

(10) New Business

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Mr. Bobby D. Anderson, Executive
Secretary of the Board of Regents, (301)
295-3116.

Dated: December 18, 1996.

Linda Bynum,

*OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer,
Department of Defense.*

[FR Doc. 96-32586 Filed 12-18-96; 3:59 pm]

BILLING CODE 5000-04-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Ground Water Project

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) announces the availability of the final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Ground Water Project. The proposed action is to conduct the UMTRA Ground Water Project using appropriate Ground Water compliance strategies at 24 uranium processing sites based on a health and environmental risk-based framework designed to provide a consistent and flexible approach. The three other alternatives analyzed in the PEIS are: no action, active remediation to background levels, and passive remediation. Separate site-specific National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation will be prepared to address site-specific ground water conditions, human and environmental risks, participation of the Tribes, States, and local communities, and costs.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for copies of the final PEIS or further information concerning this document should be directed to Mr. Donald R. Metzler, Grand Junction Office, Department of Energy, 2597 B 3/4 Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81503, telephone 970-248-7612 (formerly the Grand Junction Projects Office). Addresses of Department of Energy Public Reading Rooms and public libraries where the final document will be available for review are listed below under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**. For general information on the procedures followed by DOE in complying with the requirements of the NEPA, contact Ms. Carol M. 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:

Background

The final PEIS was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the NEPA of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA in 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508; and DOE's NEPA implementing procedures in 10 CFR Part 1021. The final PEIS consists of Volume 1, the main text of the EIS, and Volume 2, public comments on the draft PEIS and DOE's responses to the comments.

The final PEIS has been filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and has also been distributed to interested members of the public, Federal, and State agencies. The final PEIS will also be available for viewing by the public in the DOE reading rooms and at the public libraries identified below. DOE plans to issue a Record of Decision based on the final PEIS no earlier than 30 days after the EPA publishes a notice of availability of the final PEIS in the Federal Register, which DOE expects will occur at about the same time that this notice is published.

Public concern regarding the potential human health and environmental effects from uranium mill tailings led to passage of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (Public Law 95-604, 42 U.S.C. § 7901 *et seq.*) in 1978, wherein Congress acknowledged the potentially harmful health effects associated with uranium mill tailings at 22 abandoned uranium mill processing sites. Pursuant to the Act, the EPA developed standards (40 CFR Part 192) which include radiation limits for surface contamination and concentration limits for ground water, to protect the public and the environment from potential radiological and nonradiological hazards from the abandoned mill processing sites. Final Ground Water protection standards were published in the Federal Register [60 FR 2854 (Jan. 11, 1995)]. The standards apply to residual radioactive material at the 22 processing sites designated, as provided in the Act, by DOE. DOE is responsible for performing remedial action to bring the surface and ground water contaminant levels at the abandoned mill processing sites into compliance with these standards. DOE is accomplishing this function through the UMTRA Project. Remedial action regarding ground water contamination will be conducted with the concurrence

of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the full participation of affected States and Indian Tribes. Remedial sites in accordance with applicable standards for surface contamination, 40 CFR Part 192, has already been taken or is in process.

The Ground Water Project PEIS provides a consistent risk-based framework for determining the site-specific ground water compliance strategies, and supplies data and information that can be used in site-specific environmental impact analysis documents. The proposed action and the alternatives in the document are considered programmatic in that they broadly address the overall plans for conducting the Ground Water Project with an assessment of the potential impacts associated with the various potential ground water compliance strategies.

Availability of Copies of the Final PEIS

Copies of the final PEIS may be obtained by contacting the Ground Junction Office at the address or telephone numbers listed above. The final PEIS and documents referenced in the PEIS are available for inspection at DOE reading rooms and at the public libraries in the vicinity of the former uranium processing sites as listed below.

DOE Reading Rooms

Freedom of Information Reading Room,
Room 1E-190, Department of Energy,
Forrestal Building, 1000
Independence Avenue, SW,
Washington, D.C. 20585
National Atomic Museum Library,
Public Document Room, Department
of Energy, Albuquerque Operations
Office, Albuquerque, New Mexico
87115
Grand Junction Office, Department of
Energy, 2597 B 3/4 Road, Grand
Junction, Colorado 81302 Public
Libraries

Public Libraries

Arizona

Tuba City Public Library, Tuba City,
Arizona 86045
Navajo Nation Library System, Window
Rock, Arizona 86515
Kykotsmobi Public Library, Community
Development Director, Kykotsmobi,
Arizona 86039

Colorado

Cortez Public Library, 802 E.
Montezuma, Cortez, Colorado 81321
Denver Public Library, 1357 Broadway,
Denver, Colorado 80203
Rifle Branch Library, Second Street,
Rifle, Colorado 81650

