

Frequency: One time.
Affected Public: Individuals or households; Not-for-profit institutions.
Reporting Burden and Recordkeeping:
Responses: 1,600
Burden Hours: 520

Abstract: This submission contains four versions of an instrument to be used in data collection for the summative evaluation of the Eisenhower National Clearinghouse (ENC) dissemination model. Subjects for two of the surveys will be selected through stratified random sampling of U.S. schools to obtain representative samples of principals and teachers, the largest target audience for ENC information and resources. The other two surveys will target known users of ENC services, these individuals being sub-classified as single- and multiple-instance users. The instruments will be distributed by mail in a single data collection effort. All responses are voluntary. Information yielded will form one part of the National Evaluation, and will be included in the Evaluation Report to the U.S. Department of Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Certain Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy Stored at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site

AGENCY: Department of Energy.
ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA and the DOE NEPA implementing regulations. This EIS will evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with reasonable management alternatives for certain plutonium residues and all scrub alloy currently being stored at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site in Golden, Colorado. The residues and scrub alloy are materials that were generated during the separation and purification of plutonium, or during the manufacture of plutonium-bearing components for nuclear weapons. Due to the risk they present, DOE previously decided to stabilize and repackage the

plutonium residues at the Rocky Flats Site for safe interim storage as discussed in the Solid Residue Treatment, Repackaging, and Storage Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact. The activities analyzed in this EIS would be in addition to certain activities described in the Solid Residue Environmental Assessment by subjecting a portion of those residues to further treatment to prepare them for disposal or other disposition. This EIS will also analyze management activities for scrub alloy. This notice describes the proposed scope of the EIS and requests that members of the public submit comments regarding the scope of the EIS. Comments may be submitted in writing at the public scoping period and orally during public scoping meetings as described below.

DATES: The public scoping period begins with the publication of this notice and will continue until December 19, 1996. Written comments postmarked by that date will be considered in preparation of the EIS. Comments postmarked after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

Public Scoping meetings will be held at the locations and times specified below. This information will also be announced in local public notices before the planned meetings.

Meeting: Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site.

Date: Tuesday, December 3, 1996.

Time: 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM.

Location: Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site, Building 060 (Outside the West Gate), State Highway 93, Golden, Colorado 80402.

Contact for the Golden Meeting: Mr. Mike Konczal, Telephone: (303) 966-5993.

Meeting: Savannah River Site.

Date: Thursday, December 12, 1996.

Time: 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM.

Location: North Augusta Community Center, 101 Brookside Drive, North Augusta, South Carolina 29841, (803) 441-4290.

Contact for the North Augusta Meeting: Mr. Andrew R. Grainger, Telephone: 1-800-242-8269.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the scope of the Rocky Flats Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy EIS, including issues to be addressed, questions about the plutonium residues, and/or requests for copies of the draft EIS should be sent to the following address: Mr. Charles R. Head, Office of Nuclear Material and Facility Stabilization (EM-60), United States Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.,

Washington, D.C. 20585, Telephone: 202-586-9441, Facsimile: 202-586-5256.

Members of the public who request a copy of the draft EIS should specify whether they would like a copy of the entire draft EIS (which will consist of multiple bound volumes), or if they would prefer a copy of the Summary of the draft EIS (which will be a brief single volume).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information on the Rocky Flats Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy EIS, please contact Mr. Charles R. Head at the address specified above under the heading **ADDRESSES**.

For general information on the DOE NEPA review process, please contact: Ms. Carol Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance (EH-42), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585, Telephone: 202-586-4600 or leave a message at 800-472-2756.

Addresses of reading rooms where additional Rocky Flats Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy EIS information is available are listed below in the section entitled "Public Scoping Process".

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DOE announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. § 4321, *et seq.*), in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and the DOE NEPA implementing regulations (10 CFR Part 1021) to evaluate reasonable alternatives for management of certain plutonium residues and all of the scrub alloy at the Rocky Flats Site in Golden, Colorado. Plutonium residues and scrub alloy are materials that were generated while processing plutonium during the manufacture of components for nuclear weapons. The management alternatives to be analyzed include treatment of these materials to enable them to be disposed of as waste or, for some surplus weapons-usable material, otherwise dispositioned.

Purpose and Need

Stabilization activities to mitigate the risks associated with the current storage condition of plutonium residues (e.g., deteriorating and overpressurized storage containers, and ignitability concerns) are in progress at the Rocky Flats Site based on the decisions resulting from the Solid Residue Treatment, Repackaging, and Storage

Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact, issued in April 1996 (DOE/EA-1120, the "Solid Residue Environmental Assessment"). The Solid Residue Environmental Assessment addressed the potential environmental impacts associated with stabilizing the entire 106,600 kg inventory of Rocky Flats Site plutonium residues to allow its safe interim storage until the final disposition of the residues could be decided upon and implemented. However, due to the need for expeditious action to resolve problems with storage of the plutonium residues at Rocky Flats, the Solid Residues Environmental Assessment did not address disposal or other disposition of the residues after these materials were stabilized. Decisions regarding treatment of these materials for purposes other than stabilization, i.e., disposal or other disposition,¹ will require the evaluation of several treatment technologies and thus were considered to require a lengthier and more complex evaluation process than could be completed in time to meet the more immediate need to make and implement stabilization decisions.

DOE has determined that, even after stabilization, approximately 42,300 kg of the total of about 106,600 kg of plutonium residues currently in storage at Rocky Flats would remain in forms that, although not directly weapons usable, would contain sufficiently high concentrations of plutonium so as to not meet the safeguards termination

¹ After treatment, the Rocky Flats residues and scrub alloy could be disposed of as transuranic wastes or, depending on the treatment, could be transformed or chemically altered so as to concentrate the plutonium for other disposition (see below). "Transuranic" refers to elements, such as plutonium, that have an atomic number greater than that of uranium. The disposal of transuranic waste at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) is being analyzed in the Draft Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Disposal Phase Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. DOE is developing WIPP, near Carlsbad, New Mexico, as a potential disposal facility for transuranic wastes. DOE is evaluating the disposition of weapons-usable plutonium, which would be relevant if the residue or scrub alloy materials were treated to separate the plutonium from other constituents. Such potential uses include using the plutonium in mixed oxide fuel for power reactors, immobilization, and disposal in a deep borehole.

As a result of the potential for disposal of these materials at WIPP, "disposal requirements" for the residues and scrub alloy refers to the Planning Basis Waste Acceptance Criteria for WIPP (or alternative treatment level, depending on decision in the Record of Decision for the WIPP SEIS II), and any other requirements that must be met to allow disposal, such as safeguards termination requirements. Requirements for other disposition will be developed as part of detailed NEPA analyses that will be tiered from the Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (draft issued by DOE in February 1996; also see item 6 under "Related NEPA Documentation" in this Notice).

requirements for disposal.² Because of the plutonium concentration and the relative ease with which plutonium could be recovered from the residues, such residues could be attractive to terrorist organizations as a source of plutonium (about 2,600 kg could be separated from the Rocky Flats residues and scrub alloy) for use in nuclear weapons or other terrorist devices. Diluting these materials could reduce the plutonium concentrations sufficiently to meet disposal requirements but, for many samples of the residues, probably would yield an extremely large waste volume that would be very costly to transport and dispose of. Therefore, in addition to dilution, alternatives need to be considered, such as treatments that would either bind the plutonium in a matrix from which it would be difficult to extract, or treatments that would separate the plutonium from the remaining constituents of the residues and scrub alloy. Any separated plutonium would not be used for nuclear weapons purposes, but would be safely stored in secure facilities with other similar materials, pending disposition (see footnote 1). Whenever feasible, DOE would offer such storage facilities to be placed under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. For the other 64,300 kg of plutonium-bearing residues currently in storage at the Rocky Flats Site, the activities discussed in the Solid Residue Environmental Assessment will meet the transuranic waste disposal and safeguards termination requirements and will not be addressed in this EIS.

This EIS will evaluate reasonable management alternatives for the approximately 42,300 kg of plutonium residues discussed above, including treatment of the material to a form and concentration that is suitable for disposal or other disposition. Evaluation of these alternatives at this time will facilitate planning for disposal or other disposition, and allow any additional treatment to be integrated with the ongoing stabilization process so that

² Materials that could be used to fuel nuclear weapons (e.g., Uranium-235 or Plutonium-239) are required to be placed under a system of controls and protections to ensure that they are not misused or lost. This system of controls and protections is referred to as "safeguards." In general, wastes that contain large enough concentrations of nuclear weapons-usable materials cannot be disposed of unless actions (such as reducing the concentration of nuclear weapons usable materials, or immobilizing such materials so that they would be exceptionally difficult to recover) are taken that make it no longer necessary to "safeguard" them. The requirements that define the state into which such wastes must be converted in order for them no longer to require "safeguards" are referred to as "safeguards termination requirements".

handling the material can be minimized (i.e., by avoiding potential double handling). Minimizing such handling would reduce the worker risk associated with achieving a material form suitable for disposal or other disposition.

In addition to the residues discussed above, approximately 700 kg of scrub alloy (predominately a magnesium/aluminum/amerium/plutonium metal mixture) currently in storage at the Rocky Flats Site, containing about 200 kg of plutonium, also needs treatment before being suitable for disposal or other disposition. Due to similarities in the issues related to the management of the scrub alloy and the plutonium residues, management alternatives for the scrub alloy will also be analyzed in this EIS.

The entire inventory of plutonium residues currently stored at Rocky Flats is included in the Draft Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (WMPEIS) under the assumption that it may be managed as transuranic waste. The WMPEIS analyzes storage and treatment configurations (i.e., centralized, regionalized and decentralized treatment and storage) for transuranic wastes, including the Rocky Flats plutonium residues. The analysis of alternatives in this EIS will take into account the analyses of alternatives in the WMPEIS and the decisions made in any Records of Decisions that may result from those analyses.

Background

Plutonium residues and scrub alloy were generated by processes used to recover and purify plutonium and manufacture components for nuclear weapons. Approximately 125,000 kilograms (kg) of residues (containing about 5,800 kg of plutonium) and approximately 700 kg of scrub alloy (containing about 200 kg of plutonium) are currently stored at various DOE sites. Of these totals, approximately 106,600 kg of the residues (containing about 3,000 kg of plutonium), and nearly all of the scrub alloy are stored in various types of containers in six former plutonium production facilities at the Rocky Flats Site. The remaining approximately 18,400 kg of plutonium residues are stored at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina, the Hanford Site in Washington, Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. About 6 kg of scrub alloy are stored at the Savannah River Site. Stabilization activities for the approximately 18,400 kg of plutonium residues and 6 kg of scrub alloy not located at the Rocky

Flats Site are analyzed in NEPA reviews that have already been completed or are currently underway. These reviews are listed and summarized in the section of this notice titled "Related NEPA Documentation." The final approximately 5 kg of plutonium residues are located at several DOE sites, each having an inventory of less than 1 kg. Treatment options for these plutonium residues have been identified or are in the process of being defined by the managements of the installations at which these residues are stored.

The plutonium residues at the Rocky Flats Site that require treatment beyond stabilization prior to disposal or other disposition consist of four categories: ash, salts, wet residues, and direct repackaging residues. The residues are grouped into these categories due to chemical similarities or similarities in the manner in which they could be managed. All these residue categories and scrub alloy will be discussed in this EIS and are briefly described below. The approximate quantities in each category requiring treatment beyond stabilization to prepare them to meet the requirements for disposal or other disposition are noted.³

1. Ash Residues. The ash residue category consists of approximately 28,000 kg of material containing approximately 1,100 kg of plutonium in three basic groups. Examples from each group are: (a) Incinerator ash, firebrick heels and fines, and soot; (b) pulverized sand, slag and crucible; and (c) graphite fines. Approximately 71 percent of the ash residue inventory (~19,900 kg) would require treatment beyond stabilization for disposal in WIPP or other disposition.

2. Salt Residues. The salt residue category consists of about 16,000 kg of material containing approximately 1,000 kg of plutonium and can be further subdivided into three groups: electrorefining salts, molten salt extraction salts, and direct oxide reduction salts. These salts consist primarily of sodium chloride, potassium chloride and magnesium chloride. Approximately 93 percent of the salt residue inventory (~14,900 kg) would require treatment beyond stabilization

for disposal in WIPP or other disposition.

