series central furnaces manufactured by Goodman Manufacturing Company.

(4) This Waiver is based upon the presumed validity of statements, allegations, and documentary materials submitted by the petitioner. This Waiver may be revoked or modified at any time upon a determination that the factual basis underlying the petition is incorrect.

(5) Effective March 11, 1994, this Waiver supersedes the Interim Waiver granted the Goodman Manufacturing Company on February 10, 1994. 58 FR 8608, February 23, 1994 (Case No. F–066).

Issued in Washington, DC, March 11, 1994.

Frank M. Stewart, Jr.,

Chief of Staff, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

[FR Doc. 94–6260 Filed 3–16–94; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P–M

Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Interim Management of Nuclear Materials at the Savannah River Site

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.). DOE proposes to evaluate nuclear materials currently stored at the Savannah River Site (SRS) and determine what materials can safely remain in their current form for an interim period (approximately 5 years) until disposition decisions can be made. DOE will also determine what materials are at risk and therefore require near-term stabilization to assure continued safe management. DOE will evaluate the nuclear materials using a proposed set of criteria to determine materials which require near-term stabilization to help maintain the health and safety of workers and the public and to maintain environmental quality. DOE would then stabilize the materials determined to be of concern.

DOE also proposes that some nuclear materials at the SRS should be converted, or should be considered for conversion, to a useable form. Plutonium-242 is used for research and development programs and the SRS inventory of this material is needed for this programmatic purpose. As a result, DOE proposes to convert the SRS inventory of plutonium-242 solution to an oxide. Additionally, DOE is in the process of determining whether a programmatic need exists for americium-243, curium-244, and neptunium-237. If it is determined that a need for this material exists, the EIS will also evaluate its conversion to a useable form. Any conversion of this material would be for purposes other than the production of nuclear weapons.

The nuclear materials to be evaluated will be those which have historically been either the feed materials for, or the in-process material of, SRS production and reprocessing programs.[1] The need for the EIS is driven by the evolving requirements associated with the defense programs of the United States and the resultant requirement to manage the materials in the interim pending disposition decisions.

DOE plans to address waste management activities at SRS in a separate EIS. The waste management EIS for SRS will be announced shortly, by a separate Notice of Intent.

INVITATION TO COMMENT: To ensure the EIS addresses the full range of issues and alternatives related to this proposal, DOE invites comments on the proposed scope of the EIS from all interested parties. Please direct written comments to assist DOE in identifying significant environmental issues and defining the appropriate scope of the EIS to Mr. Stephen R. Wright at the address indicated below. DOE also invites agencies, organizations, and the general public to present oral comments pertinent to the preparation of this EIS at the public scoping meetings on the dates indicated below. In addition, DOE will accept comments electronically via voice mail or facsimile transmission by calling 1–800–242–8269. DOE will give equal consideration to all comments.

After the completion of the public scoping process, DOE will prepare an EIS Implementation Plan and make it available to the public upon request. The Implementation Plan will record the results of the scoping process and define the alternatives and issues that DOE will evaluate in the EIS. DOE intends to complete the Draft EIS in late 1994, and will announce its availability in the **Federal Register**. DOE will solicit comments from the public, organizations, and other agencies on the Draft EIS, and will consider all comments in its preparation of the Final EIS.

DATES: The public scoping period will continue until May 31, 1994. DOE will consider all written comments postmarked by May 31, 1994, and will consider comments postmarked after that date to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Please direct written comments or suggestions on the scope of the EIS and questions concerning the project to: Mr. Stephen R. Wright, U.S. Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office, P.O. Box A, Aiken, South Carolina 29802, (803) 725–3957.

Mark the envelopes: "Nuclear Materials Interim Management EIS."

For general information on the DOE NEPA review process, please contact: Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Oversight (EH–25), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586–4600 or (800) 472–2756.

PUBLIC SCOPING PROCESS: DOE will host a series of informal sessions to provide the public with additional information on the materials to be evaluated and the proposed action and alternatives discussed in this NOI. These sessions are intended to be interactive and DOE representatives will be available to answer questions. These informal sessions are scheduled at the following times and locations: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., April 12, 1994, North Augusta Community Center, 495 Brookside Avenue, North Augusta, South Carolina; 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., April 19, 1994, DeSoto Hilton Hotel, 15 Liberty Street, Savannah, Georgia; 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., April 21, 1994, Holiday Inn Coliseum at USC, 630 Assembly Street, Columbia, South Carolina.

