

of the Navy (Navy) has prepared and filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the DEIS for Disposal and Reuse of NAS Alameda and FISC Alameda Annex and Facility in Alameda, California. A public hearing will be held for the purpose of receiving oral and written comments on the DEIS. Federal, State and local agencies, as well as interested individuals and organizations are invited to be present or represented at the hearing.

A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the DEIS was published in the **Federal Register** on February 22, 1996 (61 FR 36).

Public scoping meeting announcements were published in four local newspapers: the San Leandro Times on February 29, 1996; the Alameda Journal on March 1 and 5, 1996; the Oakland Tribune and the Alameda Times-Star on March 3 and 5, 1996. A public scoping meeting was held on March 13, 1996 at the Alameda High School Cafeteria, 2200 Central Avenue, Alameda, California.

The proposed action is the disposal of Navy property for subsequent reuse and redevelopment, in accordance with the 1990 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act, and the 1993 and 1995 Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendations. Approximately 1,693 acres (685 hectares) of land (1,102 acres (446 hectares) of dry land and 591 acres (239 hectares) of submerged land) are available for disposal and are the focus of this DEIS. NAS Alameda was operationally closed on April 30, 1997 and FISC Alameda Annex and Facility (FISC Alameda) was operationally closed on September 30, 1998. Approximately 969 acres (392 hectares) of the total 2,662 acres (1,076 hectares) of dry and submerged land at NAS Alameda and FISC Alameda are being transferred to other Federal agencies.

The DEIS evaluates four reuse alternatives: the Reuse Plan (Preferred Alternative), Seaport Alternative, Residential Alternative and Reduced Density Alternative. A fifth alternative, no action, assumes no disposal of property and retention of the property by Navy in caretaker status. Under the No Action Alternative, the operation of Miller Elementary School at NAS Alameda would continue through an existing lease agreement. All other current leases of NAS Alameda property to the Alameda Reuse and Redevelopment Authority (ARRA) and FISC Alameda property to the City of Alameda would continue until their expiration.

The Reuse Plan Alternative is based on the NAS Alameda Community Reuse Plan (Reuse Plan) that was developed by the ARRA, the Local Redevelopment Authority. The Reuse Plan envisions a mixed use for the properties that includes industrial, commercial residential and community uses within six distinct planning areas. Community uses would include public parks and open space, schools, a golf course and a recreational vehicle park. Industrial uses would include office, marine-related light industry and research and development businesses. Residential housing would include reuse of existing housing as well as new construction. Commercial uses would include neighborhood shopping districts, offices, hotels and a conference facility. No decision on the proposed action will be made until the NEPA process has been completed.

Potential impacts evaluated in the DEIS include, but are not limited to: land use, visual resources, socioeconomic, public services, utilities, cultural resources, biological resources, geology and soils, water resources, traffic and circulation, air quality, noise, and hazardous materials and waste. With two exceptions, potentially significant impacts under all of the reuse alternatives can be mitigated to nonsignificant levels. Potentially significant but mitigable impacts include: traffic impacts on-site, at key local intersections and on some roadway and freeway segments under all alternatives; traffic impacts on the Webster/Posey Tubes under the Reuse Plan Alternative; and air quality impacts at two local intersections under the Reuse Plan, Seaport, and Residential Alternatives where carbon monoxide concentrations would exceed Federal and State standards. The two significant impacts that cannot be mitigated are visual impacts from cargo cranes and port facilities under the Seaport Alternative that would disrupt existing views, and increased predation of the endangered California least tern under the Seaport and Residential Alternatives. The DEIS has been distributed to affected Federal, State and local agencies and other interested parties. In addition, copies of the DEIS are available for review at the Alameda Public Library (Main Library, West End Branch and Bay Farm Island Branch) and the Oakland Public Library (Main Library and Eastmont Branch).

A public hearing will be held to inform the public of the DEIS findings and to solicit and receive oral and written comments. The hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. on May 18, 1999, at the Alameda High School, Little

Theatre, 2200 Central Avenue, Alameda, California (at the corner of Central Avenue and Walnut Street). Federal, State and local agencies and interested parties are invited to be present at the hearing. Oral comments will be heard and transcribed by a court recorder; written comments are also requested to ensure accuracy of the record. All comments, both oral and written, will become part of the official record. In the interest of available time, each speaker will be asked to limit oral comments to three minutes. Longer comments should be summarized at the public hearing and submitted in writing either at the hearing or mailed to Mr. Jerry Hemstock at the address given above. Written comments are requested not later than June 1, 1999.

Dated: April 19, 1999.

**Pamela A. Holden,**

*Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Navy, Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 99-10746 Filed 4-28-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### **Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Alternative Strategies for the Long-Term Management and Use of Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride**

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy (DOE) announces the availability of the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Alternative Strategies for the Long-Term Management and Use of Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride (DOE/EIS-0269). This Final PEIS, prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), assesses the potential environmental impacts of reasonable alternatives to manage DOE's nearly 700,000 metric tons of depleted uranium hexafluoride (UF<sub>6</sub>) stored in 57,634 steel cylinders at the East Tennessee Technology Park (formerly known as the K-25 facility) on the Oak Ridge Reservation, and the gaseous diffusion plant sites at Portsmouth, Ohio, and Paducah, Kentucky. The Final PEIS also includes analyses of the impacts of an additional 11,212 cylinders recently transferred to DOE from the United States Enrichment Corporation under two recent memoranda of agreement.

