

experience of potential candidates for the position of executive director, matters that would disclose information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy if conducted in open session.

A summary of the activities at the closed session and related matters which are informative to the public consistent with the policy of Title 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) will be available to the public within 14 days of the meeting.

The public is being given less than the required 15 days' notice because of the difficulty in accommodating the schedules of all members of the Search Committee, which must complete its selection and interview process prior to the next full Board meeting on June 6.

Records are kept of all Board proceedings, and are available for public inspection at the office of the National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board, 555 New Jersey Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20208-7564.

Dated: April 1, 1996.

Sharon P. Robinson,

*Assistant Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 96-8419 Filed 4-4-96; 8:45 am]

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### National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board; Meeting

**AGENCY:** National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board; Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of closed committee meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the Search Committee of the National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board. Notice of this meeting is required under Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. This document is intended to notify the general public of the meeting.

**DATES:** May 6 and 7, 1996.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**TIME:** 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**LOCATION:** First Floor Conference Room, 80 F Street NW., Washington, DC 20208.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Charles E. Hansen, Designated Federal Official, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, 555 New Jersey Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20208-7579. Telephone: (202) 219-2050.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board is authorized by Section 921 of the Educational Research, Development, Dissemination,

and Improvement Act of 1994. The Board works collaboratively with the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Educational Research and Improvement to forge a national consensus with respect to a long-term agenda for educational research, development, and dissemination, and to provide advice and assistance to the Assistant Secretary in administering the duties of the Office.

The meeting of the Search Committee is closed to the public under the authority of Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463; 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2) and under exemption (6) of Section 552b(c) of the Government in the Sunshine Act (Pub. L. 94-409; 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6)). In interviewing candidates for the position of Executive Director, the Committee will consider the credentials, personal qualifications and experience of candidates for the position of executive director, matters that would disclose information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy if conducted in open session.

A summary of the activities at the closed session and related matters which are informative to the public consistent with the policy of Title 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) will be available to the public within 14 days of the meeting.

Records are kept of all Board proceedings, and are available for public inspection at the office of the National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board, 555 New Jersey Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20208-7564.

Dated: April 1, 1996.

Sharon P. Robinson,

*Assistant Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 96-8420 Filed 4-4-96; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Environmental Impact Statement for the Continued Operation of the Pantex Plant and Associated Storage of Nuclear Weapon Components

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy (DOE) announces the availability for public review and comment of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Continued Operation of the Pantex Plant and Associated Storage of Nuclear Weapon Components (DOE/EIS-0225). The Department's preferred alternative is to continue nuclear weapons operations at the Pantex Plant, located near Amarillo, Texas; to

implement projects and facility upgrades consistent with fulfilling these operations; and to increase interim storage levels for plutonium components (pits) from 12,000 to 20,000 pits. The Draft EIS also evaluates a No Action Alternative and a Relocation of Interim Pit Storage Alternative.

**DATES:** DOE invites the general public, other government agencies, and all other interested parties to comment on this Draft EIS. The information obtained during this period will assist DOE in finalizing this EIS. Comments received by DOE must be postmarked no later than July 5, 1996 to ensure consideration in the Final EIS. Comments postmarked after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

The Department will hold public meetings at the potentially affected sites to receive comments on the Draft Pantex EIS at the times and locations listed below. Meetings on the dates identified with an asterisk (\*) are joint public meetings to be held in coordination with the Pantex Draft EIS, the Stockpile Stewardship and Management Draft Programmatic EIS, and the Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials Draft Programmatic EIS:

April 22-23, 1996\*

Radisson Inn Airport, 7909 I-40 East at Lakeside, Amarillo, Texas 79104, Time: April 22; 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm; April 23; 8:30am to 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm

April 25, 1996

Community College of Southern Nevada—Cheyenne Campus, 3200 East Cheyenne Avenue, North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030, Time: 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

April 30, 1996\*

North Augusta Community Center, 495 Brookside Avenue, North Augusta, South Carolina 29841, Time: 8:00 am to 1:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm

May 2, 1996

Red Lion Inn, 802 George Washington Way, Richland, Washington 99352, Time: 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

May 7, 1996

Albuquerque Convention Center, 401 Second Street, NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102, Time: 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Public meeting times and locations will be published in local newspapers prior to the meeting dates.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and requests should be directed to: Ms. Nanette Founds, U.S. Department of Energy, Albuquerque Operations Office, P.O. Box 5400, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87185-5400. Written comments, suggestions, and requests

