

ADDRESSES: Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center, 2100 Bush River Road, Columbia, SC 29210.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gerri Flemming, Closure Project Office, Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office, P.O. Box A, Aiken, SC 29802; Phone: (803) 952-7886.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of the Board: The purpose of the Board is to make recommendations to DOE and its regulators in the areas of environmental restoration, waste management, and related activities.

Tentative Agenda

Monday, March 22, 2004

1 p.m. Combined Committee Meeting
5:15 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting
6:15 p.m. Adjourn

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

8:30 a.m. Approval of Minutes;
Agency Updates; Public Comment Session
9:15 a.m. Facility Disposition & Site Remediation Committee Report
10 a.m. Waste Management Committee Report
10:45 a.m. Strategic & Legacy Management Committee Report
11:30 a.m. Public Comment Session
12 noon Lunch Break
1 p.m. Nuclear Materials Committee Report
2 p.m. Administrative Committee Report
2:45 p.m. Bylaws Amendment Proposal
3:45 p.m. Public Comment Session
4 p.m. Adjourn

If needed, time will be allotted after public comments for items added to the agenda, and administrative details. A final agenda will be available at the meeting Monday, March 22, 2004.

Public Participation: The meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Board either before or after the meeting. Individuals who wish to make the oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact Gerri Flemming's office at the address or telephone listed above. Requests must be received five days prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation in the agenda. The Deputy Designated Federal Officer is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct business. Each individual wishing to make public comment will be provided equal time 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 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Minutes will also be available by writing to Gerri Flemming, Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office, PO Box A, Aiken, SC 29802, or by calling her at (803) 952-7886.

Issued at Washington, DC, on March 1, 2004.

Rachel M. Samuel,

Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-5016 Filed 3-4-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. No. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Monday, March 22, 2004—8 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 23, 2004—8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Opportunities for public participation will be held Monday, March 22 from 12:15 to 12:30 p.m. and 5:15 to 5:30 p.m. and on Tuesday, March 23 from 11:45 to 12 noon and 3:50 to 4:05 p.m. Additional time may be made available for public comment during the presentations.

These times are subject to change as the meeting progresses, depending on the extent of comment offered. Please check with the meeting facilitator to confirm these times.

ADDRESSES: Ameritel Inn, 645 Lindsay Boulevard, Idaho Falls, ID 83402.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Peggy Hinman, INEEL CAB Administrator, North Wind, Inc., P.O. Box 51174, Idaho Falls, ID 83405, Phone (208) 557-7885, or visit the Board's Internet home page at <http://www.ida.net/users/cab>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Purpose of the Board:* The purpose of the Board is

to make recommendations to DOE and its regulators in the areas of future use, cleanup levels, waste disposition and cleanup priorities at the INEEL.

The tentative objectives for the meeting include:

- Proposed modifications to the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit for storage and disposal of mixed waste at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.
- Authorized funding under the current contract for the Environmental Management program at the INEEL.
- Modified Fiscal Year 2004/2005 Performance Based Incentives.

Public Participation: This meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Board facilitator either before or after the meeting. Individuals who wish to make oral presentations pertaining to agenda items should contact the Board Chair at the address or telephone number listed above. Request must be received five days prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation in the agenda. The Deputy Designated Federal Officer, Richard Provencher, Assistant Manager for Environmental Management, Idaho Operations Office, U.S. Department of Energy, is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Every individual wishing to make public comment will be provided equal time 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 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday except Federal holidays. Minutes will also be available by writing to Ms. Peggy Hinman, INEEL CAB Administrator, at the address and phone number listed above.

Issued at Washington, DC, on March 1, 2004.

Rachel Samuel,

Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-5018 Filed 3-4-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

National Nuclear Security Administration

Presidential Directed Mission Requiring Authorization of National Security Provisions

AGENCY: National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of emergency action.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is issuing this notice of emergency action regarding its authorization of national security provisions related to a recent U.S. mission to assist the Libyan government in reducing its inventories of proliferation-sensitive nuclear materials. On January 27, 2004, a U.S.-led team of policy and technical experts successfully extracted from Libya some of its nuclear materials. In order to expedite the removal of these materials from the site, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Administrator invoked the national security provisions of 49 CFR 173.7(b) and exempted the transport from DOE Order 461.1, Packaging and Transfer of Materials of National Security Interest, thereby allowing the shipment of items by air to the McGhee Tyson Airport at Knoxville, TN and from there to the Y-12 National Security Complex at Oak Ridge, TN by land transport. The shipment included four cylinders of uranium hexafluoride (UF₆) of varying enrichment levels.

