

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.*

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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.*

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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