DOE will then conduct public scoping meetings to assist in defining the appropriate scope of the EIS and identifying significant environmental issues to be addressed. DOE representatives will be available at the meetings to discuss, in informal conversations, SRS nuclear materials programs. These meetings are scheduled at the following times and locations: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., May 12, 1994, Coastal Georgia Center for Continuing Education, 305 Martin Luther King Boulevard (Battlefield Park), Savannah, Georgia; 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., May 17, 1994, North Augusta Community Center, 495 Brookside Avenue, North Augusta, South Carolina; 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., May 19, 1994, Holiday Inn Coliseum at USC, 630 Assembly Street, Columbia, South Carolina.

DOE will publish additional notices on the dates and locations of the information sessions and scoping meetings in local newspapers well in

[1] This material does not include that associated with the plutonium-238 production mission in HB-Line. The purpose of that mission is to support the National Aeronautics Space Administration deep space probe program. This effort is the subject of separate NEPA documentation.

advance of the scheduled dates. DOE is committed to providing opportunities for the involvement of interested individuals and groups in this and other DOE planning activities.

The public, organizations, and agencies are invited to present oral and written comments concerning (1) the scope of the EIS, (2) the issues the EIS should address, and (3) the alternatives the EIS should analyze. Please address written comments to Mr. Wright at the address indicated above. These comments should be postmarked by May 31, 1994, to ensure full consideration.

Organizations and individuals wishing to participate in the public meetings can call 1–800–242–8269 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, or submit their requests to Mr. Wright at the address indicated above. DOE requests that anyone who wishes to speak at one of the scoping meetings pre-register by contacting Mr. Wright, either by phone or in writing. Pre-registration should occur at least two days before the designated meeting. Persons who have not pre-registered to speak may register at the meeting and will be called to speak as time permits.

DOE will document comments received during the public scoping process. Copies will be available for inspection at these locations during regular business hours, Monday through Friday:

The DOE Freedom of Information Reading Room, room 1E–190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586–6020; and

The DOE Public Document Room, University of South Carolina, Aiken Campus, University Library, 2nd Floor, 171 University Parkway, Aiken, South Carolina 29801, (803) 648–6851.

Additional locations may be selected through the scoping process.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Savannah River Site is an 800 square-kilometer (300 square-mile), controlled area in southwestern South Carolina. The Site is approximately 25 miles southeast of Augusta, Georgia and 20 miles south of Aiken, South Carolina. Since its establishment, the mission of the SRS has been to produce nuclear materials that support the defense, research, and medical programs of the United States.

Historically, reactor fuel or target assemblies were chemically dissolved into aqueous solutions in the F- or H-Canyon chemical separations facilities. Various processes were performed to separate the useful isotopes (uranium-235, uranium-238, neptunium-237, plutonium-238, americium-243, curium-244, and plutonium-239) from the rest of the fuel and target material. The uranium-235 solutions were shipped off the site for conversion to a solid form and the uranium-238 in solution was converted to an oxide using the FA-Line facility at SRS. The neptunium-237 was recovered, and when required, converted to a solid and fashioned into new targets. The plutonium was recovered and converted to metal or oxide products using the FB- and HB-Line facilities. Most converted materials were shipped to other DOE sites. Any product materials stored onsite were placed in "vaults" designed for storage.

In March 1992, chemical processing operations were suspended in the canyons to address a potential safety concern. The concern was subsequently addressed, but prior to resumption of processing, the Secretary of Energy directed that defense-related chemical separations activities (i.e., reprocessing) be phased out at SRS. Since this decision, the Department has determined that further action related to the disposition of nuclear material is subject to the NEPA process. Non-safety related facility operations have remained shut down, with the exception of plutonium-238 processing associated with the support of NASA missions.

As a result of these shutdowns, the canyons and the reactor fuel and target storage basins[2] have a large inventory of in-process solutions, fuel assemblies, and targets. This inventory includes materials containing a wide variety of special isotopes (plutonium-239, uranium-235, plutonium-242, americium-243, curium-244, neptunium-237, etc.). There are approximately 100,000 gallons of in-process solutions in storage and approximately 200 metric tons of spent fuel and targets in storage.

In addition to the above solutions and targets, there are over 90,000 gallons of uranyl nitrate hexahydrate (UNH) stored in tanks outside the facility. The UNH contains the uranium-235 recovered from the processing of fuel from SRS production reactors, and DOE, domestic, and foreign research reactors.

