

State Agencies Recognized for the Approval of Nurse Education

Interim Report

1. New York State Board of Regents (Nursing Education Unit)

In accordance with the Federal policy governing the granting of academic degrees by Federal agencies (approved by letter from the Director, Bureau of the Budget, to the Secretary, Health, Education, and Welfare, dated December 23, 1954), the Secretary of Education is required to establish a review committee to advise the Secretary concerning any legislation that may be proposed which would authorize the granting of degrees by a Federal agency. The review committee forwards its recommendation concerning a Federal agency's proposed degree-granting authority to the Secretary, who then forwards the committee's recommendation to the Office of Management and Budget for review and transmittal to the Congress. The Secretary uses the Advisory Committee as the review committee required for this purpose. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee will review the following institution at its November meeting:

Proposed Bachelor's Degree-Granting Authority

1. Joint Military Intelligence College, Bolling Air Force Base (for Bachelor of Science in Intelligence)

Public Inspection of Petitions and Third-Party Comments

All petitions and interim reports, and those third-party comments received in advance of this meeting, will be available for public inspection and copying 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 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. It is preferred that an appointment be made in advance of such inspection or copying.

Dated: July 2, 1996.

David A. Longanecker,
Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

[FR Doc. 96-17348 Filed 7-8-96; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment on the Proposed Sale of Surplus Natural and Low-Enriched Uranium

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the sale of natural uranium and low-enriched uranium located at the gaseous diffusion plants in Portsmouth, Ohio, and Paducah, Kentucky. DOE will prepare the EA pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA regulations, and the Department's NEPA regulations. The EA will describe: (1) the purpose and need for action by the Department; (2) the Department's proposed action; (3) alternatives (including a no-action alternative) to the proposed action; and (4) the potential impacts of the proposed action and alternatives.

ADDRESSES: Questions regarding this Environmental Assessment should be addressed to: Mr. John Kotek, Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology, NE-1, Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20585. Requests to receive copies of the draft EA, when available for review, should also be directed to Mr. Kotek. Mr. Kotek may be contacted by telephone at (202) 586-6823, or by facsimile at (202) 586-0698.

DATES: DOE anticipates that it will issue a draft EA by July 30, 1996, which it will forward for review by affected states, Indian tribes, and other parties who have expressed an interest in the proposed action or requested a copy of the draft for review. The Department will accept comments on the EA for 30 days following issuance of the draft EA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information on DOE's NEPA process, contact Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, EH-42, Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20585. Ms. Borgstrom may be contacted by leaving a message at (800) 472-2756 or by calling (202) 586-4600.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

DOE owns substantial amounts of natural uranium and low-enriched uranium (LEU) in excess of the Department's current needs. The Department has declared about 21.5

million pounds of these materials to be surplus. About 20.3 million pounds of these materials contain the uranium isotope U-235 in concentrations (0.711 percent) equivalent to natural uranium; about 1.2 million pounds contain U-235 concentration of 4.5 percent, and are therefore classified as LEU. The LEU is stored at the gaseous diffusion plant in Portsmouth, Ohio; the 20.3 million pounds of natural uranium are stored at Paducah, Kentucky. In addition to these 21.5 million pounds, the Department will receive title to another 14.2 million pounds of natural uranium associated with the United States/Russia Highly Enriched Uranium Purchase Agreement (Russian HEU Agreement).¹ These 14.2 million pounds are located at the Paducah gaseous diffusion plant and will remain under the control and ownership of the United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) until ownership is transferred to DOE before the end of 1996.

Congress has imposed a number of requirements on the sale and use of these materials. Section 3112(b)(1) of the United States Enrichment Corporation Privatization Act of 1996 (USEC Privatization Act, Public Law 104-134) requires that DOE sell within seven years the 14.2 million pounds of natural uranium associated with the U.S./Russia HEU Agreement. Under section 3112(b)(2), DOE may sell this natural uranium: (1) for overfeeding of enrichment operations in the United States at any time; (2) for end use outside of the United States at any time; (3) to the Russian Executive Agent in 1995 and 1996 for use in matched sales pursuant to the Suspension Agreement;² or (4) in 2001 for end use in the United States beginning in 2002 in amounts not to exceed 3 million pounds annually.

As to the 21.5 million pounds of natural uranium and low-enriched uranium DOE already has in its inventory, Congress did not mandate

¹ In the U.S./Russia HEU Agreement, the United States and Russia agreed that USEC, as the United States' Executive Agent, would purchase low-enriched uranium derived from 500 metric tons of highly enriched uranium extracted from nuclear weapons dismantled in Russia.

² The Suspension Agreement, also referred to as the "Agreement to Suspend Investigation on Uranium from the Russia Federation, as amended," settled an investigation into whether Russia was dumping uranium into the United States market. It established a mechanism known as "matched sales arrangements" in which imports of Russian uranium are linked with sales of uranium newly produced in the United States. In a matched sale, one-half of the uranium sold is Russian and the other one-half is new domestic production. There are annual quotas on the amount of matched sales through 2004, when the Suspension Agreement expires.

that the Department sell these materials within a particular period of time. However, Congress anticipated in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 1996 that DOE would sell about \$35 million worth of these materials in fiscal year 1996 and use the proceeds to offset some of the costs of maintaining and improving the gaseous diffusion plants. The Department believes that it will need to sell additional amounts of these materials beginning in 1996 in order to continue financing maintenance and other activities at the gaseous diffusion plants.