can also be submitted using the Pantex Plant EIS Faxline at 1-800-822-5499. Facsimiles should be marked: Pantex Plant EIS. Oral comments and requests concerning this EIS may also be submitted by calling the Pantex Plant EIS Hotline at 1-800-788-0306. Comments may also be submitted via the Internet. The e-mail address is: tetratrec@indirect.com.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information on DOE's NEPA process, please contact: Ms. Carol Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance (EH-42), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20585, 202-586-4600 or 1-800-472-2756. For information on this EIS, please contact: Ms. Nanette Founds at the above address or by calling (505) 845-4351.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pantex Plant, near Amarillo, Texas, is the Nation's nuclear weapons assembly and disassembly site. Its assigned missions also include the fabrication of high explosive components and the maintenance, modification and evaluation of existing nuclear weapons. However, its current workload is centered on the dismantlement of nuclear weapons being retired from the military stockpile. There are currently no plans for producing new weapons. The preferred alternative is to maintain Pantex Plant's assigned missions as well as increase the plant's onsite interim storage levels from 12,000 to 20,000 pits. The Draft EIS also evaluates a No Action Alternative, which would continue current activities with no new projects or facility upgrades and limit onsite interim storage to 12,000 pits and a Relocation of Pit Storage Alternative, in which some or all of Pantex interim storage activities would be relocated to an alternate site: the Savannah River Site near Aiken, South Carolina; the Nevada Test Site near Las Vegas, Nevada; the Hanford Site near Richland, Washington; or the Manzano Weapons Storage Area at Kirtland Air Force Base near Albuquerque, New Mexico.

This Draft EIS incorporates public comments received during two scoping periods (59 FR 26635, May 23, 1994; 60 FR 32661, June 23, 1995). Copies of all comments and associated EIS documentation prepared by DOE are available for inspection at the following locations:

U.S. Department of Energy, Freedom of Information Reading Room, Room 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20825, 202-586-6020

U.S. Department of Energy, Nevada Operations Office Public Reading Room,

2753 S. Highland Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109, 702-295-1274

U.S. Department of Energy, National Atomic Museum Public Reading Room, Kirtland Air Force Base, Building 20358, Wyoming Boulevard, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87115, 505-845-6670/4378

Los Alamos National Laboratory, Community Reading Room, Museum Parke Office Complex, 1450 Central Avenue, Suite 101, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544, 505-665-2127 or 1-800-543-2342

U.S. Department of Energy, Public Document Room, 2nd Floor, University Library, University of South Carolina, Aiken Campus, 171 University Parkway, Aiken, South Carolina 29801, 803-648-6851

Oak Ridge Public Reading Room, 55 Jefferson Avenue, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830, 615-576-0887

U.S. Department of Energy Public Reading Room, Reference Department, Lynn Library and Learning Center, Amarillo College, 2201 South Washington, 4th Floor, Amarillo, Texas 79109, 806-371-5400

Pantex EIS Public Information Center, c/o Tetra Tech, Inc., 6900 I-40 West, Suite 260, Amarillo, Texas, 806-355-9480

U.S. Department of Energy Public Reading Room, Carson County Public Library, 401 Main Street, P.O. Box 339, Panhandle, Texas 79068, 806-537-3742

U.S. Department of Energy, Public Reading Room, Washington State University, 100 Sprout Road, Richland, Washington 99352, 509-376-8583

#### Subsequent Document Preparation

DOE intends to complete the Final EIS and prepare a response to comments received during the review of the Draft EIS in October 1996 and will announce its availability in the Federal Register.

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 29, 1996.

Henry K. Garson,

*Associate Deputy Assistant, Secretary for Core Technical Support and Facility Transition, Defense Programs.*

[FR Doc. 96-8290 Filed 4-4-96; 8:45 am]

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#### Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements on Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials and Stockpile Stewardship and Management

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of additional public meeting session.

On March 8, 1996, the Department announced the availability of the Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Stockpile Stewardship and Management (61 FR 9443). In addition to the Washington, D.C. public meeting

scheduled for the morning of April 18, 1996 on the Draft EISs, the Department intends to provide an additional session on the afternoon of April 17, 1996 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Forrestal Building, Room 6E-069/081, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C.

To pre-register for this meeting (optional) and to obtain related information call 1-800-820-5134.

Issued in Washington, DC, April 1, 1996.

David B. LeClaire,

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs.*

Gregory P. Rudy,

*Acting Director, Office of Fissile Materials Disposition.*

[FR Doc. 96-8500 Filed 4-4-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

#### Financial Assistance Award (GRANT)

**AGENCY:** U. S. Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Solicitation of Applications for Grant Awards for High-Energy Density and Laser-Matter Interaction Studies.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to 10 CFR 600.15, the U. S. DOE announces that it plans to conduct a technically competitive solicitation for basic research experiments in high energy density and laser matter interaction studies at the National Laser Users' Facility (NLUF) located at the University of Rochester Laboratory for Laser Energetics (UR/LLE).

Grant Solicitation No. DE-PS03-96SF21040. Universities or other higher education institutions, private sector not-for-profit organizations, or other entities are invited to submit grant applications. The total amount of funding expected to be available for Fiscal Year 1997 (FY97) program cycle is \$700,000. Multiple awards are anticipated.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** James Solomon, Contracting Officer, DOE Oakland Operations Office, 1301 Clay Street, Room 700N, Oakland, CA 94612-5208, Telephone No. (510) 637-1865.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The solicitation is targeted for release approximately April 19, 1996. The actual work to be accomplished will be determined by the experiments and diagnostic techniques that are selected for award. Proposed experiments and diagnostic techniques will be evaluated through scientific peer review against predetermined, published and available criteria. Final selection will be made by the DOE. It is anticipated that multiple