accessible collections of valuable historical materials.

As required by law, the National Library of Education has already developed a preliminary collection development policy which will be refined in conjunction with the recommendations of the Task Force. Plans for completing the cataloging of arrearage in the former Education Research Library collection and for the preservation of historical materials are also being formulated in cooperation with the Task Force.

The Task Force is charged with developing a plan to implement requirements stated in the law. In addition, it is expressly authorized, at its discretion, to ''identify other activities and functions for the Library to carry out, except that such functions shall not be carried out until the Library is established'' and has implemented the requirements expressly stated for it in Section 951 of the Act.

In seeking public comment, the National Library of Education Advisory Task Force and the Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement are committed to fulfilling the requirements of the law authorizing the National Library of Education and to developing a world-class education library providing useful and high-quality electronic and traditional information services to the American people. The Office of Educational Research and Improvement and the National Library of Education are also committed to supporting Executive Order 12862, Setting Customer Service Standards, which provides that the Federal Government be ''customer driven.'' To delivery the highest quality service, the National Library of Education and its Advisory Task Force must understand the needs and interests of the Library's customers and how it can be most responsive to them.

Invitation to Comment

Interested persons are invited to submit comments and recommendations regarding this notice.

All comments and recommendations will be available for public inspection, during and after the comment period, in Room 202, 80 F Street, NW., Washington, DC between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday of each week except Federal holidays.

Sharon P. Robinson,

Assistant Secretary, for Educational Research and Improvement.

[FR Doc. 96–8753 Filed 4–12–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Reopening the Public Comment Period for the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Electrometallurgical Treatment Research and Demonstration Project in the Fuel Conditioning Facility at Argonne National Laboratory-West

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Reopening of the public comment period.

SUMMARY: This notice reopens the public comment period for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Electrometallurgical Treatment Research and Demonstration Project in the Fuel Conditioning Facility at Argonne National Laboratory-West until May 3, 1996. All comments received by that date will be considered in preparing the final EA. A Notice of Availability of the draft was published on February 2, 1996 (61 FR 3922). All other information contained in the Notice of Availability remains unchanged.

DATES: The comment period on the draft EA will continue through May 3, 1996. Comments postmarked after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the draft EA and written comments on the draft EA should be addressed to: Mr. Greg Bass, NEPA Document Manager, Argonne Group-West, U.S. Department of Energy, P.O. Box 2528, Idaho Falls, ID 83403. Mr. Bass may be contacted by telephone at (208) 533–7184 and facsimile at (208) 533–7422.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information on the DOE NEPA process, please contact: Ms. Carol Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, EH–42, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20585. Ms. Borgstrom may be contacted by leaving a message at (800) 472–2756 or by calling (202) 586–4600. For general information on the Electrometallurgical Treatment Research and Demonstration Project, please contact: Mr. Robert G. Lange, Associate Director, Office of Facilities, NE–40, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874. Mr. Lange may be contacted by calling (301) 903–2915.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 2, 1996, the Department published a Notice of Availability (61 FR 3922) of the draft EA that included: a brief description of the contents of the document; information on how to obtain additional copies of the document and submit public comments; and a schedule of public meetings. The Notice also announced a 45-day public comment period from February 5, 1996, to March 22, 1996.

The public comment period is being reopened until May 3, 1996, in response to public requests for additional time to review reference documents and prepare comments. Except as otherwise specified above, all information contained in the February 2, 1996, Notice of Availability remains unchanged.

Issued in Washington, D.C., this 10th day of April 1996, for the United States Department of Energy.

Terry R. Lash,

Director, Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology.

[FR Doc. 96–9241 Filed 4–12–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Hanford Site Tank Waste Remediation System, Richland, Washington

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy and Washington State Department of Ecology.

ACTION: Notice of availability (NOA).