There are also approximately 35,000 55-gallon drums of uranium-238 (known as "depleted uranium") oxide stored on the site. This material is the product of processing the targets from which plutonium-239 is recovered.

For some solutions (e.g., enriched uranium and americium/curium) no conversion capability exists. Conversion, stabilization, or disposition options must be developed for such solutions.

DOE has established a Secretarial task force to evaluate disposition of surplus nuclear materials stored at various locations within the weapons complex. Until disposition decisions are made (approximately 5 years), some of the materials at SRS, due to their form or to the condition in which they are currently maintained, could represent an unreasonable risk to public and worker health and safety or an unreasonable risk to the environment. For example, the aluminum cladding on some of the targets is deteriorating due to corrosion. As the cladding corrodes, highly radioactive material is exposed to the water in the storage basin. Some of this material is released into the water, which can result in increased worker exposures and environmental releases. Another example of material that could present an unreasonable risk is stored solutions containing plutonium, other transuranic elements, and uranium. These solutions require continuing vigilance to assure their continued safe storage and to avoid potentially severe radiological impacts should an accident occur.

Additionally, DOE wants to reduce the cost of maintaining and storing these nuclear materials. The cost to maintain just the SRS canyons, with their current inventory of material, is about $300 million a year. These costs could be reduced through consolidation, conversion, and stabilization.

Proposed Action

The Department proposes to stabilize nuclear materials currently stored at the SRS that are in a condition that may not be safe over the time that is necessary to make decisions regarding their long-term disposition (approximately 5 years). The EIS will evaluate and identify which nuclear materials should be stabilized because of a health, safety, or environmental concern related to the condition of the material.[3]

The Department also proposes to convert to a useable form those

[2] There are several storage basins currently in use. These are the K-, L-, and P-Reactor basins, the Receiving Basin for Off-site Fuels (RBOF) located in H-Area, and the Canyon receiving basins.

[3] If at any time during the course of preparing the environmental impact statement the Department were to determine that an emergency condition such as unreasonable risk to public or worker health and safety or the environment exists with respect to any of the unstable materials, the Department would take action to respond immediately to the situation and consult with the Council on Environmental Quality regarding alternative arrangements for compliance with NEPA.

materials for which a programmatic need exists. These materials are used in research and development programs. Specifically, DOE has identified a need for additional plutonium-242, and proposes to convert the existing inventory of that material at SRS from a solution to an oxide. In addition, if during the development of this EIS, a programmatic need is identified for neptunium-237, americium-243, or curium-244, this material will also be proposed for conversion to a useable form. Any programmatic need for americium-243 and curium-244 could not be satisfied until conversion technology is developed.

Alternatives Proposed for Consideration

DOE will examine various methods to accomplish stabilization. Based on current information, the preferred alternative for some of these materials, (e.g., in-process liquids) would be to operate the canyon facilities (including FB-Line and HB-Line, Phases I and II) only as may be necessary for stabilization, and then to place the facilities in a standby condition. For some materials, (e.g., americium and curium solutions) the Department currently has no preferred alternative, and the EIS will assist the Department in identifying a preferred alternative. The Department solicits public participation in identifying and evaluating alternatives. Alternatives could include dry storage, new wet storage, and processing for vitrification without chemical separation. Alternatives to the conversion of material required for programmatic needs have not been identified. Consistent with NEPA's requirement that the "no action" alternative be considered, DOE will evaluate the environmental impacts of continuing to manage all materials in their current form until decisions regarding disposition are made.

Material Inventory Evaluation Criteria

DOE proposes to evaluate the inventory of nuclear materials at the SRS and place the material into one of three categories. These categories are: (1) Materials that may warrant near-term stabilization in order to maintain the health and safety of workers and the public and to maintain environmental quality; (2) material for which there is still a programmatic need; and (3) materials for which there is currently no designated programmatic need and which are already in a stable form. DOE proposes to use the following criteria to categorize material that warrants near-term stabilization and solicits public comments on how these criteria may be further refined:

1. Materials which, without stabilization, would present a near-term (i.e., approximately 5 years) risk of increasing worker radiation exposure or exposure to hazardous materials by an amount that is not insignificant.

2. Materials which, without stabilization, would present a near-term risk of a release of radioactive or hazardous material to the public or the environment that is not insignificant.