3. Wet Residues. The wet residues consist of approximately 17,000 kg of material containing approximately 600 kg of plutonium and are made up of a disparate assembly of materials, such as wet (aqueous and organic contaminated) combustibles, plutonium fluorides, high efficiency particulate air filter media, sludges and Raschig (glass) rings. Approximately 26 percent of the wet residue inventory (~4,400 kg) would require treatment beyond stabilization for disposal in WIPP or other disposition.

4. Direct Repackage Residues. The direct repackaging residue category consists of about 39,000 kg of material, containing about 300 kg of plutonium, and comprises those plutonium residues that are considered to be stable and do not require stabilization for storage. These residues consist of materials such as paper, rags, cloth, plastic, personal protective equipment, and gaskets. Approximately 8 percent of the direct repackaging residue (~3,100 kg) would require treatment for disposal in WIPP.

5. Scrub Alloy. Scrub alloy is predominately a magnesium/aluminum/amercurium/plutonium metal mixture that was created as an interim step in plutonium recovery. The entire Rocky Flats scrub alloy inventory of approximately 700 kg, containing approximately 200 kg of plutonium, will require treatment to put it in a form that would meet the requirements for disposal in WIPP or other disposition.

Preliminary Alternatives

Discussed below are the preliminary alternatives identified for management of certain Rocky Flats Site plutonium residues (approximately 42,300 kg) and scrub alloy (approximately 700 kg), including transportation to reasonable treatment sites and treatment to prepare them for disposal or other disposition. DOE welcomes comments on these or other reasonable alternatives and on the identification of a preferred alternative.

Alternative 1—No Action: The No Action alternative consists of ongoing residue storage activities, and activities addressed in the Solid Residue Treatment, Repackaging, and Storage Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact, plus the on-site storage of the scrub alloy inventory in its current form. Under the No Action alternative, stabilization, repackaging, and monitoring of the entire plutonium residue inventory for safe interim storage would continue. Interim storage would be in containers and under conditions appropriate for a period of approximately 20 years, with

approximately 64,300 kg of the residues prepared for waste disposal. The other 42,300 kg of plutonium residues and the scrub alloy would remain in a form that is not suitable for disposal as waste, or other disposition.

Alternative 2—On-Site Treatment:

This alternative would involve treatment at the Rocky Flats Site, as discussed below:

a. Treatment Without Plutonium Separation—This alternative includes treating the plutonium residues or scrub alloy to prepare the material for disposal as waste without removal of the plutonium. This treatment alternative would use techniques such as immobilization, (e.g., ceramification or vitrification), or dilution by blending with other matrix materials (e.g., blending the salt residues with depleted uranium oxide or additional salt). The resulting waste form would meet the planning basis waste acceptance criteria for disposal in WIPP. The material would no longer be attractive as a potential source of plutonium since it would be in a physical and chemical form from which it would be difficult to recover the plutonium, or the resulting material would have too low a concentration of plutonium. However, the dilution approach would result in substantially greater amounts of transuranic waste.

b. Treatment With Plutonium Separation—Plutonium separation would consist of removing the plutonium from the residue or scrub alloy. Plutonium separation would generate two distinct forms of material; a treated waste form and a plutonium metal or oxide. The treated waste would meet the planning basis waste acceptance criteria for disposal in WIPP. The plutonium metal or oxide would be in a form that would be suitable for disposition in accordance with the decisions resulting from the Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials Programmatic EIS. The Rocky Flats Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy EIS will include analysis of any actions needed to manage separated plutonium until the decisions resulting from the Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials Programmatic EIS are implemented. Under this treatment alternative, there would be no need to dilute the plutonium-bearing materials to allow them to meet transuranic waste disposal requirements, although other types of waste would be produced that are more easily disposed of.⁴ The recovered

³ As noted previously in this Notice, a total of approximately 106,600 kg of plutonium residues is currently in storage at Rocky Flats. Of this total, approximately 6,600 kg is in a residue category designated "Classified Shapes" that does not require treatment beyond that analyzed in the Solid Residue Environmental Assessment. This leaves approximately 100,000 kg of residues in the four listed categories, 42,300 kg of which will need additional treatment beyond that analyzed in the Solid Residue Environmental Assessment. The scrub alloy is not a plutonium residue, and thus is not included in the 100,000 kg residue total.