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE), in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), announces the availability of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Hanford Site Tank Waste Remediation System (TWRS). The draft EIS addresses DOE's proposed strategies and reasonable alternatives for management and disposal of radioactive, hazardous, and mixed waste currently or projected to be stored in 177 underground storage tanks and in approximately 60 active and inactive miscellaneous underground storage tanks that were associated with Hanford's tank farm operations. The EIS also addresses the management and disposal of approximately 1,930 radioactive cesium and strontium capsules currently on loan or stored at the Hanford Site, if the capsules are determined to have no further beneficial use. The Hanford Site is located near Richland, Washington. Ecology and DOE signed a Memorandum of Understanding on February 15, 1994 to co-prepare this EIS.

DATES: DOE and Ecology invite all interested parties to submit written comments concerning the draft EIS during a comment period ending May 28, 1996. Written comments should be postmarked by May 28, 1996. Comments

postmarked after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the draft EIS, further information on the draft EIS, and written comments should be directed to: Ms. Carolyn Haass, DOE TWRS EIS National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Document Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, P.O. Box 1249, Richland, WA 99352. Requests for copies of the Draft EIS also can be made via the Internet at: TWRSEIS@ken01.JACOBS.com or by calling Ecology's Hanford Information Line at 1–800–321–2008. Addresses of DOE Public Reading Rooms and Information Repositories where the draft EIS and reference documents will be available for public review are listed in this notice under ''Supplementary Information.''

Information on the DOE NEPA process may be requested from Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance (EH–42), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585. Ms. Borgstrom may be contacted by telephone at: (202) 586–4600 or by leaving a message at 1–800–472–2756.

The public is also invited to attend public hearings in which oral comments will be received on the draft EIS. Oral and written comments will be considered equally in preparation of the final EIS. DOE and the Washington State Department of Ecology will also conduct workshops and meetings in Washington or Oregon on the EIS for organizations during the public comment period. Oral and written comments will be received at public hearings to be held on the dates and at the locations listed below:

May 2, 1996, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Columbia Basin College, 2600 North 20th Avenue, Hawk Union Building, West Dining Room, Pasco, Washington

May 7, 1996, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Cavalier Room, Sheraton National Hotel, 900 Orme Street, Arlington, Virginia,

May 9, 1996, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Multnomah Room, Red Lion Hotel at Lloyd Center, 1000 Northeast Multnomah Drive, Portland, Oregon.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

DOE issued a Notice of Intent to prepare the Hanford Tank Waste Remediation System EIS on January 23, 1994 (59 FR 4052). Thereafter, DOE and Ecology held five public scoping meetings in five locations in Washington and Oregon to obtain public comment on the scope of the EIS.

The document number for this draft EIS is DOE/EIS–0189–D. The draft EIS was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA); the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA, 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500–1508; and the DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures, 10 CFR Part 1021.

Copies of the draft TWRS EIS have been distributed to Federal, State, and local officials, Tribal Nations, as well as agencies, organizations, and individuals who may be interested or affected. The draft EIS and supporting technical reports also are available for public review in DOE reading rooms and designated information repository locations identified in this notice.

Public scoping comments were assessed and considered both individually and collectively by DOE and Ecology. Some comments resulted in modifications to the initial scope of the EIS as described in the Notice of Intent. Scoping comments and DOE and Ecology responses to those comments can be found in the Implementation Plan for the TWRS EIS, issued December, 1995 (DOE/RL–94–88). The Implementation Plan is available by contacting the persons listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice or in the DOE reading rooms and information repositories identified in this notice.

