

support document for the PEIS investigated the feasibility of depleted uranium disposal at six low-level waste disposal facilities based on waste acceptance criteria, available capacity, and disposal cost (*Depleted Uranium Storage and Disposal Trade Study: Summary Report*, ORNL/TM-2000/10). This document and subsequent follow-up studies have verified that the only currently operating dry-environment, low-level waste disposal facilities that are feasible for disposal of the depleted uranium oxide conversion product are the NTS and EnergySolutions facilities.

Like the PEIS, site-specific EISs for each conversion facility assumed that depleted uranium oxide would be classified as low-level waste. This assumption is consistent with a recent ruling by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in the licensing proceeding for a commercial uranium enrichment facility (NRC 2005a,b,c,d and 2006a,b). The site-specific EISs stated that the disposal facility (or facilities) would be (1) selected in a manner consistent with DOE policies and orders, and (2) authorized or licensed to receive the conversion products by DOE (in conformance with DOE orders), the NRC (in conformance with NRC regulations), or an NRC agreement state agency (in conformance with state laws and regulations determined to be equivalent to NRC regulations).

DOE is now proposing to amend the site-specific RODs to decide that the depleted uranium oxide conversion product may be disposed of at either the NTS or the EnergySolutions low-level waste disposal facilities. Accordingly, DOE has prepared the draft SA that is the subject of this Notice. All other aspects of the depleted DUF<sub>6</sub> conversion program remain as previously described in the site-specific EISs and RODs.

The draft SA identifies no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns that bear on DOE's decisions on disposal locations or the impacts of those decisions. Since issuance of the two site-specific DUF<sub>6</sub> conversion facility final EISs, the following circumstances have changed. In May 2006, a contract was signed with Solvay Fluorides, a commercial vendor, for purchase of the HF co-product. On June 2, 2006, the NRC issued an order that determined that the Envirocare (now EnergySolutions) site near Clive, Utah, appears to be suitable for near-term disposal of depleted uranium. The transportation campaign has been slightly modified to include more cylinders per railcar with fewer shipments per year. Impacts from the

modified campaign for both operations and accident scenarios are projected to be about the same as those presented in the site-specific EISs.

DOE believes, based on the analysis in the draft SA, that disposal at either NTS or EnergySolutions low-level waste disposal facilities are reasonable alternatives. Regarding the alternative of disposal at the EnergySolutions facility, DOE believes that adequate NEPA documentation exists to support disposal of any unused depleted uranium oxide conversion product as well as for emptied DUF<sub>6</sub> cylinders that would be used for disposal containers and the small quantity of CaF<sub>2</sub> that would be generated during the conversion process. With respect to NTS low-level waste facility, the draft SA analyses show that there is adequate NEPA coverage for all actions leading up to delivery at the NTS and that site-specific NEPA coverage at the NTS is adequate for disposal of up to 60,000 m<sup>3</sup> of unused depleted uranium oxide conversion product. Furthermore, upcoming reviews of the NTS site-wide EIS will evaluate disposal of additional uranium oxide conversion product volumes at NTS. Accordingly, DOE believes that a supplemental EIS (or an environmental assessment) is not needed to support amending the site-specific RODs to address disposal of the depleted uranium oxide conversion product.

DOE plans to issue amended RODs under the conversion facility EISs no sooner than 30 days after issuance of the final SA. DOE will consider all public comments on the draft SA submitted by May 18, 2007.

Issued in Washington, DC, March 27, 2007.

**Mark W. Frei,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Planning and Budget.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Notice of Extension of Time to Submit Scoping Comments on the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership

**AGENCY:** Office of Nuclear Energy, U.S. Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of extension of time to submit scoping comments.

**SUMMARY:** In response to public requests, the Department of Energy (DOE) announces an extension of time to submit comments on the proposed scope, alternatives, and environmental

issues to be analyzed in the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP PEIS). This date has been extended to June 4, 2007, thereby giving an additional 61 days to provide comments.

**ADDRESSES:** Please direct comments, suggestions, or relevant information on the GNEP PEIS to: Mr. Timothy A. Frazier, GNEP PEIS Document Manager, Office of Nuclear Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-0119; Telephone: 866-645-7803, Fax: 866-645-7807, e-mail to: [GNEP-PEIS@nuclear.energy.gov](mailto:GNEP-PEIS@nuclear.energy.gov). Please mark envelopes, faxes, and e-mails: "GNEP PEIS Comments." Additional information on GNEP may be found at <http://www.gnep.energy.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For general information on DOE's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, please contact: Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance, GC-20, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-0103, 202-586-4600, or by leaving a message at 1-800-472-2756. Additional information regarding DOE's NEPA activities is available on the DOE NEPA Web site at <http://www.eh.doe.gov/nepa>. This notice is available at <http://www.eh.doe.gov/nepa> and <http://www.gnep.energy.gov>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On January 4, 2007, DOE published a Notice of Intent (NOI) (72 FR 331) to prepare the GNEP PEIS pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*, and the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ's) and DOE's regulations implementing NEPA, 40 CFR parts 1500-1508 and 10 CFR part 1021, respectively. With the publication of the NOI, DOE began the PEIS scoping period and invited Federal, state, and local governments, Native American Tribes, industry, other organizations, and the public to provide comments on the proposed scope, alternatives, and environmental issues to be analyzed in the GNEP PEIS. In response to public requests, DOE is now extending the time for submittal of scoping comments an additional 61 days from April 4, 2007, to June 4, 2007. DOE will consider all comments received during the scoping period in preparing the GNEP PEIS. Late comments will be considered to the extent practicable.

