

or certified mail, return receipt requested. Two copies of the claim should be included with each submission.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** James Coffey or Gil Maldonado, Environmental Restoration Division, U.S. Department of Energy, (505) 845-4628.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Energy published a final rule under 10 CFR part 765 in the Federal Register on May 23, 1994 (59 FR 26714) to carry out the requirements of Title X of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (sections 1001-1004 of Pub. L. 102-486, 42 U.S.C. 2296a *et seq.*) and to establish the procedures for eligible licensees to submit claims for reimbursement. Title X requires the Department of Energy to reimburse eligible uranium and thorium licensees for certain costs of decontamination, decommissioning, reclamation, and other remedial action incurred by licensees at active uranium and thorium processing sites to remediate byproduct material generated as an incident of sales to the United States Government. To be reimbursable, costs of remedial action must be for work which is necessary to comply with applicable requirements of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 7901 *et seq.*) or, where appropriate, with requirements established by a state pursuant to a discontinuance agreement under section 274 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2021). Claims for reimbursement of costs of remedial action must be supported by reasonable documentation as determined by the Department of Energy in accordance with 10 CFR part 765. Section 1001(b)(2) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 limits the amount of reimbursement paid to the licensees of an active uranium site to an amount not to exceed \$5.50, as adjusted annually for inflation, multiplied by the dry short tons of byproduct material located at the site on October 24, 1992, and generated as an incident of sales to the United States. Total reimbursement, in the aggregate, for work performed at the active uranium processing sites shall not exceed \$270 million, as adjusted annually for inflation. Total reimbursement for work performed at the active thorium processing site shall not exceed \$40 million, as adjusted annually for inflation, and is limited to costs incurred for offsite disposal. Funds for reimbursement will be provided from the Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund established at the United States

Department of Treasury pursuant to section 1801 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2297g). Payment or obligation of funds shall be subject to the requirements of the Anti-Deficiency Act (31 U.S.C. 1341).

In the May 23, 1994 (59 FR 26714) Federal Register, the Department of Energy established a preliminary per dry short ton limit of \$4.78 on reimbursement to licensees of eligible uranium processing sites. This was necessary because the \$270 million statutory ceiling would not support the maximum allowable reimbursement of \$5.50 per dry short ton, as established by Title X, if remedial action costs at all of the eligible uranium processing sites reach or approach this per dry short ton limit (i.e., \$270 million divided by the total amount of Federal-related dry short tons of byproduct material present at all eligible active uranium processing sites, 56.521 million dry short tons, equals \$4.78).

To adjust the above reimbursement ceilings for inflation, the Department of Energy is required by 10 CFR part 765.12 to apply the Consumer Price Index-Urban (CPI-U) annually, beginning in 1994, using the CPI-U as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics within the Department of Commerce for the preceding calendar year.

As announced by the Department of Energy in the April 5, 1995 Federal Register (60 FR 17343), the adjusted values of the statutory per dry short ton ceiling, preliminary per dry short ton ceiling, and total remaining reimbursement ceilings for uranium and thorium licensees for 1995 were \$5.82, \$4.92, \$251,339,303.43, and \$35,123,038.98. Following that announcement, the Department of Energy issued reimbursements in September and December 1995 to uranium and thorium licensees totaling \$30,213,035.89 and \$11,478,964.10, respectively. Accordingly, the total remaining reimbursement ceilings for uranium and thorium licensees are currently \$221,126,267.54 and \$23,644,074.88. These amounts and the per dry short ton ceilings on reimbursement will be adjusted for inflation in 1996 after the CPI-U for 1995 has been published by the Department of Commerce.

The Department of Energy Annual Title X Report for 1994 and 1995 summarizes key activities performed by the Department during that period including review of claims, individual amounts paid for claims approved, and other relevant information concerning the reimbursement program. The report is available to all interested parties by

contacting David E. Mathes, Office of Southwestern Area Programs, Environmental Restoration, U.S. Department of Energy, EM-45/ Cloverleaf Building, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD, 20874-1290. Telephone (301) 903-7222.

Authority: Section 1001-1004 of Pub. L. 102-46, 106 Stat. 2776 (42 U.S.C. 2296a *et seq.*).

Issued in Washington, DC, on this 18th of January 1996.

David E. Mathes,

*UMTRA Team Leader, Office of Southwestern Area Programs, Environmental Restoration.*  
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### **Office of Environmental Management; Environmental Management Advisory Board Renewal**

Pursuant to Section 14(a)(2)(A) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463), and in accordance with title 41 of the Code of Federal Regulations, section 101-6.1015(a), and following consultation with the Committee Management Secretariat, General Services Administration, notice is hereby given that the Environmental Management Advisory Board has been renewed for a two-year period beginning on January 18, 1996. The Board will provide advice to the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management.

The purpose of the Board is to provide the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management with advice and recommendations on Environmental Management projects and issues, such as program budget, risk, technology development, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program, worker health and safety, and program cost effectiveness, from the perspective of affected groups and State and local governments. Consensus recommendations to the Department of Energy from the Board on programmatic nationwide resolution of numerous difficult issues will help achieve the Department's objective of an integrated environmental restoration program.

Additionally, the renewal of the Environmental Management Advisory Board has been determined to be essential to the conduct of Department of Energy business and to be in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Department of Energy by law and agreement. The Board will operate in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the

Department of Energy Organization Act (Public Law 95-91), and rules and regulations issued in implementation of those Acts.