⁴ Both low-level radioactive and hazardous wastes could be generated as a result of such treatment. Any hazardous wastes would be sent to a licensed

plutonium could not be used for nuclear explosive purposes under the DOE Secretarial policy established in December 1994.⁵

Alternative 3—Off-Site Treatment: Under this alternative, the plutonium residues or scrub alloy would be treated off-site using various treatment technologies, with or without plutonium separation, as discussed under Alternative 2 above. The plutonium residues might require pre-treatment at Rocky Flats to modify the material composition and physical packaging so that the material would be in a condition suitable for transportation. Potential locations for off-site treatment include: the Savannah River Site, the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). The Savannah River Site has the capability to treat most residues and all scrub alloy efficiently. LANL and LLNL each have facilities that could treat only part of the salt residues (about 13,400 kg), but at much slower rates than treatment at the Savannah River Site. The cost of treatment at LANL and LLNL is expected to be slightly higher than the cost of treatment at the Savannah River Site. None of these facilities, including the Rocky Flats Site, currently is capable of treating all of the ash residues. Further, treatment at LANL and LLNL may be difficult to accommodate in light of the other missions of those sites. Taking account of all these circumstances, the Savannah River Site appears to be a more likely offsite location for treating the Rocky Flats plutonium residues and scrub alloy than LANL or LLNL. Nevertheless, DOE cannot rule out the possibility that further analysis or changing circumstances might provide reasons to treat some of these materials at LANL or LLNL.

Any plutonium that might be separated under the "Treatment With Plutonium Separation" option would be placed in storage pending implementation of decisions made after completion of the Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials Programmatic EIS. As specified for Alternative 2.b above, the Rocky Flats Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy EIS will include analysis of

commercial treatment, storage and disposal facility. Any low-level radioactive wastes would be disposed of along with other low-level radioactive wastes generated at the Rocky Flats Site.

⁵Such plutonium would be stabilized, packaged for storage (under DOE safe storage criteria suitable for 50 years) and would be stored at Rocky Flats pending implementation of storage and disposition decisions. While in storage, the plutonium metal/oxide would remain safe and in a secured facility.

any actions needed to manage separated plutonium until the decisions made after completion of the Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials Programmatic EIS are implemented.

Public Scoping Process

To ensure that the full range of issues related to the Rocky Flats Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy EIS is addressed, comments on the proposed scope of the EIS are invited from all interested parties during the scoping period. Written comments should be directed to Mr. Charles R. Head at the address indicated above under the heading **ADDRESSES**. Agencies, organizations, and the general public are also invited to present oral comments at the public scoping meetings to be held at the times and dates listed in the **DATES** section above.

Written and oral comments will be given equal consideration. Individuals desiring to speak at a public scoping meeting (or meetings) should pre-register by telephoning or writing the contact person(s) designated for the meeting as specified above in the **DATES** section of this Notice. Pre-registration should occur at least four days before the designated meeting. Persons who register at the meeting will be called on to speak as time permits, after the pre-registered speakers.

To ensure that everyone has an adequate opportunity to speak, each speaker at a scoping meeting will be allotted five minutes. Depending on the number of persons who request an opportunity to speak, more time may be allowed for speakers representing several parties or organizations. Persons wishing to speak on behalf of organizations should identify the organization in their request. Written comments also will be accepted at the meetings, and speakers at scoping meetings are encouraged to provide written versions of their oral comments for the record.

DOE will record and prepare transcripts of the oral comments received during the public scoping meetings. Interested persons will be able to review the transcripts, written comments, reference material, related NEPA documents, and background information during normal business hours at the following locations:

U.S. Department of Energy, Freedom of Information Room, Room 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585, Telephone: 202-586-6020

U.S. Department of Energy, Public Reading Room, Gregg Graniteville

Library, 171 University Parkway, Aiken, South Carolina 29801, Telephone: 803-641-3465

County Library, 2002 Bull Street, Savannah, Georgia 31299-430, Telephone: 912-234-5127

County Library, 404 King Street, Charleston, South Carolina 29403, Telephone: 803-723-1645

Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board, Public Reading Room, 9035 Wadsworth Avenue, Suite 2250, Westminster, Colorado 80021, Telephone: 303-420-7855