Mesa State College Library, Grand Junction, Colorado 81502
 Dove Creek School Library, Dove Creek, Colorado 81324
 Durango Public Library, Reference Department, Durango, Colorado 81301
 Glenwood Springs Library, 413 9th Street, Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81601
 Gunnison Public Library, 307 N. Wisconsin, Gunnison, Colorado 81230
 Naturita Public Library, 312 W. Second Street, Naturita, Colorado 81422
 Montrose Public Library, 4349 First Street, Montrose, Colorado 81424

Idaho

Boise Public Library, 715 S. Capitol Building, Boise, Idaho 83805

New Mexico

Navajo Community College Library, Shiprock Branch, Shiprock, New Mexico 87420
 Mother Whiteside Memorial Library, 525 W. High Street, Grants, New Mexico 87020
 New Mexico State University Library, 1500 3rd Street, Grants, New Mexico 87020
 University of New Mexico Gallup Library, 200 College Road, Gallup, New Mexico 87301
 University of New Mexico Zimmerman Library, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131-1466
 New Mexico Environmental Department Library, 1190 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

North Dakota

Bowman Public Library, 104 Main Street, Bowman, North Dakota 58623
 Dickinson Public Library, 139 West 3rd Street, Dickinson, North Dakota 58601

Oregon

Lake County Library, 513 Center Street, Lakeview, Oregon 97630

Pennsylvania

Canonsburg Public Library, East Pike Street, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania 15317
 People's Library, 2889 Leechburg Road, Lower Burrell, Pennsylvania 15068

Texas

Falls City Public Library, P.O. Box 325, Falls City, Texas 78113

Utah

Bluff Public Library, Bluff, Utah 84512
 Marriott Library, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112
 San Juan County Library, 25 West 300 Street, Blanding, Utah 84511
 Grand County Library, 25 South 1st East, Moab, Utah 84532

Green River Library, 85 South Lang Street, Green River, Utah 84525

Wyoming

Riverton Branch Library, 1330 West Park, Riverton, Wyoming 82501
 Wyoming State Library, Supreme Court Building, 24th & Capitol Street, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002
 University of Wyoming Library, University Station, Laramie, Wyoming 82071

Issued in Washington, D.C., on December 16, 1996.

James M. Owendoff,
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Restoration.

[FR Doc. 96-32329 Filed 12-19-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

Notice of Floodplain Involvement for Proposed Upgrade and Modification of the Pantex Waste Water Treatment Facility

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE); Amarillo Area Office.

ACTION: Notice of floodplain involvement.

SUMMARY: DOE proposes to upgrade the existing Pantex Plant waste water treatment facility (WWTF). The existing WWTF is located in a floodplain and discharges effluent, by permit, to a wetland located on the Pantex Plant in Carson County, 17 miles northeast of Amarillo, Texas. In accordance with 10 CFR part 1022, DOE will prepare a floodplain assessment and perform this proposed action in a manner so as to avoid or minimize potential harm to or within the affected floodplain.

DATES: Comments are due to the address below no later than January 6, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning this Notice should be addressed to: Floodplain and Wetlands Comments, Tom Walton, Public Affairs Officer, Public Affairs Office, U.S. Department of Energy, Amarillo Area Office, P. O. Box 30030, Amarillo, Texas 79120, (806) 477-3120 or Fax (806) 477-3185.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON GENERAL DOE FLOODPLAIN/WETLANDS

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW REQUIREMENTS, CONTACT: Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The existing WWTF is an aerated lagoon and an unaerated lagoon, providing treatment of effluent to meet or exceed required permit levels. The proposed

project is intended to provide additional pollutant and contaminant removal from Pantex Plant waste water. Pantex waste water is and will continue to be composed of both sanitary and industrial waste water. Treated effluent from the present facility is redirected to Playa 1, the receiving water body, as authorized by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. TX0107107 and the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission Waste Water Discharge Permit No. 02296. The project would include work at the existing treatment plant site, located in a floodplain. Diking would be included in the proposed action to prevent floodwaters from reaching the proposed facility, should sufficient water accumulate in the Playa 1 floodplain to reach the 100-year flood level.

In accordance with DOE regulations for compliance with floodplain environmental review requirements (10 CFR part 1022), DOE will prepare a floodplain assessment for this proposed action. The assessment will be included in the environmental assessment (EA) being prepared for the proposed project in accordance with requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. Based on analysis in the EA, DOE will either prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact and proceed with the action, or prepare an Environmental Impact Statement if the EA reveals potential for significant environmental impact. In the preparation of this EA, DOE will assess the potential impacts to the involved floodplain and publish a Statement of Finding regarding the proposed project.

Issued in Amarillo, Texas on December 11, 1996.

Vicki C. Battley,
Program Office Official, Amarillo Area Office NCO.

[FR Doc. 96-32327 Filed 12-19-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP97-147-000]

National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

December 16, 1996.

Take notice that on December 10, 1996, National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation (National), 10 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, New York 14203, filed in the above docket, a request pursuant to Sections 157.205 and 157.211 of the Commission's Regulations under the