

Gulf War Veterans Illnesses Investigative Team, Suite 810, 5205 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3881, or to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), 1200 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-1200.

#### CONTESTING RECORDS PROCEDURES:

The OSD's rules for accessing records, for contesting contents and appealing initial agency determinations are published in OSD Administrative Instruction 81; 32 CFR part 311; or may be obtained from the system manager.

#### RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:

Information is from the individuals themselves, witnesses to a possible agent event, health care providers who have evaluated patients with illnesses possibly related to service in the Persian Gulf, as well as extracts from historical records to include: personnel files and lists, unit histories, medical records, and related sources.

#### EXEMPTIONS CLAIMED FOR THE SYSTEM:

None.

[FR Doc. 97-9342 Filed 4-10-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5000-04-F

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army Corps of Engineers

#### Environmental Advisory Board

**AGENCY:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463), this notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of the forthcoming meeting of the Chief of Engineers Environmental Advisory Board (EAB). The meeting is open to the public.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held from 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 6, 1997, to 11:00 a.m. Thursday, May 8, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be at the Double Tree Hotel, 300 Army/Navy Drive, Arlington, (Pentagon City), Virginia.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Paul Rubenstein, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, DC 20314-1000, (202) 761-1257.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The theme of the subject meeting on "Non-Indigenous Species and Our Nation's Waterbodies" follows:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plays a vital role in protecting America's waters from non-native predators,

parasites, pathogens and competitors. The 55th Meeting of the Chief of Engineers Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) will offer participants with an important opportunity to examine and analyze Corps research programs designed to identify, access and manage non-indigenous species that interfere with the valued uses of our Nation's waterbodies.

**Gregory D. Showalter,**

*Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 97-9336 Filed 4-10-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The Director, Information Resources Management Group, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before June 10, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and requests for copies of the proposed information collection requests should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Patrick J. Sherrill (202) 708-8196. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Director, Information Resources Management Group publishes this notice containing proposed information collection

requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g., new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment at the address specified above. Copies of the requests are available from Patrick J. Sherrill at the address specified above.

The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department, (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner, (3) is the estimate of burden accurate, (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected, and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: April 7, 1997.

**Gloria Parker,**

*Director, Information Resources Management Group.*

### Office of Educational Research and Improvement

*Type of Review:* Reinstatement.

*Title:* Public Libraries Survey, FY 1996-FY 1998.

*Frequency:* Annually.

*Affected Public:* State, local or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

*Reporting Burden and Recordkeeping Responses:* 57.

*Burden Hours:* 1,710.

*Abstract:* The Public Libraries survey has been conducted annually since it first collected FY 1990 data. The Data collection provides a national census of public libraries and their public library service outlets. It includes descriptive data for each state and for each individual public library. The data are collected entirely electronically and the survey is designed and coordinated by a federal/state cooperative system. Data collected allow analysis of such important variables as expenditures, staffing, size of collection and services comparing among libraries of similar size (as measured by population of legal service area). This information is used for policy decisions in the areas of legislation, funding and resource allocation. With this complete file of administrative entities, it is possible to

select samples for specialized surveys for example on children's services or on access for persons with disabilities.

[FR Doc. 97-9341 Filed 4-10-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Savannah River Operations Office Interim Management of Nuclear Materials at the Savannah River Site

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Supplemental record of decision and supplement analysis determination.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) prepared a final environmental impact statement (EIS), "Interim Management of Nuclear Materials" (DOE/EIS-0220, October 20, 1995), to assess the potential environmental impacts of actions necessary to manage nuclear materials at the Savannah River Site (SRS), Aiken, South Carolina, until decisions on their ultimate disposition are made and implemented. Some of the particular materials considered in the EIS could present environmental, safety and health vulnerabilities in their current storage condition.

On December 12, 1995, DOE issued a Record of Decision (ROD) and Notice of Preferred Alternatives, 60 FR 65300 (December 19, 1995), on the interim management of several categories of nuclear materials at the SRS, including Taiwan Research Reactor (TRR) spent nuclear fuel rods. DOE decided to stabilize 81 TRR spent fuel rods because the TRR fuel had failed,<sup>1</sup> presenting environmental, safety and health vulnerabilities that should be corrected. At the time of this decision, DOE stated that, if additional TRR spent fuel failed, DOE would categorize the failed fuel as Candidates for Stabilization and perform appropriate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review and evaluation for stabilization of the material.

