The deadline for receipt of formal applications is 4:30 P.M., E.D.T., May 7, 1998, in order to be accepted for merit review and to permit timely consideration for award in FY 1999.

ADDRESSES: Preapplications, referencing Program Notice 98-10, should be sent by E-mail to joanne.corcoran@oer.doe.gov, however, preapplications will also be accepted if mailed to the following address: Ms. Joanne Corcoran, Office of Biological and Environmental Research, ER-72, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290.

Formal applications, referencing Program Notice 98-10, should be sent to: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Research, Grants and Contracts Division, ER-64, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290, ATTN: Program Notice 98-10, Ms. Debbie Greenawalt. This address must be used when submitting applications