

comments from the affected states, the Administrator and other interested parties on the RH-TRU waste study Implementation Plan and on a draft report of the RH-TRU waste study helped improve the quality of the final report.

Scope of Study

The Remote-Handled Transuranic Waste Study has been conducted in accordance with section 6(c)(2)(B) of the LWA. The study evaluates the impact of RH-TRU waste on the performance assessment of the WIPP baseline configuration. In addition, the study also compares the characteristics of CH-TRU and RH-TRU waste as expected to be received at WIPP as well as the potential affects of the wastes on gas generation, flammability, explosiveness, solubility and, brine and geochemical interactions after emplacement in the WIPP underground. The Remote-Handled Transuranic Waste Study does not include an analysis of RH-TRU waste characteristics on the transportation and operational aspects of the WIPP program.

Study Summary

The Remote-Handled Transuranic Waste Study has three main sections: the Transuranic waste disposal strategy; comparison of contact-handled and remote-handled Transuranic wastes; and analysis of the impact of remote-handled waste on performance assessment.

In the section on the Transuranic waste disposal strategy, elements of the WIPP baseline configuration considered to be important for the study are described. These elements include: room configuration, waste packaging, RH-TRU waste emplacement and shield plugs, and the physical and radiological characteristics of the TRU inventory.

The comparison section of the study includes two areas of evaluation. These include a comparison of CH-TRU and RH-TRU waste characteristics as expected to be received at the WIPP and a comparison of CH-TRU and RH-TRU waste after emplacement in and closure of the WIPP underground. In the latter area of evaluation, the study specifically addresses the issues required by the LWA: gas generation, flammability, explosiveness, solubility, and brine and geochemical interactions.

In the last section of the study, the impact of RH-TRU waste on performance assessment is evaluated. Four radionuclide release scenarios are identified for evaluation: releases by gas generation, groundwater transport, human intrusion and heat generation.

Study Findings

A summary of the important findings of the Remote-Handled Transuranic Waste Study include the following:

- The contribution of RH-TRU waste to the total radioactivity in TRU waste will be insignificant after about 200 years following emplacement in the WIPP. RH-TRU waste has a greater abundance of those radionuclides that characteristically have more penetrating radiation and more specific radioactivity, but these radionuclides also have rapid decay rates and short half-lives reducing their contribution to the radioactive component of TRU waste to a short period of time (~200 years). By contrast, the majority of the radionuclides in CH-TRU waste have less specific radioactivity, but decay at a much slower rate.
- RH-TRU waste contributes only a small portion to the total TRU waste inventory because the "Agreement for Consultation and Cooperation with DOE and the State of New Mexico on WIPP" (1981) restricts the quantity to only 5 percent by volume. In addition, RH-TRU waste is composed of the same materials as CH-TRU waste because they are derived from similar processes. Therefore, the impact of RH-TRU waste on performance assessment is insignificant.
- No significant accumulations of gas pressure, or flammable or explosive gases are anticipated in "as-received" waste at the WIPP for the following reasons:
 - WIPP Waste Acceptance Criteria requires containers to be vented to allow pressure to be relieved from the containers during transportation;
 - The WIPP Waste Acceptance Criteria sets strict limits on the amounts of liquids and flammable gasses allowed in WIPP waste, and
 - WIPP Waste Acceptance Criteria prohibits any explosive materials from being in the waste.
- The presence of brine in the WIPP underground can impact the total amount of gas generated by influencing the mechanisms that cause waste decomposition. The degree to which gas generation occurs depends on the amount of brine present in the WIPP underground and the point in time in the decomposition process brine encounters the waste.
- The decomposable materials in RH-TRU waste can contribute up to about 31 percent of all potential gases that may be generated in the WIPP underground.
- RH-TRU waste contains about 13 percent of the portion of TRU waste materials that can potentially generate flammable gases.

- The additional curies of radioactivity introduced into the repository by RH-TRU waste will not impact the overall TRU waste inventory solubility. The reason for this is that the gamma emitters in RH-TRU waste will decay to levels approximating those in CH-TRU waste before the waste containers degrade and allow interactions with brine (about 200 years following WIPP closure).

- The effects of heat and radiation from RH-TRU waste on the WIPP underground are expected to be minimal. Because the Waste Acceptance Criteria restrict the radiation doses and heat allowed, only a small portion of the WIPP underground will be irradiated and any thermal gradients produced will be insignificant.

- Long travel times, as predicted by modeling studies, are required for brine to reach a regulatory boundary. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that gamma-emitting radionuclides from RH-TRU waste would be part of a release to the accessible environment due to groundwater migration since the rapid decay rates of these radionuclides result in much smaller quantities after a relatively short period of time (~200 years).

- Gamma-emitting radionuclides in RH-TRU waste can have little or no contribution to releases caused by human intrusion activities because their rapid decay rates result in much smaller quantities after a relatively short period of time (~200 years).