Further information regarding this Advisory Board may be obtained from Rachel Murphy Samuel at (202) 586-3279.

Issued in Washington, DC, on January 18, 1996.

JoAnne Whitman,

*Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 96-1197 Filed 1-24-96; 8:45 am]

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### Alternative Strategies for the Long-Term Management and Use of Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent (NOI).

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy (DOE) announces its intent to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 USC 4321 et seq.). The PEIS will assess the potential environmental impacts of alternative strategies for the long-term management and use of 560,000 metric tons of depleted uranium hexafluoride (UF<sub>6</sub>) currently stored in cylinders at DOE's three gaseous diffusion plant sites located near Paducah, Kentucky; Portsmouth, Ohio; and Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

This impact statement will support management decisions on depleted UF<sub>6</sub> by evaluating the environmental impacts of a range of reasonable alternative strategies as well as providing a means for the public to have a meaningful opportunity to be heard on this matter. This NOI informs the public of the proposal, explains the schedule, announces the dates, times, and places for scoping meetings, and solicits public comment.

**DATES:** To ensure that the full range of issues and alternatives related to this proposal is addressed, DOE invites comments on the scope of this proposed PEIS. Written comments should be postmarked by March 25, 1996, to ensure consideration. Comments received after this date will be considered to the extent practicable.

Three public scoping meetings will be held to provide information and opportunities for discussion of the subject PEIS and to receive oral and written comments. The meetings will be

held near the storage sites located near Paducah, Kentucky; Oak Ridge, Tennessee; and Portsmouth, Ohio. The scoping meetings will be held twice a day, beginning at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., at each site to allow for as much interaction with the stakeholders as possible. The meetings will be held according to the following schedule: Paducah, Kentucky; February 13, 1996 (Information Age Park Resource Center, 2000 McCracken Blvd., Paducah, Kentucky 42001) Oak Ridge, Tennessee; February 15, 1996 (Pollard Auditorium at Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, 210 Badger Avenue, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831) Portsmouth, Ohio; February 20, 1996 (Vern Riffe Pike County Vocational School, State Route 124, Piketon, Ohio 45661)

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on the scope of the PEIS and requests for copies of referenced material should be directed to: Mr. Charles E. Bradley, Jr., Office of Facilities, Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, Maryland, 20874-1290, (301) 903-4781. **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For general information on the DOE NEPA process, please contact Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585, (202) 586-4600 or 1-800-472-2756.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The unique properties and value of depleted UF<sub>6</sub>, such as its high purity and density, as well as the large volume (560,000 metric tons) in storage, make it appropriate to evaluate, analyze, and decide the fate of this material separately from other DOE materials in storage or awaiting disposition. DOE has determined that such an action is a major Federal action with potentially significant environmental impacts and requires the preparation of an EIS in accordance with NEPA. The purpose of this PEIS will be to assess the potential impacts of a range of reasonable alternative strategies for the long-term management of depleted UF<sub>6</sub>. A strategy is a set of actions for handling depleted UF<sub>6</sub>, from its current storage condition at three DOE sites—Portsmouth, Ohio; Paducah, Kentucky; and Oak Ridge, Tennessee—to ultimate disposition. These broad strategies focus on material use, storage, and disposal. The programmatic impact statement will address the potential impacts of the actions that would comprise each strategy. DOE will prepare additional

tiered, project-specific NEPA documents as appropriate.

The proposed PEIS is the second component of an integrated three-part program to select a long-term management strategy for depleted UF<sub>6</sub> at Portsmouth, Paducah, and Oak Ridge. The first component of the program is an engineering analysis of proposed technologies for managing or using the material. This analysis will be based, in part, on responses to a request for recommendations for potential uses, associated conversion technologies, and management technologies for depleted UF<sub>6</sub>.

In November 1994, DOE published two notices in the Federal Register to initiate the consideration of alternative strategies for the long-term management and use of depleted UF<sub>6</sub>. The first notice was the "Management of Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride (UF<sub>6</sub>): Request for Recommendations" (59 FR 56324), and the second notice was the "Advance Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement: Alternative Strategies for the Long-Term Management of Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride at Several Geographic Locations" (59 FR 56325). As indicated in the request for recommendations, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory used technical experts to evaluate the 57 responses to the request for recommendations. The results of these evaluations are presented in "The Technology Assessment Report for the Long-Term Management of Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride" (UCRL-AR-120372), dated June 30, 1995. Copies of this report are available from the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161, phone (703) 487-4650, or from Mr. Bradley at the address above. Copies are also in the DOE reading rooms at the following locations:

DOE Headquarters, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 1E-190, Washington, D.C. 20585, phone (202) 586-3142;

Oak Ridge Operations Office, Public Reading Room, 55 Jefferson Circle, Room 112, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831, phone (615) 241-4780;

Paducah/DOE, Environmental Information Center, 175 Freedom Blvd., Kevil, Kentucky 42053, phone (502) 462-2550;

Portsmouth/DOE, Environmental Information Center, 505 West Emmitt Avenue, Suite 3, Waverly, Ohio 45690, phone (614) 947-5093.

As a result of the process implemented to date, DOE has considered a wide range of potential alternatives. While many of the options offered in response to DOE's request for recommendations were already known,