The management strategies considered in the Final PEIS include continuation of depleted UF<sub>6</sub> storage at

the current locations, two long-term storage alternatives (one as UF<sub>6</sub> and one as an oxide, after conversion) at a consolidated location, two alternatives to convert and use the material (one as uranium oxide and one as uranium metal), and a disposal alternative.

DOE has identified a preferred alternative in the Final PEIS. DOE's preferred alternative for the long-term management and use of depleted UF<sub>6</sub> is to begin conversion of the UF<sub>6</sub> inventory as soon as possible, either to uranium oxide, uranium metal, or a combination of both, while allowing for future use of as much of this inventory as possible. The preferred alternative in the Final PEIS was revised based in part on public comments on the Draft PEIS. The Record of Decision, to be issued no sooner than 30 days after the Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability of the Final PEIS, will identify DOE's decision for the long-term management and use of depleted UF<sub>6</sub>.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of this Final PEIS are available at the Office of Environment, Safety and Health National Environmental Policy Act home page at <http://www.eh.doe.gov/nepa>, or on the Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology home page at <http://www.ne.doe.gov>. You may request copies of this Final PEIS by calling the toll-free number 1-800-517-3191, by faxing requests to (301) 903-4905, or by mailing them to: Scott Harlow, Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride Program, Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology (NE), U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874. You may also request copies of this Final PEIS via the Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride home page at <http://www.ead.anl.gov/uranium.html>, or via electronic mail to: [scott.harlow@hq.doe.gov](mailto:scott.harlow@hq.doe.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For general information on the DOE NEPA process, please contact: Carol Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, Office of Environment, Safety and Health, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20545, (202) 586-4600 or 1-800-472-2756.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Background**

On January 25, 1996, DOE issued a Notice of Intent (61 FR 2239) to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement on alternative strategies for the long-term management and use of depleted UF<sub>6</sub>. The unique properties and value of depleted UF<sub>6</sub>, such as its

high purity and density, as well as the large volume (nearly 700,000 metric tons) in storage, made it appropriate to evaluate, analyze, and decide the long-term management of this material separately from other DOE materials in storage or awaiting disposition.

The purpose of this PEIS was to assess and consider the potential environmental impacts of a range of reasonable alternative strategies for the long-term management and use of depleted UF<sub>6</sub> currently stored at sites near Paducah, Kentucky; Portsmouth, Ohio; and Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The Final PEIS addresses the potential environmental impacts of the activities for each strategy.

During February 1996, public scoping meetings were held in Paducah, Piketon, and Oak Ridge. The Draft PEIS incorporates the public comments received during the scoping period. During February and March 1998, public hearings on the draft PEIS were held in Paducah, Kentucky; Piketon, Ohio; Oak Ridge, Tennessee; and Washington, DC. All comments submitted by the public were considered by DOE in preparing the Final PEIS.

The Final PEIS and related documents prepared by DOE are available for review at the following locations:

##### **Kentucky**

U.S. Department of Energy,  
Environmental Information Center,  
175 Freedom Boulevard, Kevil, KY  
42053, (502) 462-2550

##### **Ohio**

U.S. Department of Energy,  
Environmental Information Center,  
3930 U.S. Route 23, Piketon, OH  
45661, (740) 289-3317

##### **Tennessee**

U.S. Department of Energy, Information  
Resource Center, 105 Broadway  
Avenue, Oak Ridge, TN 37830, (423)  
241-4582; and, U.S. Department of  
Energy, Public Reading Room,  
Building 1916-T2, Suite 300, 230  
Warehouse Road, Oak Ridge,  
Tennessee 37830

##### **Washington, DC**

U.S. Department of Energy, Freedom of  
Information Reading Room, Room 1E-  
190, 1000 Independence Avenue,  
S.W., Washington, DC 20585, (202)  
586-3142

##### **Subsequent Document Preparation**

Following issuance of the Final PEIS and Record of Decision, DOE will prepare additional project-specific NEPA documents as appropriate.

Issued in Washington, D.C. April 16, 1999.

**William D. Magwood, IV,**

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

[FR Doc. 99-10764 Filed 4-28-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

### **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. CP98-6-003]

#### **Dauphin Island Gathering Partners; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff**

April 23, 1999.

Take notice that on March 25, 1999, Dauphin Island Gathering Partners (DIGP) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, First Revised Volume No. 1, the tariff sheets listed on Appendix A to that filing to become effective March 16, 1999. The tariff sheets implement the first Revised Volume no. 1 of DIGP's FERC Gas Tariff, with the exception of rate sheets previously filed on March 15, 1999. DIGP states the filing is in compliance with the Commission's Order issued February 13, 1998.

Further, DIGP proposes a change to Section 21.2 of its tariff provisions to limit the annual maintenance allocation to no more than 48 hours per calendar month.

DIGP states that copies of this filing are being served on all affected customers and applicable state regulatory agencies.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Sections 385.214 of 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests must be filed no later than April 30, 1999 in accordance with Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection in the Public Reference Room. This filing may also be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm>