

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE****Antitrust Division****Notice Pursuant to the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993—Low Cost, High Performance and Highly Reliable Polymer Electrolyte Membrane for Fuel Cell Applications**

Notice is hereby given that, on June 27, 2000, pursuant to Section 6(a) of the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993, 15 U.S.C. 4301 *et seq.* ("the Act"), Plug Power Inc. has filed written notifications simultaneously with the Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission disclosing (1) the identities of the parties and (2) the nature and objectives of the venture. The notifications were filed for the purpose of invoking the Act's provisions limiting the recovery of antitrust plaintiffs to actual damages under specified circumstances. Pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act, the identities of the parties are Plug Power Inc., Latham, NY; General Electric Company, acting through GE Corporate R&D, Niskayuna, NY; and Albany International Research Company, Mansfield, MA. The nature and objectives of the venture are to conduct research on low cost, high performance and highly reliable polymer electrolyte membranes for fuel cell applications.

Constance K. Robinson,

*Director of Operations, Antitrust Division.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE****Antitrust Division****Notice Pursuant to the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993—Portland Cement Association ("PCA")**

Notice is hereby given that, on February 14, 2000, pursuant to Section 6(a) of the National Cooperation Research and Production Act of 1993, 15 U.S.C. 4301 *et seq.* ("the Act"), Portland Cement Association ("PCA") has filed written notifications simultaneously with the Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission disclosing changes in its membership status. The notifications were filed for the purpose of extending the Act's provisions limiting the recovery of antitrust plaintiffs to actual damages under specified circumstances. Specifically, Florida Rock Industries,

Inc., Jacksonville, FL; Continental Florida Materials, Inc., Fort Lauderdale, FL; Norval, Inc., Brooklyn, NY; and River Consulting, Inc., Columbus, OH have been added as parties to this venture. Also, Lone Star Northwest, Seattle, WA has changed its name to Glacier Northwest, Inc., Seattle, WA.

No other changes have been made in either the membership or planned activity of the group research project. Membership in this group research project remains open, and Portland Cement Association ("PCA") intends to file additional written notification disclosing all changes in membership.

On January 7, 1985, Portland Cement Association ("PCA") filed its original notification pursuant to Section 6(a) of the Act. The Department of Justice published a notice in the **Federal Register** pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act of February 5, 1985 (50 FR 67591).

The last notification was filed with the Department on October 25, 1999. A notice has not yet been published in the **Federal Register**.

Constance K. Robinson,

*Director of Operations, Antitrust Division.*

[FR Doc. 00-20154 Filed 8-8-00; 8:45 am]

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**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET****Office of Federal Procurement Policy; Cost Accounting Standards Board; Comprehensive Review**

**AGENCY:** Cost Accounting Standards Board, Office of Federal Procurement Policy, OMB.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Cost Accounting Standards Board (CASB) hereby invites public comments on how the Board should proceed with its comprehensive review of the Cost Accounting Standards (CAS) and attendant requirements. The CASB's objective in issuing this Notice is to consider public comments in developing the Board's plan for performing a comprehensive review.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted in writing, by letter, and must be received no later than September 25, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be addressed to Rudolph J. Schuhbauer, Project Director, Cost Accounting Standards Board, Office of Federal Procurement Policy, 725 17th Street, NW, Room 9013, Washington, DC 20503. Attn: CASB Docket No. 00-02. The submission of public comments in written form, by letter, is requested.

Receipt of a readable data file via Internet E-mail cannot be assured. To facilitate the CASB's review of your submitted comments, please include with your written comments a three point five inch (3.5") computer diskette copy of your comments and denote the word processing format used.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Rudolph J. Schuhbauer, Project Director, Cost Accounting Standards Board (telephone 202-395-3254).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Established pursuant to section 5 of Public Law 100-679, the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act Amendments of 1988, 41 U.S.C. 422, as amended, the Cost Accounting Standards Board (CASB) has the exclusive authority to make, promulgate, amend, and rescind cost accounting standards and interpretations thereof designed to achieve uniformity and consistency in the cost accounting practices governing the measurement, assignment and allocation of costs to CAS-covered contracts and subcontracts. Under its statutory authority, the Board is also required to promulgate rules and regulations for the implementation of CAS. The referenced statutory provisions provide that such regulations shall require contractors and subcontractors to disclose their cost accounting practices, including the methods of distinguishing direct costs from indirect costs and the basis for allocating indirect costs; and to agree to a contract price adjustment, with interest, for any increased costs paid to such contractor or subcontractor due to a change in cost accounting practices or failure to comply with applicable CAS. Any contract price adjustment undertaken, on relevant contracts, shall be made so as to protect the Government from payment, in the aggregate, of increased costs (as defined by the Board).

The Board's rules and regulations are codified at 48 CFR Chapter 99.

The Board has placed on its agenda a comprehensive review of CAS and its attendant requirements. The Board is requesting the views of interested parties with respect to the particular CAS items they believe may require modification, issuance of an interpretation, or rescission. The Board requests that commenters prioritize the items recommended for review by the CASB.

Individuals and organizations desiring to submit specific items they believe should be included in the Board's comprehensive review are

requested to provide such items in the following format:

- Name of Cost Accounting Standard, cost accounting issue, or regulatory provision in question;
- Reasons for concern;
- Potential solution(s) (Identify the proposed change being suggested, e.g., modification, interpretation, or rescission of all or part of an existing Standard, issuance of a new Standard, etc.; and the rationale therefor.);
- Possible burdens and benefits from any proposed approaches; and
- Priority of issues (If more than one item is proposed, please prioritize your issues.).

Items submitted by the public, as well as those submitted by Federal agencies, will be considered in the development of a detailed plan for the conduct of the comprehensive review.

*Open Public Meeting:* After it reviews the public comments received in response to this Notice, the Board will schedule an open public meeting to discuss its detailed plan for accomplishing the comprehensive review. The date, time and location of the meeting will be the subject of a separate **Federal Register** notice.

Nelson F. Gibbs,

*Executive Director, Cost Accounting Standards Board.*

[FR Doc. 00-20064 Filed 8-8-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3110-01-P

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

### Records Schedules for Electronic Copies Previously Covered by General Records Schedule 20; Availability and Request for Comments

**AGENCY:** National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of proposed records schedules; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) publishes notice at least once monthly of certain Federal agency requests for records disposition authority (records schedules). Once approved by NARA, records schedules provide mandatory instructions on what happens to records when no longer needed for current Government business. They authorize the preservation of records of continuing value in the National Archives of the United States and the destruction, after a specified period, of records lacking administrative, legal, research, or other value. Notice is

published for records schedules in which agencies propose to destroy records not previously authorized for disposal or reduce the retention period of records already authorized for disposal.

This request for comments pertains solely to schedules for electronic copies of records created using word processing and electronic mail where the recordkeeping copies are already scheduled. (Electronic copies are records created using word processing or electronic mail software that remain in storage on the computer system after the recordkeeping copies are produced.)

These records were previously approved for disposal under General Records Schedule 20, Items 13 and 14. The agencies identified in this notice have submitted schedules pursuant to NARA Bulletin 99-04 to obtain separate disposition authority for the electronic copies associated with program records and administrative records not covered by the General Records Schedules. NARA invites public comments on such records schedules, as required by 44 U.S.C. 3303a(a). To facilitate review of these schedules, their availability for comment is announced in **Federal Register** notices separate from those used for other records disposition schedules.

**DATES:** Requests for copies must be received in writing on or before September 25, 2000. On request, NARA will send a copy of the schedule. NARA staff usually prepare appraisal memorandums concerning a proposed schedule. These, too, may be requested. Requesters will be given 30 days to submit comments.

Some schedules submitted in accordance with NARA Bulletin 99-04 group records by program, function, or organizational element. These schedules do not include descriptions at the file series level, but, instead, provide citations to previously approved schedules or agency records disposition manuals (see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice). To facilitate review of such disposition requests, previously approved schedules or manuals that are cited may be requested in addition to schedules for the electronic copies. NARA will provide the first 100 pages at no cost. NARA may charge \$.20 per page for additional copies. These materials also may be examined at no cost at the National Archives at College Park (8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD).

**ADDRESSES:** To request a copy of any records schedule identified in this notice, write to the Life Cycle Management Division (NWML),

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001. Requests also may be transmitted by FAX to 301-713-6852 or by e-mail to records.mgt@arch2.nara.gov.

Requesters must cite the control number, which appears in parentheses after the name of the agency which submitted the schedule, and must provide a mailing address. Those who desire appraisal reports and/or copies of previously approved schedules or manuals should so indicate in their request.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marie Allen, Director, Life Cycle Management Division (NWML), National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001. Telephone: (301) 713-7110. E-mail: records.mgt@arch2.nara.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Each year Federal agencies create billions of records on paper, film, magnetic tape, and other media. To control this accumulation, agency records managers prepare schedules proposing retention periods for records and submit these schedules for NARA approval, using the Standard Form (SF) 115, Request for Records Disposition Authority. These schedules provide for the timely transfer into the National Archives of historically valuable records and authorize the disposal of all other records after the agency no longer needs the records to conduct its business. Routine administrative records common to most agencies are approved for disposal in the General Records Schedules (GRS), which are disposition schedules issued by NARA that apply Government-wide.

On March 25, 1999, the Archivist issued NARA Bulletin 99-04, which told agencies what they must do to schedule electronic copies associated with previously scheduled program records and certain administrative records that were previously scheduled under GRS 20, Items 13 and 14. On December 27, 1999, the Archivist issued NARA Bulletin 2000-02, which suspended Bulletin 99-04 pending NARA's completion in FY 2001 of an overall review of scheduling and appraisal. On completion of this review, which will address all records, including electronic copies, NARA will determine whether Bulletin 99-04 should be revised or replaced with an alternative scheduling procedure. However, NARA will accept and process schedules for electronic copies prepared in accordance with Bulletin 99-04 that are submitted after December