3. Materials for which stabilization or use of an alternative storage method will, in the near-term, reduce the degree of hazard presented by the material in its current form by an amount that is not insignificant.

4. Material for which stabilization in the near-term would reduce the generation of radioactive waste by an amount that is not insignificant.

DOE intends that decisions regarding which materials merit near-term stabilization will be based exclusively on the risk they pose to the safety and health of workers or the public, or to the environment. Although DOE expects to realize some maintenance related cost savings by stabilizing at-risk materials, DOE does not intend to consider economics as a criterion in the categorization process. That is, DOE does not propose to process materials that DOE determines, after public input, will remain stable until decisions regarding disposition can be made, even if it were judged to be cost effective to process them in conjunction with materials to be stabilized.

DOE solicits public comments on the criteria and approach described above.

Identification of Environmental and Other Issues

DOE has identified the following issues for analysis for proposed and alternative actions in the EIS.

Environmental Issues

1. Public and Worker Safety, Health Risk Assessment—Radiological and nonradiological impacts, including projected effects on workers and the public from normal operations and potential accidents.

2. Waste Management—The impact on the generation, treatment, storage, and disposal of high-level radioactive waste, low-level radioactive waste, transuranic (TRU) waste, hazardous waste, and mixed waste on new and existing onsite waste management and storage facilities. The EIS will describe the types and quantities of waste that would be generated by implementation. It will not consider specific waste disposal alternatives (e.g., a comparison of the impacts caused by the treatment and interim storage of vitrified reprocessing waste with those caused by the treatment and interim storage of unprocessed forms). These will be evaluated in the SRS waste management EIS.

3. Regulatory Compliance—A determination of the status of compliance with all applicable Federal, state, and local statutes and regulations; required Federal and state environmental consultations and notifications; and

DOE Orders on waste management, including waste minimization initiatives, and environmental protection.

4. Air Quality—Potential effects on air quality from radiological and nonradiological emissions.

5. Water Resources—Effects on the quality and the quantity of ground- and surface-water resources, including wetlands, and on downstream water users.

6. Onsite Transportation—Impacts on the onsite workers and transportation systems resulting from transportation of raw materials, supplies, equipment, products, and wastes for both routine transportation and accident scenarios.

7. Socioeconomic—Socioeconomic impacts in the SRS area.

Related NEPA Reviews

The following is a list of existing or forthcoming NEPA documentation related to materials or activities at SRS.

Savannah River Site Waste Management EIS

DOE will shortly announce its intent to prepare an EIS on waste management activities at the SRS. The purpose of the EIS is to provide a basis for DOE to select a sitewide strategic approach to managing present and future SRS waste generated as a result of ongoing operations, environmental restoration activities, transition, and decontamination and decommissioning activities. The EIS will address, at a minimum, the generation, minimization, treatment, storage, and disposal of low-level waste, liquid high-level waste, nonradioactive hazardous waste, mixed waste, and transuranic waste.

PEIS for Waste Management

DOE has published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a Programmatic EIS on Environmental Restoration and Waste Management (EM PEIS) (55 FR 42633, October 22, 1990). An Implementation Plan for this PEIS was published in February 1994. A draft PEIS is currently

expected to be issued by September 1994.

EIS for Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel Management and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL) Environmental Restoration and Waste Management

This EIS is currently in preparation and will include, among other issues, a programmatic analysis for the transportation, receipt, processing and storage of spent nuclear fuel, including consideration of sites other than INEL. SRS is one of the alternative sites being evaluated.

Environmental Assessment (EA) for HB-Line Operation

HB-Line is currently operating to provide plutonium-238 for future space missions. In July 1991, DOE issued an Environmental Assessment for Radioisotope Heat Source Fuel Processing and Fabrication, DOE/EA–0534. Based on the analysis in the EA, DOE determined that the proposed action, which included operation of HB-Line Phases I and III, does not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. DOE issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on July 21, 1991; the FONSI was published in the **Federal Register** on July 25, 1991 (56 FR 34057). As part of a negotiated court settlement, DOE is preparing an additional EA that will examine impacts of operating HB-Line Phases I and III beyond those activities currently underway. The cumulative impacts of operation of HB-Line Phases I and III in conjunction with the proposed action and alternatives will be addressed in this nuclear materials interim management EIS.

