

Committee will consider the case at its June 16–18, 1997 meeting.

The purpose of this notice is to invite interested third parties to present written comments on the National League for Nursing. In order for Department staff to give full consideration to the comments received, the comments must arrive at the address listed above not later than April 14, 1997. Comments must relate directly to the Secretary's Criteria for the Recognition of Accrediting Agencies. All written comments received by the Department in response to this notice will be considered by both the Advisory Committee and the Secretary.

A subsequent Federal Register notice will announce the meeting and invite individuals and/or groups to submit requests for oral presentation before the Advisory Committee on this agency and the other agencies being reviewed at that meeting. That notice, however, does not constitute another call for written comment. This notice is the only call for written comment on the National League for Nursing, which, as indicated above, is appealing the previous recommendation of the Advisory Committee to withdraw its recognition.

Public Inspection of Petitions and Third-Party Comments

All third-party comments received in response to this call for comment, as well as the agency's original petition and supporting documentation, the Department staff analysis of that petition, the agency's appeals materials, and its most recent submission, which the Secretary requested by March 1, 1997, will be available for public inspection at the U.S. Department of Education, ROB–3, Room 3915, 7th and D Streets, SW., Washington, DC 20202–5244, telephone (202) 708–7417 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, until June 2, 1997.

Dated: March 10, 1997.

David A. Longanecker,
Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary
Education.

[FR Doc. 97–6416 Filed 3–13–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Draft Solicitation for Waste Acceptance and Transportation Services

AGENCY: Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, U.S. Department of Energy.

ACTION: Extension of comment period for Draft Solicitation for Waste

Acceptance and Transportation Services.

SUMMARY: The Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) announced the availability of a Draft Request For Proposals (RFP) for Waste Acceptance and Transportation Services in the December 23, 1996 Commerce Business Daily (Section V, Page 10) and in the December 27, 1996 Federal Register (Vol. 61, #250, page 68250). The draft solicitation was made available by requesting a copy directly from the Contracting Officer and via the Internet on the OCRWM Home Page and the Headquarters Procurement Operations Home Page at the following addresses: <http://www.rw.doe.gov/> and <http://www.pr.doe.gov/solicit.html>, respectively.

The announcement requested that comments regarding the RFP be submitted to the address listed below no later than March 31, 1997. This notice hereby extends that comment period until May 15, 1997. All comments should be sent to U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Attn: Michelle Miskinis, HR–561.21, Washington, DC 20585.

All comments received will be made available at the U.S. Department of Energy, Public Reading Room located at the above address, at the end of the comment period.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on March 5, 1997.

Scott E. Sheffield,

Acting Associate Deputy Assistant, Secretary for Headquarters Procurement Operations.

[FR Doc. 97–6465 Filed 3–13–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Pantex Plant

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463, 86 Stat. 770) notice is hereby given of the following Advisory Committee meeting: Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Pantex Plant, Amarillo, Texas.

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, March 25, 1997: 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Boatmen's First National Bank, Centennial Room, Amarillo, Texas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Williams, Program Manager, Department of Energy, Amarillo Area Office, P.O. Box 30030, Amarillo, TX 79120 (806) 477–3121.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of the Committee: The Board provides input to the Department of Energy on Environmental Management strategic decisions that impact future use, risk management, economic development, and budget prioritization activities.

Tentative Agenda:

- 1:00 p.m.—Welcome—Agenda Review—Approval of Minutes
- 1:10 p.m.—Co-Chair Comments
- 1:20 p.m.—West Texas A&M University Update
 - Results of Board Interviews by West Texas Facilitators
- 1:50 p.m.—West Texas A&M University Budget Discussion
- 2:20 p.m.—Subcommittee Reports
 - Policy & Personnel
 - Nominations & Membership
- 2:40 p.m.—Task Force Reports
 - Environmental Restoration
 - Transition
- 3:00 p.m.—Break
- 3:15 p.m.—Budget Discussions (Focus on the '97 Budget)
 - David Humbert, Administrative Services
- 4:15 p.m.—Ex-Officio Reports
- 4:30 p.m.—Updates—Occurrence Reports—DOE
- 5:00 p.m.—Closing Remarks/Adjourn

Public Participation: The meeting is open to the public, and public comment will be invited throughout the meeting. Written statements may be filed with the Committee either before or after the meeting. Written comments will be accepted at the address above for 15 days after the date of the meeting. Individuals who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact Tom Williams' office at the address or telephone number listed above. Requests must be received 5 days prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation in the agenda. The Designated Federal Official is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Each individual wishing to make public comment will be provided a maximum of 5 minutes to present their comments. This notice is being published less than 15 days in advance of the meeting due to programmatic issues that needed to be resolved.

Minutes: The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying at the Pantex Public Reading Rooms located at the Amarillo College Lynn Library and Learning Center, 2201 South Washington, Amarillo, TX phone (806) 371–5400. Hours of operation are

from 7:45 am to 10:00 pm, Monday through Thursday; 7:45 am to 5:00 pm on Friday; 8:30 am to 12:00 noon on Saturday; and 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Sunday, except for Federal holidays. Additionally, there is a Public Reading Room located at the Carson County Public Library, 401 Main Street, Panhandle, TX phone (806) 537-3742. Hours of operation are from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm on Monday; 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Tuesday through Friday; and closed Saturday and Sunday as well as Federal Holidays. Minutes will also be available by writing or calling Tom Williams at the address or telephone number listed above.