Congress imposed three conditions on the sale of material from DOE's inventory in section 3112(d) of the USEC Privatization Act; two of these conditions are relevant to the 21.5 million pounds of inventory material considered in this Environmental Assessment. Before selling materials from DOE's inventory, the Secretary of Energy must make a determination that: (1) the sale will not have an "adverse material impact" on the domestic uranium industry and (2) the Department will receive a price that is at least equal to the fair market value of the materials.

Proposed Action

DOE proposes to sell the 21.5 million pounds of surplus material in its inventory and the 14.2 million pounds of material associated with the Russian HEU Agreement that the Department will receive from USEC. All of the 35.7 million pounds are in the form of uranium hexafluoride (UF₆). DOE proposes to sell these 35.7 million pounds of uranium over six or more years beginning in 1996. The potential buyers are entities that already purchase or manage inventories of uranium for use in commercial applications: USEC, utilities, converters, brokers and uranium producers. Accordingly, the proposed action would not result in new or different uses of uranium.

DOE would comply with sections 3112 (b) and (d) of the USEC Privatization Act in making the sales it is proposing. In 1996, DOE proposes to sell some of the 14.2 million pounds it will receive under the Russian HEU Agreement to the Russian Executive Agent, or the Agent's representative, for use in matched sales pursuant to the Suspension Agreement. The Department would sell, to the extent practical, the remainder of this 14.2 million pounds for end use outside the United States or for overfeeding the gaseous diffusion plants during the period 1997 through 2000. Any remaining material would be sold in 2001 for consumption by

domestic end users beginning in 2002 at a rate not to exceed 3 million pounds per year. As to the 21.5 million pounds from DOE's inventory, the Department proposes to sell the one million pounds of LEU in 1996 in order to obtain the revenue Congress anticipated DOE would receive in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 1996. DOE would sell the remaining 20.3 million pounds of inventory materials during the period 1997 through 2002 in order to continue financing maintenance and other activities at the gaseous diffusion plants. All sales of inventory materials would be contingent on the Secretary making the determinations required by section 3112(d)(2) of the USEC Privatization Act.

The sales proposed and evaluated in this Environmental Assessment would be in addition to sales evaluated in two other NEPA analyses: (1) the Disposition of Surplus Highly Enriched Uranium Final EIS (DOE/EIS-0240, June 1996), and (2) the Environmental Assessment for the Purchase of Russian Low Enriched Uranium Derived from the Dismantlement of Nuclear Weapons in the Countries of the Former Soviet Union (USEC/EA-94001, DOE/EA-0837, January 1994). The Department will analyze the cumulative effects of the sales proposed in this environmental assessment, those proposed in the two other NEPA analyses, and those scheduled under the Russian HEU Agreement and the Suspension Agreement.

Alternatives

DOE has identified alternatives to its proposed sale of these materials, and may identify others during the preparation of the EA. All alternatives will be evaluated against the purpose and need for action by the Department, and those that are reasonable and meet the need for action by the Department will be evaluated in the EA.

No Action

The Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA regulations require that federal agencies analyze the impacts of not taking the proposed action (the "No Action Alternative"). In this case, the No Action Alternative would be that DOE would continue to store the 35.7 million pounds of uranium at Portsmouth and Paducah rather than selling it.

Alternatives that Satisfy the Need for Department Action

Alternatives that are under consideration for evaluation in the EA include:

- (1) Different schedules for the sale of this uranium; and
- (2) Selling amounts other than 21.5 million pounds of inventory material.

Preliminary Identification of Potential Environmental Impacts

The Department has tentatively identified the following potential impacts for evaluation in the EA. This list is not intended to be all-inclusive or to predetermine the potential impacts of any of the alternatives.

- (1) Potential health and safety impacts to on-site workers and to the public from storage, handling, and transport of uranium, including accidents;
- (2) Socioeconomic impacts on the uranium industry in the United States;
- (3) Potential cumulative impacts of these and other sales; and
- (4) Considerations of environmental justice.

DOE anticipates that it will issue a draft EA by July 30, 1996, which it will forward for review by affected states, Indian tribes, and other parties who have expressed an interest in the proposed action or requested a copy of the draft for review. The Department will accept comments on the EA for 30 days following issuance of the draft EA. Based on the EA and any comments it receives, DOE will then determine whether it will prepare an environmental impact statement or issue a finding of no significant impact.

Issued in Washington, D.C., this 1st day of July, 1996, for the United States Department of Energy.

Ray A. Hunter,

Deputy Director, Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology.

[FR Doc. 96-17432 Filed 7-8-96; 8:45 am]

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Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Pantex Plant; Meeting

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of Open Meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 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.

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, July 23, 1996: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Carson County Square House Museum, 5th and Elsie, Panhandle, Texas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Williams, Program Manager,