Standley Lake Public Reading Room, 8485 Kipling Street, Arvada, Colorado 80005, Telephone: 303-456-0806

U.S. Department of Energy, Golden Field Office, Public Reading Room, 14869 Denver West Parkway, Golden, Colorado 80401, Telephone: 303-275-4742

U.S. EPA Superfund Records Center, 999 18th Street, 5th Floor, Denver, Colorado 80202-2405, Telephone: 303-312-6473

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Information Center, 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, Colorado 80222, Telephone: 303-692-2037

Rocky Flats Public Reading Room, Front Range Community College Library, 3645 West 112th Avenue, Westminster, Colorado 80030, Telephone: 303-469-4435

Albuquerque Operations Office, National Atomic Museum, 20358 Wyoming Blvd. S.E., Kirtland Air Force Base, P.O. Box 5400, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87185-5400, Telephone: 505-845-4378

Los Alamos Community Reading Room, 1450 Central, Suite 101, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544, Telephone: 505-665-2127

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, East Gate Visitors Center, Greenville Road, Livermore, California 94550, Telephone: 510-424-4026

Oakland Operations Office, U.S. Department of Energy, Public Reading Room, EIC, 8th Floor, 1301 Clay Street, Oakland, California 94612-5208, Telephone: 510-637-1762

DOE plans to issue the draft EIS in the Spring of 1997. DOE will announce availability of the draft in the Federal Register and other media, and will provide the public, organizations, and agencies with an opportunity to submit comments. These comments will be considered and addressed in the final EIS, scheduled for issuance in the Fall of 1997.

Preliminary Issues: DOE has preliminarily identified the

environmental issues listed below for analysis in the Rocky Flats Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy EIS. This list is presented to facilitate discussion concerning the scope of the EIS and is not intended to exclude consideration of other pertinent issues that may be suggested during the scoping period or to predetermine the scope of the EIS. DOE invites comments on these and any other issues relevant to the analysis in the EIS. The environmental issues identified by DOE are as follows:

1. Public and Occupational Safety and Health: The potential radiological and non-radiological impacts of the management alternatives for the plutonium residues and scrub alloy, including projected effects on workers and the public from routine operations and potential accidents at the Rocky Flats Site, Savannah River Site, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and along transportation routes from the Rocky Flats Site to the other sites.

2. Environmental Media: Potential impacts on soil, water, and the air.

3. Sensitive Environmental Resources: Potential impacts on plants, animals, and habitat, including impacts to flood plains, wetlands, and threatened and endangered species and their habitat.

4. Resource Consumption: Potential impacts from consumption of natural resources and energy, including water, natural gas, and electricity.

5. Socioeconomic: Potential impacts on local communities, including labor force employment and support services.

6. Environmental Justice: Potential for disproportionately high and adverse impacts of DOE activities on minority and low-income populations.

7. Cultural Resources: Potential impacts on cultural resources, such as historic, archaeological, scientific, or culturally important sites.

8. Regulatory Compliance: The impacts of the alternatives on compliance of the Rocky Flats Site, Savannah River Site, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory with applicable Federal and state laws and regulations.

9. Cumulative Impacts: The impacts of these alternatives in conjunction with other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of agency (Federal or non-federal) or persons undertaking such other actions.

10. Potential Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitment of Resources: The potential irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources that would be involved in each alternative.

11. Non-Proliferation and International Plutonium-processing Policy: The potential impacts to international policy regarding the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and processing of plutonium that would be involved with the alternatives involving separation of plutonium.

Related NEPA Documentation: Documents that have been or are being prepared that may relate to the scope of the Rocky Flats Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy EIS include the following:

12. *Solid Residue Treatment, Repackaging, and Storage Environmental Assessment* (DOE/EA-1120) and Finding of No Significant Impact, issued April 1996. This Environmental Assessment addressed the stabilization of the plutonium residue inventory currently at the Rocky Flats Site. The actions being implemented based on the Environmental Assessment are included in the No Action alternative of the Rocky Flats Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy Environmental Impact Statement.