Alternatives Considered

Tank waste alternatives discussed in the EIS are:

- *No Action*—perform minimum activities required for safe and secure management of Hanford's tank wastes with the current tank farm configuration;
- *Long-Term Management*—perform minimum activities required for safe and secure management of Hanford's tank waste, including upgrades to tank farms with the current single-shell tank farm configuration and the replacement of the double-shell tanks twice during a 100-year period;
- *In Situ Fill and Cap*—retrieve and evaporate liquid waste from the single-shell and double-shell tanks, then fill all tanks with gravel and cover the tank farms with an earthen surface barrier, disposing of all tank waste onsite;
- *In Situ Vitrification*—retrieve and evaporate liquid waste from the single-shell and double-shell tanks, then vitrify all of the tank waste in place and cover the tank farms with an earthen surface barrier, disposing of all tank waste onsite;
- *Ex Situ No Separations*—retrieve all tank farm waste practicable (assumed to be 99 percent), then either vitrify or calcine the waste and package the treated waste form for onsite storage and eventual offsite disposal at a high-level waste geologic repository;
- *Ex Situ Intermediate Separations*—retrieve all tank farm waste (99 percent) and separate the high-level and low-activity waste streams using sludge washing and ion exchange, then vitrify the waste streams in separate facilities and package the treated waste forms for onsite disposal of immobilized low-activity waste and offsite disposal of the immobilized high-level waste at a geologic repository;
- *Ex Situ Extensive Separations*—retrieve all tank farm waste (99 percent) and separate into high-level and low-activity waste streams using sludge wash, ion exchange, caustic leach and acid dissolution, then vitrify the waste streams in separate facilities and package the treated waste forms for onsite disposal of the immobilized low-activity waste and offsite disposal of the immobilized high-level waste at a geologic repository;
- *Ex Situ/In Situ Combination*—retrieve tank waste (50 percent assumed) based on the risk posed to human health or the environment, separate the retrieved waste into high-level and low-activity waste streams using sludge washing and ion exchange, then vitrify the waste streams in separate facilities, and package the treated waste forms for onsite disposal of the immobilized low-activity waste and offsite disposal of the immobilized high-level waste at a geologic repository, fill all tanks, including those with waste that had not been retrieved, with gravel, cover the tanks with a barrier, permanently disposing of the waste in-place. As a subalternative to this alternative, DOE will examine the Ex Situ treatment of the largest contributors to long-term risk, while limiting the volume of waste to be treated; and
- *Phased Implementation*—similar to the Ex Situ Intermediate Separations alternative whereby Phase 1 consists of construction of two commercial demonstration-scale facilities that would include one low-activity waste separation and vitrification demonstration plant and one low-activity and high-level waste vitrification demonstration plant which operate for up to 10 years. These facilities could treat up to 30 percent of the tank waste by volume during the 10-year operating period. In Phase 2, DOE would construct larger capacity separation and vitrification plants, retrieve the remaining waste, separate

the waste into low-activity and high-level waste streams, vitrify the waste in separate facilities, package the waste and dispose of the low-activity waste onsite in near-surface vaults and the high-level waste offsite at a geologic repository.

The radioactive cesium and strontium capsules produced from reclaimed materials in tanks are currently classified as waste by-product. The capsules may have potential commercial or other beneficial use. If a beneficial use cannot be found, the capsules would become subject to management and disposal actions as high-level waste. Cesium and strontium capsule alternatives analyzed in the EIS are: *No Action*—Continue existing operations and maintenance in the Hanford Site Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility for 10 years; *Onsite Disposal*—overpack the cesium and strontium in canisters and store onsite indefinitely in a newly constructed dry-well storage facility; *Overpack and Ship*—overpack the cesium and strontium into canisters, which would then be overpacked into larger canisters, and disposed of offsite at a potential geologic repository; and *Vitrify with Tank Waste*—remove capsule contents and vitrify with the high-level tank waste, and dispose of offsite at a potential geologic repository.

The draft EIS identifies and compares the potential environmental impacts associated with these alternatives for managing and disposing of Hanford's radioactive, hazardous and mixed tank waste and encapsulated cesium and strontium.

Preferred Alternatives

DOE's and Ecology's preferred tank waste alternative is the Phased Implementation alternative. DOE and Ecology do not yet have a preferred alternative for the Hanford Site's encapsulated cesium and strontium.

