

joint application with the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy for rescission of a Prohibition Order issued in Docket Nos. 50849-1613-07-82 and 50849-1613-08-82 on January 27, 1986 (51 FR 4421, February 4, 1986), pursuant to section 301(c) of FUA and 10 CFR 504.8. The order took effect on April 7, 1986 and prohibited the use of petroleum or natural gas as a primary energy source in Boiler Nos. 7 and 8 (Unit Nos. 5 and 6, respectively) at Montaup's Somerset Generating Station located in Somerset, Massachusetts, in excess of the amounts equivalent to operation of each of the boilers using petroleum or natural gas for thirty (30) percent of their respective annual operating hours.

On October 15, 1998, Montaup and NRG Energy, Inc. (NRG) signed an Asset Purchase Agreement to sell the Somerset Generating Station to NRG. NRG has assigned its rights under that agreement to Somerset Power LLC, which will acquire the Somerset Generating Station and associated property. Transfer of ownership of the station is scheduled to occur by April 1, 1999. Therefore, Montaup and Somerset Power LLC have filed this application jointly.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 501.102(b), Montaup and Somerset filed this application based on a substantial change in the circumstances upon which the Prohibition Order was originally issued. The applicants note a provision of the existing order which states:

"* * * changes in the * * * relative economics of coal * * * as a fuel source * * * will be deemed to constitute 'significantly changed circumstances' pursuant to 10 CFR 501.102(b) sufficient to provide a basis for rescission or modification of the specific prohibitions contained in this Order."

Montaup and Somerset claim that the price of oil is now significantly below the price of coal currently used in the Somerset Generating Station and that the continued use of coal would impair the facility's competitive position within the electric power market. The applicants also state that the deregulation of natural gas prices since the issuance of the original Prohibition Order and the prominence gained by natural gas as a viable alternative fuel source make the continued prohibition or limitation on the use of natural gas serve no just purpose. The applicants also note that the use of natural gas can offer significant environmental benefits over the burning of coal in the Somerset facility. For these reasons, Montaup and Somerset request that DOE rescind the

Prohibition Order issued for the Somerset Generating Station.

Procedural Matters

Any party or person desiring to be heard or to protest this application for rescission should file five copies of any comments, protests or petitions to intervene at the address provided above. Filings should be clearly marked with the above docket numbers. Any request for a public hearing must be made within the public comment period. In making its decision regarding the requested rescission action, DOE will consider all relevant information submitted or otherwise available to it.

The public file containing a copy of this rescission application is available, upon request, at the address above.

DOE has granted the applicant's request for an expedited notice and comment period of fifteen (15) days due to the absence of any comments, protests or requests for a hearing having been filed in the original proceeding.

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 30, 1999.

Anthony J. Como,

Manager, Electric Power Regulation, Office of Coal & Power Im/Ex, Office of Fossil Energy.

[FR Doc. 99-8287 Filed 4-2-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Floodplain Involvement for the Constructed Wetlands Treatment of the A-01 Outfall Effluent at the Savannah River Site (SRS), Aiken, South Carolina

AGENCY: Savannah River Operations Office, Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of floodplain involvement.

SUMMARY: The process water effluent from the A-01 outfall located on SRS has consistently not met proposed South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit limits which will become effective on October 1, 1999. DOE needs to reduce the copper and chronic toxicity levels in this effluent to ensure compliance when these proposed outfall limits go into effect. Based on extensive existing research in the use of wetlands to treat wastewater, DOE proposes to build and operate an artificial wetland facility to treat the effluent to meet the new discharge limits. This proposed treatment facility would be constructed within the 100-year floodplain of Tims

Branch drainage corridor. In accordance with 10 CFR 1022, DOE will prepare a floodplain assessment and will perform this proposed action in a manner so as to avoid or minimize potential harm to or within the affected floodplain.

DATES: Comments on the proposed action are due on or before April 20, 1999.

ADDRESSES: For further information, including a site map and/or copy of the floodplain assessment, or to submit comments regarding this notice, contact Andrew R. Grainger, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Compliance Officer, Savannah River Operations Office, Building 742-A, Room 183, Aiken, South Carolina 29808. The fax/phone number is (800) 881-7292. The e-mail address is nepa@srs.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON GENERAL FLOODPLAIN/WETLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW REQUIREMENTS, CONTACT: Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance (EH-42), U. S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585. Telephone (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In 1996, SCDHEC issued a new NPDES permit for SRS. This permit, which will go into effect no later than October 1, 1999, established new limits for copper, lead, mercury, and chronic toxicity. Subsequent to SCDHEC issuing the new permit, samples taken at the relocated A-01 outfall have shown that the effluent consistently does not meet the new outfall limits for both copper and chronic toxicity. DOE needs to implement actions to reduce these concentrations prior to that time when the new outfall limits are scheduled to go into effect. Extensive research has indicated that an artificial wetland can be used to treat these constituents and reduce the concentrations below the new permit limits before the effluent reaches the NPDES compliance sampling point. Based on this, DOE proposes to build and operate artificial wetlands to treat the effluent to meet the new discharge limits.

The proposed action entails the following: (1) Relocating the compliance point from the current location to a new site approximately 0.92 kilometers (0.57 miles) below the present outfall (already approved by SCDHEC), and (2) creating a flow management basin and an artificial wetland facility within the drainage channel of Tims Branch into which the A-01 outfall effluent is currently being discharged. These activities would necessitate temporary heavy equipment access and

construction of the new facility within this drainage corridor.