13. *Rocky Flats Site-wide Environmental Impact Statement Notice of Intent* (59 FR 40011, August 5, 1994). This Notice announced DOE's intention to prepare a site-wide EIS for the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site. In a Federal Register Notice dated July 17, 1996, DOE deferred completion of the Site-wide EIS pending the completion of a new cleanup agreement (since completed) with the Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Colorado and decisions that may result from issuance of the WM PEIS (see item 5, below).

14. *Interim Storage of Plutonium at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site Environmental Impact Statement Notice of Intent* (61 FR 37247, July 17, 1996). This Notice announced DOE's intention to prepare an environmental impact statement to evaluate the alternatives for providing safe interim storage of approximately 10 metric tons of plutonium at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site pending implementation of decisions based on the Storage and Disposition of Weapons—Usable Fissile Materials Programmatic EIS. Any plutonium that would be separated through the treatment at Rocky Flats of residues and scrub alloy would be stored in accordance with decisions that may result from the analysis in the Interim Storage of Plutonium at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site EIS, pending implementation of decisions based on the Storage and Disposition of Weapons—Usable Fissile Materials Programmatic EIS.

15. *Draft Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Disposal Phase Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE/EIS-0026-S2). This is the second supplemental EIS for WIPP, a DOE research and development project that is proposed for the disposal of transuranic wastes. The Department's proposed action is to dispose of transuranic waste at the facility. The Notice of Intent for the second supplemental EIS was issued on August 23, 1995 (60 FR 43779). The Rocky Flats plutonium residues (including transportation to WIPP) are considered in the scope of the supplemental EIS. The draft supplemental EIS is scheduled to be issued in late 1996 and the final supplemental EIS and Record of Decision are scheduled to be issued in the Summer of 1997. The Rocky Flats Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy EIS will be prepared in coordination with the WIPP supplemental EIS.

16. *Draft Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (WMPEIS) (DOE/EIS-0200-D, August 1995). The WMPEIS considers alternative approaches for consolidating the management of the Department of Energy's low-level, low-level mixed, hazardous, transuranic, and high-level waste. Records of Decision based on the WMPEIS are scheduled to be issued starting in 1997 and will be made by waste type. The Rocky Flats Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy EIS will be prepared in coordination with the WMPEIS and applicable records of decision that may be issued before completion of this EIS.

17. *Draft Storage and Disposition of Weapons—Usable Fissile Materials Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE/EIS-0229-D, February 1996). This Programmatic EIS analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with approaches to storage and disposition of the Department's weapons-usable fissile materials, including plutonium. Under the No Action alternative, Rocky Flats plutonium metals and oxides, including any plutonium metals or oxides generated as part of plutonium residue treatment, would remain at Rocky Flats. Under all other alternatives, stabilized weapons-usable Rocky Flats material would be transferred to another DOE site. The treatment alternatives discussed in this Notice of Intent that involve separation of plutonium would generate weapons-usable plutonium metals and oxides that would be stored and dispositioned according to decisions made based on the Storage and Disposition of Weapons—Usable Fissile Materials Programmatic EIS. The final Storage and Disposition of

Weapons—Usable Fissile Material Programmatic EIS is scheduled to be issued in late 1996.

18. *Final Environmental Impact Statement for Continued Operation of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory* (DOE/EIS-0157, August 1992, the "LLNL Site-wide EIS"). This document analyzes the potential environmental impacts of a proposed action to continue operation of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories, Livermore. The LLNL site-wide EIS also analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with a no-action alternative involving continuing operations at FY 1992 funding levels without further growth, an alternative to modify operations to reduce adverse environmental impacts of operations or facilities, and a shutdown and decommissioning alternative. The Record of Decision for the LLNL Site-wide EIS (58 FR 6268, January 27, 1993) announced that DOE had decided to continue the operation of LLNL and Sandia National Laboratories, Livermore, including near-term (within 5 to 10 years) proposed projects. This action included current operations plus programmatic enhancements and facility modifications required to support the research and development missions established for the Laboratories by Congress and the President. The alternatives to be analyzed in the Rocky Flats Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy EIS that would involve treatment of a portion of the Rocky Flats plutonium residues at LLNL will represent activities beyond those considered in the LLNL Site-wide EIS.