On February 8, 1996, DOE issued a Supplemental ROD, 61 FR 6633 (February 21, 1996), for the stabilization of Mark-16 and Mark-22 fuels, and other aluminum-clad targets. On September 6, 1996, DOE issued a second Supplemental ROD, 61 FR 48747 (September 13, 1996), for the stabilization of plutonium-239

solutions, a neptunium-237 solution and obsolete targets.

DOE has now further decided, because of health and safety vulnerabilities, to stabilize the remaining TRR spent nuclear fuel located in the Receiving Basin for Offsite Fuels (RBOF) at the SRS, using the F-Canyon and FB-Line facilities. The TRR spent nuclear fuel to be stabilized consists of the equivalent of 310 fuel rods (some of the rods were fragmented due to conditions in Taiwan) in 62 aluminum canisters stored underwater in RBOF. DOE has decided to stabilize the TRR spent nuclear fuel because additional TRR spent fuel in at least two of the canisters has failed, and DOE believes that the rest is likely to exhibit signs of failure at unpredictable intervals in the near future. All 62 canisters contain TRR fuel that was subjected to the same poor storage conditions in Taiwan, and the same physical stress due to transportation conditions during shipment from Taiwan to SRS, creating a propensity for corrosion of the fuel elements' cladding. Once the cladding has failed, the failure cannot be arrested, even by the excellent water quality conditions in RBOF. Thus, fission products will continue to be released into RBOF.

By stabilizing the TRR fuel, DOE is taking prudent management steps to alleviate the environmental, safety and health vulnerabilities associated with the continued wet storage and degradation of the TRR spent fuel. DOE considered interim measures to improve storage conditions, such as those described in the Interim Management of Nuclear Materials (IMNM) EIS, but DOE believes that an alternate storage arrangement that eliminates contact between the fuel and water cannot be implemented in a timely manner. For example, dry storage facilities being planned on an aggressive schedule for domestic and foreign research reactor spent fuel will not be available until approximately 2003. In contrast, DOE expects that stabilizing the fuel by processing it in the F-Canyon and FB-Line facilities can be accomplished in 6 to 12 months.

The plutonium separated by the stabilization process (about 15 kilograms) will be stored at the SRS in existing vaults and then in the new Actinide Packaging and Storage Facility, when it becomes operational, until DOE implements long-term storage and disposition decisions on weapons usable forms of plutonium, which were published in the ROD for the Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Material (62 FR 3014, January 21, 1997). A Departmental commitment to

prohibit the use of plutonium-239 and weapons-usable highly enriched uranium separated and/or stabilized during the phaseout, shutdown, and cleanout of weapons complex facilities for nuclear explosive purposes was approved by the Secretary of Energy on December 20, 1994, and DOE is considering options for placing this material under international safeguards.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information on the interim management of nuclear materials at the SRS or to receive a copy of the final EIS, the initial ROD or the subsequent supplemental RODs contact: Andrew R. Grainger, NEPA Compliance Officer, U.S. Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office, P.O. Box 5031, Aiken, South Carolina 29804-5031, (800) 242-8259, Internet: drew.grainger@srs.gov

For further information on the DOE NEPA process, contact: Carol M. 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 leave a message at (800) 472-2756.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** DOE prepared a final environmental impact statement (EIS), "Interim Management of Nuclear Materials" (DOE/EIS-0220, October 20, 1995), to assess the potential environmental impacts of actions necessary to manage nuclear materials at the SRS, Aiken, South Carolina, until decisions on their ultimate disposition are made and implemented. In the Interim Management of Nuclear Materials (IMNM) EIS, DOE evaluated the impacts of several stabilization alternatives and a "No Action" alternative for all Taiwan Research Reactor (TRR) spent nuclear fuel in RBOF. The estimates of the potential impacts included normal operations, waste generation, potential accidents, and cumulative impacts. In each case, the potential impacts for each stabilization alternative were estimated based on the entire SRS inventory of TRR spent fuel, the equivalent of 391 spent fuel rods in 143 aluminum canisters. As a result, the potential impact of stabilizing all the TRR spent fuel by processing the material in F-Canyon and FB-Line, as well as the potential impacts from the other alternatives, was analyzed and documented in the IMNM EIS.

DOE previously has issued three RODs based on the IMNM EIS, regarding the stabilization of nuclear materials at the SRS. In the first ROD, 60 *Fed Reg* 65300 (December 19, 1995), DOE determined, as relevant here, that 81

<sup>1</sup> The term "failed" means that the cladding on the fuel has been breached. The ROD, 60 *Fed. Reg.* 65300 (December 19, 1995), stated that failed fuel is indicated by gas releases from a fuel storage canister or visible failure of the cladding or canisters.