Issued at Washington, DC on March 11, 1997.

Rachel M. Samuel,

Acting Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-6468 Filed 3-13-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

Bonneville Power Administration

Billy Shaw Dam and Reservoir

AGENCY: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and floodplain/wetland statement of findings.

SUMMARY: This notice announces BPA's decision to fund the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Billy Shaw Dam and Reservoir on the Duck Valley Reservation. This project is part of a continuing effort to address system-wide fish and wildlife losses caused by the development of the hydropower system in the Columbia River Basin. BPA has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) (DOE/EA-1167) evaluating the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project. Based on the analysis in the EA, BPA has determined that the Proposed Action is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. Therefore, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required and BPA is issuing this FONSI.

A finding is included that there is no practicable alternative to locating the project within a 100-year floodplain.

ADDRESS: For copies of this FONSI, please call BPA's toll-free document request line: 800-622-4520.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Kathy Fisher—ECN, Bonneville Power Administration, P.O. Box 3621,

Portland, Oregon, 97208-3621, phone number 503-230-4375, fax number 503-230-5699.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under provisions of the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980 (Act), BPA protects, mitigates, and enhances fish and wildlife and their habitats affected by the construction and operation of the Federal hydroelectric system in the Columbia River Basin. This is accomplished through funding of measures that are consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's (Council) Fish and Wildlife Program and other purposes of the Act [16 U.S.C. 839b(h)(10)(A)]. The site-specific fish and wildlife mitigation projects that BPA funds are intended to help reach the Council's mitigation goals and are "in addition to, not in lieu of, other expenditures authorized or required from other entities under other agreements or provisions of law."

The Proposed Action is for BPA to fund the construction and operation of the Billy Shaw Dam and Reservoir (Project) on the Duck Valley Reservation (Reservation). It is consistent with the objectives of the Council's Program goals and satisfies the Council's recommendation to implement an additional lake fishery at Coyote Sink on the Duck Valley Reservation. Developing the Project would help BPA meet the need to provide off-site mitigation in the Duck Valley area for the loss of salmon and steelhead caused by the construction and operation of the Federal hydroelectric dams and reservoirs on the Columbia River. The No Action Alternative considered in the EA would not satisfy BPA's need to provide off-site mitigation in the Duck Valley Reservation area for salmon and steelhead.

The Project would include the construction of an earthen dam to create a reservoir in the Billy Shaw Slough on the Reservation. The water for the new reservoir would come from natural high spring flows that would be diverted from the Owyhee River at the China Diversion Dam and supplied through the Duck Valley Canal and the new Billy Shaw Feed Canal. The new reservoir would have a surface area of 174 hectares (430 acres) and volume of 3300 acre-feet. The reservoir would be stocked with trout from an existing fish hatchery.

Some environmental impacts would occur as a result of the Project, but the impacts would not be significant. Approximately 223 hectares (550 acres) of vegetation and wildlife habitat would be removed or disturbed by the Project.

Approximately 174 hectares (430 acres) of suitable foraging habitat for various animal species, including federally listed bald eagles, and suitable nesting habitat for burrowing owls and pygmy rabbits would be permanently replaced by a reservoir. An additional 49 hectares (120 acres) of habitat would be temporarily disturbed by construction activities. The vegetation and habitat disturbance and removal would not be significant because similar vegetation and habitat is plentiful in the area. The impact area represents less than 3% of the Billy Shaw Slough monotypical vegetation and habitat communities.

Another vegetation related impact would be the increase in plant diversity along the reservoir shoreline. This impact would not be significant because only native plants would be used for reseeded and revegetating disturbed areas. This would prevent non-native plants from being introduced into the local area by the Project.

Soil disturbance from construction and maintenance activities would increase the risk of erosion. However, the impact would not be significant because it would be limited to localized increases in erosion and runoff. Although foraging habitat for bald or golden eagles would be replaced by the new reservoir, the reservoir may contribute to increased site use by bald or golden eagles, especially at the reservoir or riparian fringe areas. No other threatened or endangered wildlife are known to occur within the area. Impacts to the bald eagle would not be significant because similar foraging opportunities are plentiful in the area. Increased site utilization by bald or golden eagles would not significantly impact any other wildlife resource.

The addition of the reservoir would increase the amount of fish habitat in the area. The Project design and location would prevent the reservoir fish from leaving the reservoir so there would be no impacts to other aquatic environments. Approximately 1.2 hectares (3 acres) of intermittent wetlands would be permanently replaced by the reservoir. The impacts would not be significant because the wetlands are not part of a complete and interrelated wetland area. New wetlands and riparian areas would naturally develop in shallow areas around the reservoir perimeter and would offset the loss of the existing intermittent wetlands.

The Project would be developed within an area prone to spring flooding from the Owyhee River. The Project would reduce seasonal flooding below the dam site and would alter normal runoff patterns. No impacts to lives or