Invitation to Comment

DOE has completed the general distribution of the draft TWRS EIS and has filed it with the Environmental Protection Agency, which will publish a Notice of Availability elsewhere in the Federal Register. The draft TWRS EIS will also be available to the public in the DOE reading rooms and designated information repository locations identified in this notice. DOE plans to issue the final TWRS EIS in July 1996 and a Record of Decision by August 1996.

Persons interested in speaking at the hearings may register at the hearing and will be called on to speak on a first-come first-served basis. Written comments will also be accepted at the meetings, and speakers are encouraged to provide written versions of their oral comments for the record. Oral and written comments will be considered equally in preparing the final EIS.

DOE and the Washington State Department of Ecology will also conduct workshops and meetings in Washington or Oregon on the EIS for organizations during the public comment period. The workshops and meetings will provide an opportunity for interested persons and the public to learn more about the alternatives and analysis presented in the EIS. The dates of the workshops and meetings have not been scheduled at this time. Interested persons should call 1–800–321–2008, to schedule a workshop before May 7, 1996.

Contents of the EIS

Summary: Summary of the alternatives and analysis presented in the EIS
Volume One: Text of the Tank Waste Remediation System EIS
Volume Two: Appendices supporting the analysis presented in Volume One
- Appendix A. Waste Inventory
- Appendix B. Description of Alternatives
- Appendix C. Alternatives Dismissed from Analysis

Volume Three: Appendices supporting the analysis presented in Volume One
- Appendix D. Anticipated Health and Ecological Risks

Volume Four: Appendices supporting the analysis presented in Volume One
- Appendix E. Accident Risks
- Appendix F. Groundwater Modeling

Volume Five: Appendices supporting the analysis presented in Volume One
- Appendix G. Air Quality Modeling
- Appendix H. Socioeconomic Impact Modeling
- Appendix I. Affected Environment
- Appendix J. Consultation Letters

The Summary of the EIS is available for review for those who do not want the entire draft EIS. When requesting copies of the draft EIS, please indicate whether you wish to receive only the Summary (52 pages), the Summary and Volume One (620 pages), the entire draft document and associated appendices (2,400 pages), or some combination of these documents.

DOE Public Reading Rooms and Information Repositories

Suzzallo Library, University of Washington, Government Publications Room, Seattle, WA 98195 (206–543–4664).
Foley Center, Gonzaga University, E. 502 Boone, Spokane, WA 99258 (509–328–4220, Ext. 3125).
DOE Reading Room, Washington State University, Tri-Cities Campus, 100 Sprout Road, Room 130, Richland, WA 99352 (509–376–8583).
Bradford Price Millar Library, Science and Engineering Floor, Portland State University, SW Harrison and Park, Portland, OR 97207 (503–725–3690).
DOE Freedom of Information Reading Room, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, D.C. 20585 (202–586–6020).

Issued in Washington, D.C., this day April 9, 1996.

Stephen P. Cowan,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management.

[FR Doc. 96–9270 Filed 4–10–96; 12:57 pm]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

Withdrawal of Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) at the Department of Energy (DOE) Savannah River Site (SRS)

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: On March 20, 1992, DOE announced its intent to prepare an EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for a proposed Upgrade of Canyon Exhaust Systems Project at the Savannah River Site (SRS). Due to a substantial reduction in scope of the proposed upgrade, DOE is withdrawing its Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

ADDRESSES: Written comments or suggestions on the information provided below under the heading ''Supplementary Information'' should be directed to Mr. A.R. Grainger, NEPA Compliance Officer, Environmental Compliance Division, Savannah River Operations Office, P.O. Box 5031, Aiken, South Carolina, 29804, Phone/FAX: (800) 242–8269, E-Mail: nepa@barmS036.b-r.com.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information on DOE's National Environmental Policy Act (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, D.C. 20585. Telephone: (202) 586–4600 or leave a message at (800) 472–2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Beginning in the early 1950's, the SRS served as a