EA and EIS for Foreign Research Reactor Spent Fuel

DOE is preparing an EIS on the proposed adoption and implementation of a policy for the acceptance of up to 15,000 spent nuclear fuel elements from foreign research reactors. This EIS is scheduled to be completed by the end of June 1995. In the interim, to meet the needs of certain foreign research reactor operators and to avoid failure of a key United States nuclear nonproliferation objective, DOE proposes to accept a small number of foreign research reactor spent fuel elements for storage at an existing SRS wet storage facility. DOE has prepared and has issued for public comment, a draft EA (February 1994) to evaluate the environmental impact of this proposed interim action.

Canyon Ventilation Upgrade EIS

On March 20, 1992, DOE published an NOI to prepare an EIS for the upgrade of canyon exhaust systems at SRS (57 FR 9693). An Implementation Plan was issued in January 1993. The scope of the upgrade is being substantially reduced and DOE is presently evaluating what level of analysis is required under NEPA, as a result of the change in scope.

EA for Plutonium Storage in Building 247–F Vault

DOE is preparing an environmental assessment to evaluate the impacts of consolidating certain stable plutonium materials for interim storage into an existing vault located in Building 247–F at the SRS. The EA will evaluate the consolidated storage of plutonium materials currently stored at several locations on the SRS.

EISs for Reactor Operation

DOE has published two Final EISs on nuclear reactor operation at SRS: L-Reactor Operation, DOE/EIS–0108, 1984, and Continued Operation of K-, L-, and P-Reactors (ROEIS), DOE/EIS–0147, 1990. DOE stated in the Final ROEIS that it will prepare an EIS "that includes more detail on the environmental impacts of support facilities." The EIS addressed by this NOI partially fulfills that commitment.

Reconfiguration PEIS

On July 23, 1993, DOE published a revised Notice of Intent to prepare a PEIS for reconfiguration of its nuclear weapons complex (56 FR 39528) due to nuclear weapons stockpile reductions. The Department is reviewing the reconfiguration alternatives based on scoping comments resulting from public review of the revised Notice of Intent and budget projections. The results of this review will be presented in a revised Implementation Plan that will replace the earlier (February 1992) Implementation Plan. The SRS will be analyzed as a candidate site.

Related Publications

The following recent publications are available in the public reading rooms listed at the end of the Public Scoping Meetings section of this NOI. These publications deal with nuclear material management issues and provide current information on the environmental impact of SRS operations:

Office of Technology Assessment, 1993. Dismantling the Bomb and Managing the Nuclear Materials. OTA–0–572. Washington, DC U.S. Government Printing Office.

National Academy of Sciences, 1994. Management and Disposition of Excess Weapons Plutonium. National Academy Press, Washington, DC.

Spent Fuel Working Group, 1993. Inventory and Storage of the Department's Spent Nuclear Fuel and Other Reactor Irradiated Nuclear Materials and Their Environmental, Safety, and Health Vulnerabilities. U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC.

Westinghouse Savannah River Company, 1993. Savannah River Site Environmental Report for 1992, WSRC-TR–93–075, Savannah River Site, Aiken, South Carolina.

Issued in Washington, DC, this 11th day of March 1994.

Tara O'Toole, M.D., M.P.H.,

Assistant Secretary, Environment, Safety and Health.

[FR Doc. 94–6258 Filed 3–16–94; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

Alaska Power Administration

Snettisham Surplus Power Marketing Plan

AGENCY: Alaska Power Administration, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Final surplus power marketing plan and call for application for power.

SUMMARY: The final marketing plan for the sale of surplus energy from the Snettisham Project is published herein together with a discussion of the issues raised during the public comment process. Alaska Power Administration (APA) published the Draft Surplus Power Marketing Plan on January 7, 1994 (59 FR 1013), to start the process to establish allocations of surplus energy and surplus energy sales contracts for the Snettisham Project. The Marketing Plan is fully compatible with the Department of Energy's legislative proposal for APA divestiture which is currently undergoing Congressional consideration.

DATES: Applications for an allocation of surplus energy must be received in APA's Headquarters Office by the close of business on May 6, 1994. See section II for further details.

ADDRESSES: Applications for an allocation of surplus energy should be submitted to Mr. Michael Deihl, Alaska Power Administration, 2770 Sherwood Lane, Suite #2B, Juneau, AK 99801.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Scott Willis, Alaska Power Administration, P.O. Box 020889, Juneau, AK 99802–0889, (907) 586–6963.