

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Defense Logistics Agency****Thorium Nitrate Disposition**

AGENCY: Defense National Stockpile Center, Defense Logistics Agency.

ACTION: Notice of availability of environmental assessment and a draft finding of no significant impact for the disposition of the National Defense Stockpile's thorium nitrate.

SUMMARY: The Defense Logistics Agency announces the availability of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the disposition of thorium nitrate (ThN) currently held in the National Defense Stockpile of strategic and critical materials.

The Defense National Stockpile Center (DNSC) manages the inventory of approximately 7 million pounds of ThN stored in drums at two DNSC depots—Curtis Bay, Maryland, and Hammond, Indiana, because of the presence of thorium, ThN is a radioactive material.

The ThN stockpile was acquired between 1957 and 1964 for the Atomic Energy Commission, a predecessor to the Department of Energy (DOE) and has been retained because of its potential as a nuclear fuel. However, a commercially viable, thorium-based nuclear fuel cycle has failed to develop nor is one likely to be developed in the foreseeable future. For several years, DNSC offered ThN for purchase by commercial firms or for use by other Federal agencies in quantities as small as a single drum. However, no potential user has expressed interest in purchasing the ThN since 1990. Consequently, the ThN inventory is deemed excess to the requirements of the Department of Defense.

Following evaluation of a reasonable range of storage and disposal alternatives conducted by Oak Ridge National Laboratory on behalf of DNSC, DNSC proposes to transfer the ThN to DOE for disposal at DOE's Nevada Test Site. The ThN would be disposed of as a low-level radioactive waste in a manner that minimizes radiation exposure and potential for risk to workers, the public, and the environment. A Memorandum of Understanding is in place that would allow transfer of the DoD ThN stockpile to DOE.

DATES: Comments on the draft FONSI received by November 24, 2003, will be considered when preparing the final version of the FONSI.

The EA and draft FONSI are available for review on the Defense Logistics

Agency Web site (<http://www.dla.mil>). Comments should be sent to Mr. Michael Pecullan, 8725 John J. Kingman Road, Suite 3229, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-6221. Comments may also be faxed to Mr. Pecullan at (703) 767-7716. **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Michael Pecullan, Phone (703) 767-7620 or e-mail: michael.pecullan@dlamail.mil.

Dated: October 17, 2003.

Cornel A. Holder,

Administrator, Defense National Stockpile Center.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Defense Logistics Agency****Privacy Act of 1974; Notice of a Computer Matching Program**

AGENCY: Defense Manpower Data Center, Defense Logistics Agency, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of a Computer Matching Program.

SUMMARY: Subsection (e)(12) of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, (5 U.S.C. 552a) requires agencies to publish advance notice of any proposed or revised computer matching program by the matching agency for public comment. The DoD, as the matching agency under the Privacy Act is hereby giving notice to the record subjects of a computer matching program between Veterans Affairs (VA) and DoD that their records are being matched by computer. The purpose of this agreement is to verify an individual's continuing eligibility for VA benefits by identifying VA disability benefit recipients who return to active duty and to ensure that benefits are terminated if appropriate.

DATES: This proposed action will become effective November 24, 2003 and matching may commence unless changes to the matching program are required due to public comments or by Congressional or by Office of Management and Budget objections. Any public comment must be received before the effective date.

ADDRESSES: Any interested party may submit written comments to the Director, Defense Privacy Office, 1941 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 920, Arlington, VA 22202-4502.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Vahan Moushegian, Jr. at telephone (703) 607-2943.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to subsection (o) of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, (5 U.S.C. 552a), the

DMDC and VA have concluded an agreement to conduct a computer matching program between the agencies. The purpose of this agreement is to verify an individual's continuing eligibility for VA benefits by identifying VA disability benefit recipients who return to active duty and to ensure that benefits are terminated if appropriate.

The parties to this agreement have determined that a computer matching program is the most efficient, expeditious, and effective means of obtaining and processing the information needed by the VA to identify ineligible VA disability compensation recipients who have returned to active duty. This matching agreement will identify those veterans who have returned to active duty, but are still receiving disability compensation. If this identification is not accomplished by computer matching, but is done manually, the cost would be prohibitive and it is possible that not all individuals would be identified.

A copy of the computer matching agreement between VA and DMDC is available upon request to the public. Requests should be submitted to the address caption above or to the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefit Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420.

Set forth below is the notice of the establishment of a computer matching program required by paragraph 6.c. of the Office of Management and Budget Guidelines on computer matching published in the **Federal Register** at 54 FR 25818 on June 19, 1989.

The matching agreement, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(r) of the Privacy Act, and an advance copy of this notice was submitted on October 3, 2003, to the House Committee on Government Reform, the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, and the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget pursuant to paragraph 4d of Appendix I to OMB Circular No. A-130, "Federal Agency Responsibilities for Maintaining Records about Individuals," dated February 8, 1996 (61 FR 6435).