In accordance with DOE regulations for compliance with floodplain and wetland environmental review requirements (10 CFR part 1022), DOE will prepare a floodplain assessment for this proposed DOE action. The overall proposed action was previously evaluated under the NEPA process, with an environmental assessment (EA) (DOE/EA-1246) with a Floodplain Statement of Findings and a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) being issued in October of 1998. However, in an effort to reduce the total project cost, the proposed location for the flow management basin and artificial wetland facility was relocated from that site described in the EA to the new area within the A-01 outfall discharge channel. This facility relocation enabled the elimination of the entire piped collection system, thereby eliminating the cost and environmental impacts associated with that portion of the previous scope of the proposed action. A biological evaluation and wetlands determination of the new project location have not identified either any potential impacts to protected species or the presence of any jurisdictional wetlands. Based on the floodplain assessment to be conducted on the revised project scope, a floodplain statement of findings will be included in any revised FONSI that is issued pursuant to this proposed action or may be issued separately.

Issued in Aiken, SC, on March 17, 1999.

Lowell E. Tripp,

Director, Engineering and Analysis Division, Savannah River Operations Office.

[FR Doc. 99-8286 Filed 4-2-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Golden Field Office; Supplemental Announcement to the Broad Based Solicitation for Financial Assistance Applications Involving Research, Development and Demonstration for the Office of Energy, Efficiency and Renewable Energy; Photovoltaics for Utility Scale Applications (PVUSA)

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy.

ACTION: Supplemental Announcement 06 to the Broad Based Solicitation for Financial Assistance Applications DE-PS36-99GO10383.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), pursuant to the DOE Financial Assistance Rules, 10 CFR 600.8, is announcing its intention to solicit applications for Photovoltaics for

Utility Scale Applications. The financial assistance award issued under this Supplemental Announcement will be a cooperative agreement.

DATES: The solicitation will be issued on or about March 31, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Solicitation once issued, can be obtained from the Golden Field Office Home page at <http://www.eren.doe.gov/golden/solicitations.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DOE is soliciting Applications to: maintain and operate the PVUSA California test site, located in Davis, California; provide performance assessments of the individual systems; and disseminate information to utilities and other users. PVUSA's primary objective is to evaluate a wide range of promising PV module and balance of system (BOS) technologies. PVUSA is a national public-private partnership composed of private industry, local governments, utilities, utility-related industries, and Federal entities. The partnership is conducting a project that assesses and demonstrates the viability of utility-scale photovoltaic (PV) electric generating systems and recent developments in module technology and encourages commercialization of promising PV technologies. DOE, as a participant of PVUSA, is supporting the operation and maintenance of the PVUSA California test site. At the PVUSA California test site, PV systems and components are evaluated and the information disseminated to utilities, manufacturers, National laboratories, and industry. The project offers manufacturers feedback on component reliability, availability, and standardization which may lead to cost reductions. The fielded systems represent mature module technologies that have the potential to produce low-cost energy and meet the Operation and Maintenance (O&M), power quality, reliability, and lifetime requirements necessary for a wide variety of applications, from remote power to utility applications. This project also exposes the PV industry to commercial procurement and construction practices. For more information about PVUSA, see the PVUSA web site at <http://www.pvusa.com>. The award under this Supplemental Announcement will be a Cooperative Agreement with a term of up to 36 months. Subject to the availability of funding, DOE anticipates selecting one application for award with funding not to exceed \$600,000 per year. A minimum cost share of 50% of the total project cost is required. Solicitation Number DE-PS36-99GO10383, in conjunction with this

Supplemental Announcement-06, will include complete information on the program including technical aspects, funding, application preparation instructions, application evaluation criteria, and other factors that will be considered when selecting projects for funding. Issuance of the Supplemental Announcement is planned for the week of March 29, 1999, with responses due on May 6, 1999. Questions should be submitted in writing to: John P. Motz, DOE Golden Field Office, 1617 Cole Boulevard, Golden, CO 80401-3393; transmitted via facsimile to John P. Motz at (303) 275-4788; or electronically to john_motz@nrel.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Motz, Contract Specialist, at 303-275-4737, e-mail john_motz@nrel.gov, or Robert Martin, Project Officer, at 303-275-4763, e-mail robert_martin@nrel.gov.

Issued in Golden, Colorado, on March 26, 1999.

Ruth E. Adams,

Acting Procurement Director, GO.

[FR Doc. 99-8284 Filed 4-2-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Rocky Flats

AGENCY: Department of Energy

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Rocky Flats. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Monday, April 19, 1999, 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: College Hill Library, (Front Range Community College), 3705 West 112th Avenue, Westminster, CO.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ken Korkia, Board/Staff Coordinator, EM SSAB-Rocky Flats, 9035 North Wadsworth Parkway, Suite 2250, Westminster, CO 80021, phone: (303) 420-7855, fax: (303) 420-7579.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of the Board: The purpose of the Board is to make recommendations to DOE and its regulators in the areas of environmental restoration, waste management, and related activities.

Tentative Agenda:

1. Second part of discussion on low-level waste disposition issues; responses to questions, comments, and inquiry