- Studies to evaluate the effects of heat on repository performance have shown that at expected levels of waste package heat output, insufficient heat will be available to influence WIPP performance.

Two major conclusions can be drawn from the findings of the Remote-Handled Transuranic Waste Study: (1) RH-TRU waste has no significant impact or influence on the outcome of performance assessment and (2) RH-TRU waste is similar to CH-TRU waste in terms of its characteristics as expected to be received at WIPP and in its behavior in the WIPP underground.

Issued in Carlsbad, New Mexico, this 11th day of October, 1995, for the United States Department of Energy.

George E. Dials,

Manager, Carlsbad Area Office.

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Energy Information Administration

Solicitation of Comments on Form EIA-898A/B, "Solar Thermal Installers Survey" and "Photovoltaic Systems Installers Survey"

AGENCY: Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of the proposed new forms and solicitation of comments.

SUMMARY: The Energy Information Administration (EIA) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed new Forms (EIA-898A/B), "Solar Thermal Systems Installers Survey" and "Photovoltaic Systems Installers Survey".

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before December 26, 1995. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below of your intention to do so as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Peter Holihan, (EI-522) Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, Forrestal Building, U. S. Department of Energy, Washington, D. C. 20585 (telephone number 202-254-5432) (e mail address JHolihan@EIA.DOE.GOV) (fax 202-254-6233).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form(s) and instructions should be directed to Peter Holihan at the address listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- I. Background
- II. Current Actions
- III. Request for Comments

I. Background

In order to fulfill its responsibilities under the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Pub. L. No. 93-275) and the Department of Energy Organization Act (Pub. L. No. 95-91), the Energy Information Administration (EIA) is obliged to carry out a central, comprehensive, and unified energy data and information program. As part of this program, EIA collects, evaluates, assembles, analyzes, and disseminates data and information related to energy resource reserves, production, demand, and technology, and related economic and statistical information relevant to the adequacy of energy resources to meet demands in the near and longer term future for the Nation's economic and social needs.

The Energy Information Administration, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden (required by the

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13)), conducts a presurvey consultation program to provide the general public and other Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing reporting forms. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden is minimized, reporting forms are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed.

Form EIA-898A will collect data on the installation of solar thermal collectors from installers consisting of manufacturers who also install solar devices, distributors who are also installers, building contractors, and trade professionals (e.g., plumbers and electricians). Data requested will be: the number and types of solar devices installed; the total energy output; the type of energy sources replaced; final State destination of solar devices installed; average costs and uses of installed solar devices as well as original versus retrofit percentages of revenue for solar systems installers; maintenance costs, and warranty data.

Form EIA-898B will collect data on the installation of photovoltaic devices from installers consisting of manufacturers who also install photovoltaic devices, distributors who are also installers, building contractors, and trade professionals (e.g., plumbers and electricians). Data requested will be: the number and types of photovoltaic devices installed; the total energy output of the photovoltaic systems installed; the types of energy sources displaced; final State destination of photovoltaic devices installed; average costs and uses of installed systems as well as original versus retrofit percentages of revenue for photovoltaic devices installed; maintenance costs, and warranty data.

II. Current Actions

The EIA is proposing two new surveys, Forms 898A/B, to collect data from installers of solar thermal collectors and photovoltaic devices. A pretest survey of a number of installers who were representative of the installers' industry has been conducted, with any recommendations being incorporated into the final survey forms. The purpose of the pretest survey was to identify potential survey respondents, pretest the questionnaire, and assess the availability of installation data. The EIA plans to meet with solar industry companies, DOE personnel, and other interested parties to discuss Forms EIA-898A/B. EIA will also consult with the

Solar Energy Industry Association to review any comments the industry has.

III. Request for Comments

Prospective respondents and other interested parties should comment on the actions discussed in item II. The following guidelines are provided to assist in the preparation of responses. Please indicate to which form(s) your comments apply.

General Issues

EIA is interested in receiving comments from persons regarding:

A. Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility. Practical utility is the actual usefulness of information to or for an agency, taking into account its accuracy, adequacy, reliability, timeliness, and the agency's ability to process the information it collects.

B. What enhancements can EIA make to the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected?

As a potential respondent

A. Are the instructions and definitions clear and sufficient? If not, which instructions require clarification?

B. Can data be submitted in accordance with the due date specified in the instructions?

C. Public reporting burden for each form is estimated to average 3 hours. Burden includes the total time, effort, or financial resources expended to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide the information including: (1) reviewing instructions; (2) developing, acquiring, installing, and utilizing technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, verifying, processing, maintaining, disclosing and providing information; (3) adjusting the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; (4) training personnel to respond to a collection of information; (5) searching data sources; (6) completing and reviewing the collection of information; and (7) transmitting, or otherwise disclosing the information.