19. *Los Alamos National Laboratory Site-wide EIS Notice of Intent* (60 FR 92:25697-8, May 12, 1995). This notice announced DOE's intention to prepare a Site-wide EIS to address operations and planned activities at the Los Alamos National Laboratory foreseen in the next 5 to 10 years. DOE anticipates that this EIS will provide an analysis of all activities at LANL and all DOE land management activities related to operations at LANL. The draft LANL Site-wide EIS is scheduled to be issued in mid-1997. The alternatives to be analyzed in the Rocky Flats Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy EIS that would involve treatment of a portion of the Rocky Flats plutonium residues at LANL will be prepared in coordination with the analyses being performed for the LANL Site-wide EIS.

20. *Plutonium Finishing Plant Stabilization Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE/EIS-0244, May 1996). This EIS addressed the potential

environmental impacts associated with alternative technological processes at the Hanford Site for stabilizing plutonium-bearing materials, including plutonium residues. In the Record of Decision for this EIS (61 FR 36352, July 10, 1996), DOE decided that the plutonium residues having a low plutonium content (less than 50 weight percent) and meeting criteria established by DOE will be immobilized at the Plutonium Finishing Plant through a cementation process and stored pending disposal. This EIS provided the NEPA analyses required for management of the plutonium residues currently stored at the Hanford Site.

21. *Interim Management of Nuclear Materials at the Savannah River Site Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE/EIS-0220, the IMNM EIS). The IMNM EIS addressed the potential environmental impacts associated with alternatives that the Department could implement to stabilize a variety of nuclear materials that are at the Savannah River Site for improved safety or to convert them to another form to support the Department's programs. This analysis also included an evaluation of the alternatives for the treatment of approximately 1,000 kg of plutonium residues and approximately 6 kg of scrub alloy (discussed in IMNM EIS Section 2.3.3, "Plutonium and Uranium Stored in Vaults"), some of which originated at Rocky Flats Site and is currently in storage at the Savannah River Site. Three Records of Decision have been issued for the IMNM EIS (60 FR 65300, December 19, 1995; 61 FR 6633, February 21, 1996; and 61 FR 48474, September 13, 1996), each covering different materials. The decision regarding the plutonium residues and scrub alloy, specified in the first Record of Decision, was to process these materials through the canyon facilities to a form that meets the DOE storage criteria (DOE-STD-3013-94) and to store the plutonium at the Savannah River site.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on this 15th day of November, 1996.

Peter N. Brush,

Acting Assistant Secretary, Environment, Safety and Health.

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BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

Availability of the Stockpile Stewardship and Management Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) announces the availability of the Stockpile Stewardship and Management Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS), DOE/EIS-0236. The Stockpile Stewardship and Management PEIS analyzes the consequences to the environment associated with alternative ways of maintaining the safety and reliability of the nuclear weapons stockpile in the absence of underground nuclear testing.

DATES: The Environmental Protection Agency published its Notice of Availability regarding this Final PEIS on November 15, 1996. DOE intends to issue a Record of Decision on the Stockpile Stewardship and Management PEIS no sooner than 30 days from the publication date of the Environmental Protection Agency Notice of Availability in the Federal Register.

ADDRESSES AND FURTHER INFORMATION: A copy of the entire Final PEIS (five volumes) or its Summary may be obtained upon request by calling 1-800-776-2765, or writing to: Reconfiguration Group, Office of Technical, and Environmental Support, DP-45, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585.

Requests for copies of the Final PEIS can also be made electronically via computer as follows: Federal Information Exchange Bulletin Board, InterNet Address: <http://web.fie.com/fedix/doeoor.html>, Modem Toll-Free: 1-800-783-3349, DC Metro Modem: 301-258-0953.

For general information on the DOE NEPA process, please contact: Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, EH-42, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington DC 20585, (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In response to the end of the Cold War and changes in the world political regimes, the United States is no longer producing new design nuclear weapons and is no longer conducting underground nuclear testing. Instead, the emphasis of the United States' nuclear weapons program is on reducing the size of the Nation's nuclear stockpile by dismantling existing nuclear weapons. The DOE has been directed by the President and Congress to maintain the safety and reliability of the reduced nuclear weapons stockpile in the absence of underground nuclear testing. In order to fulfill that responsibility, DOE has developed the Stockpile Stewardship