DOE would normally prepare an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement analyzing this shipment pursuant to its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementing regulations (10 CFR part 1021). However, due to the urgent and classified nature of the actions required to perform this mission, DOE consulted with the Council on Environmental Quality about alternative arrangements with regard to NEPA compliance for its authorization of national security provisions pursuant to the Council NEPA regulation at 40 CFR 1506.11. This notice is issued pursuant to the requirements of 10 CFR 1021.343.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information on these activities or other information related to this notice, contact: William O'Connor, NNSA, Office of Safeguards (NA-243), 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-4867.

For information on the DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, contact: Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (EH-42), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-4600, or leave a message at (800) 472-2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 19, 2003, in a decision announced by the United States, the United Kingdom, and Libya, the Libyan government agreed to disclose all its

weapons of mass destruction and related programs and to open the country to international weapons inspectors to oversee their elimination. In order to assist Libya in the reduction of its proliferation-sensitive materials, the United States, United Kingdom and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) sent a team of policy and technical experts to Libya. On January 27, 2004, this team, with the full cooperation of the Libyan government, successfully extracted 55,000 pounds of nuclear material and other sensitive equipment from Libya. This shipment included four cylinders of uranium hexafluoride (UF₆) that required a National Security Exemption under DOE Order 461.1, Packaging and Transfer of Materials of National Security Interest, because the containers were not certified under 49 CFR 173.7(b). The equipment and materials were airlifted out of Libya and brought to the McGhee Tyson Airport in Knoxville, TN. The nuclear cargo then was transported to the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, TN for International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspection and to prepare cylinders for transport to their final destination.

This material was moved as part of a Presidential directed mission. There was insufficient time between the President's directive and the expected movement of the material to conduct an environmental review; hence, the need for alternative arrangements with regard to NEPA compliance. The NNSA Administrator was provided with a classified environmental review contained in an Appendix to a draft Environmental Impact Statement which bounded the accident scenarios. Following review, the NNSA Administrator invoked the national security provisions of 49 CFR 173.7(b) and exempted this transport from DOE Order 461.1, thereby allowing shipment of these items by air to the McGhee Tyson Airport and from there to their destination by land transport.

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and the Environmental Protection Agency were briefed in advance of the mission. CEQ found the NNSA's request for alternative arrangements was appropriately limited to the actions necessary to address the immediate impacts and risks associated with this emergency. Based on the briefing that DOE personnel provided, and their commitment to outreach to EPA and appropriate First Responders, CEQ concluded that the NNSA's assessment of the environmental impact of the proposed action, including incorporation of an existing classified

analysis of a similar scenario, provided sufficient alternative arrangements for NEPA compliance. The CEQ also was briefed following the completion of the mission.

The expedited removal of these materials from Libya was consistent with national security goals related to the consolidation, storage, and disposition of potential weapons-usable materials and supports the nonproliferation policies of the United States. Granting this national security exemption supported the expedited removal of the material consistent with the nonproliferation goals of the Department of Energy and the President of the United States.

The Y-12 Site Office ensured that the following conditions were met: First responders at McGhee Tyson Airport were notified of the timing and nature of the shipment. The shipment was escorted by personnel specifically designated by or under the authority of the Department of Energy.

The materials arrived at Y-12 without incident and accordingly without any environmental consequences and will be stored there pending IAEA inspection and shipment to the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant, Piketon, OH.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 27, 2004.

Henry K. Garson,

Associate General Counsel, National Nuclear Security Administration.

[FR Doc. 04-5017 Filed 3-4-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-6649-1]

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 4, 2003 (68 FR 16511).

Draft EISs

ERP No. D-FHW-F40420-MI Rating EC2, I-75 from M-102 to M-59 Proposed Widening, Reconstruction and Transportation Improvements, Funding,