Please comment on (1) the accuracy of our estimate and (2) how the agency could minimize the burden of the collection of information, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

D. In addition to the burden costs, are there any capital or start-up cost components or any operational and maintenance components? The estimates should take into account costs

associated with generating, maintaining, and disclosing or providing information. Capital and start-up costs include, among other items, preparations for collecting information such as purchasing computers, software; monitoring, sampling, drilling, testing equipment; and record storage facilities.

E. Do you know of any other Federal, State, or local agency that collects similar data? If you do, specify the agency, the data element(s), and the methods of collection.

As a Potential User

A. Can you use data at the levels of detail indicated on the form?

B. For what purpose would you use the data? Be specific.

C. Are there alternate sources of data and do you use them? If so, what are their deficiencies and/or strengths?

D. For the most part, information is published by EIA in U.S. customary units, e.g., cubic feet of natural gas, short tons of coal, and barrels of oil. Would you prefer to see EIA publish more information in metric units, e.g., cubic meters, metric tons, and kilograms? If yes, please specify what information (e.g., coal production, natural gas consumption, and crude oil imports), the metric unit(s) of measurement preferred, and in which EIA publication(s) you would like to see such information.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of the form. They also will become a matter of public record.

Statutory Authority

Section 3506 (c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13).

Issued in Washington, D.C. October 18, 1995.

John Gross,

Acting Director, Office of Statistical Standards, Energy Information Administration.

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Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER94-1530-005, et al.]

ACME Power Marketing, Inc., et al.; Electric Rate and Corporate Regulation Filings

October 18, 1995.

Take notice that the following filings have been made with the Commission:

1. ACME Power Marketing, Inc.

[Docket No. ER94-1530-005]

Take notice that on October 4, 1995, ACME Power Marketing, Inc. tendered for filing its quarterly informational filing for the third calendar year quarter of 1995 in the above-referenced docket.

2. Utility-2000 Energy Corp.

[Docket No. ER95-187-002]

Take notice that on October 4, 1995, Utility-2000 Energy Corp. (Utility-2000) filed certain information as required by the Commission's December 29, 1994, order in Docket No. ER95-187-000. Copies of Utility-2000's informational filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

3. Illinois Power Company

[Docket No. ER95-285-000]

Take notice that on September 27, 1995, Illinois Power Company tendered for filing an amendment in the above-referenced docket.

Comment date: November 1, 1995, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

4. Illinois Power Company

[Docket No. ER95-506-000]

Take notice that on September 27, 1995, Illinois Power Company tendered for filing an amendment in the above-referenced docket.

Comment date: November 1, 1995, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

5. CNB/Olympic Gas Service

[Docket No. ER95-964-002]

Take notice that on October 6, 1995, CNB/Olympic Gas Service tendered for filing certain information as required by the Commission's letter order dated July 10, 1995. Copies of the informational filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

6. Allegheny Power Service Corporation on Behalf of Monongahela Power Company, The Potomac Edison Company, and West Penn Power Company

[Docket No. ER95-1865-000]

Take notice that on September 11, 1995, Allegheny Power Service Corporation on behalf of Monongahela Power Company, The Potomac Edison Company and West Penn Power Company (the APS Companies) filed Supplement No. 4 to add three (3) Customers to the Standard Generation Service Rate Schedule under which the APS Companies offer standard generation and emergency service to these Customers on an hourly, daily, weekly, monthly or yearly basis. The

following new Customers are added by this filing: Catex Vitol Electric, L.L.C., Citizens Lehman Power Sales, and Tennessee Power Company. The APS Companies request a waiver of notice requirements to make service available as of August 13, 1995.

Copies of the filing have been provided to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, the Maryland Public Service Commission, the Virginia State Corporation Commission, the West Virginia Public Service Commission, and all parties of record.

Comment date: November 1, 1995, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

7. Powertec International, L.L.P.

[Docket No. ER96-1-000]

Take notice that on October 2, 1995, Powertec International, L.L.P. (Powertec) petitioned the Commission for acceptance of Powertec Rate Schedule FERC No. 1; the granting of certain blanket approvals, including the authority to sell electricity at market-based rates; and the waiver of certain Commission regulations.

Powertec intends to engage in wholesale electric power and energy purchases and sales as a marketer. Powertec provides powerplant maintenance, energy management services, and related business ventures in the United States.

Comment date: November 1, 1995, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

8. Louisville Gas and Electric Company

[Docket No. ER96-2-000]

Take notice that on October 2, 1995, Louisville Gas and Electric Company, tendered for filing copies of a service agreement between Louisville Gas and Electric Company and Municipal Electrical Authority of Georgia (MEAG) under Rate GSS.

Comment date: November 1, 1995, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

9. Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corporation

[Docket No. ER96-3-000]

Take notice that on October 2, 1995, Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corporation (CHG&E), tendered for filing pursuant to 18 CFR 35.12 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) Regulations, a Service Agreement between CHG&E and LG&E Power Marketing Inc. The terms and conditions of service under this