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 29, 2007.

**Dennis R. Spurgeon,**

*Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Energy Information Administration

#### Agency Information Collection

#### Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Energy Information Administration (EIA), Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request.

**SUMMARY:** The EIA is soliciting comments on the proposed revision and three-year extension to the following EIA Forms:

- EIA-63A, "Annual Solar Thermal Collector Manufacturers Survey."
- EIA-63B, "Annual Photovoltaic Module/Cell Manufacturers Survey."
- EIA-902, "Annual Geothermal Heat Pump Manufacturers Survey."

**DATES:** Comments must be filed by June 4, 2007. If you anticipate difficulty in submitting comments within that period, contact the person listed below as soon as possible.

**ADDRESS:** Send comments to Fred Mayes. To ensure receipt of the comments by the due date, submission by FAX (202-287-1964) or e-mail [fred.mayes@eia.doe.gov](mailto:fred.mayes@eia.doe.gov) is recommended. The mailing address is Energy Information Administration, EI-52, Forrestal Building, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585. Alternatively, Fred Mayes may be contacted by telephone at 202-287-1750.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of any forms and instructions should be directed to Fred Mayes at the address listed above.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- I. Background
- II. Current Actions
- III. Request for Comments

#### I. Background

The Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93-275, 15 U.S.C. 761 *et seq.*) and the DOE Organization Act (Pub. L. 95-91, 42 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*) require the EIA to carry out a centralized, comprehensive, and unified energy information program. This program collects, evaluates, assembles,

analyzes, and disseminates information on energy resource reserves, production, demand, technology, and related economic and statistical information. This information is used to assess the adequacy of energy resources to meet near and longer term domestic demands.

The EIA, as part of its effort to comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*), provides the general public and other Federal agencies with opportunities to comment on collections of energy information conducted by or in conjunction with the EIA. Any comments received help the EIA to prepare data requests that maximize the utility of the information collected, and to assess the impact of collection requirements on the public. Also, the EIA will later seek approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under Section 3507(a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Form EIA-63A, "Annual Solar Thermal Collector Manufacturers Survey," collects information on the distribution of solar thermal panels by manufacturers; Form EIA-63B, "Annual Photovoltaic Module/Cell Manufacturers Survey," collects information on the distribution by manufacturers of photovoltaic (PV) cells/modules; and Form EIA-902, "Annual Geothermal Heat Pump Manufacturers Survey," collects information on distribution of geothermal heat pumps by manufacturers. Specifically, all forms collect information on manufacturing, imports, exports, and shipments. The EIA has been collecting the above information annually and proposes to continue the surveys. The data collected will be disseminated in electronic products and electronic data files for use by government and private sector analysts. For details on EIA's renewables information program, please visit the renewable and alternative fuels page of EIA's Web site at <http://www.eia.doe.gov/fuelrenewable.html>.

#### II. Current Actions

EIA proposes to collect information on Forms EIA-63A, EIA-63B, and EIA-902 using EIA's Internet Data Collection (IDC) system as the primary mode for reporting information. Survey respondents must provide an e-mail address to EIA to receive instructions on the procedures for submitting information electronically. The IDC system utilizes secure socket layer software to encrypt and protect the information transmitted between a respondent and EIA. All software that is necessary to report electronically is

provided by EIA at no cost to the respondents. Respondents need to register one time with EIA and receive a mailing identification and code prior to reporting electronically.

The EIA has completed an extensive review and update of the renewable survey collection instruments. The objective of the review is to provide a standardized survey instrument and unified data collection approach for all three renewable forms. All three forms collect information from manufacturers of renewable energy equipment. The proposed forms revision is the result of efforts, which includes input from the renewable energy industry, other industry users of the data, government agencies, consumer groups, and private sector analysts. EIA will be requesting approval for its revisions and a three-year extension for its renewable surveys with the following proposed survey changes.

*Form EIA-63A, "Annual Solar Thermal Collector Manufacturers Survey."*

The EIA proposes the following revisions, additions, and deletions to harmonize the data requested across the three surveys.

(1) *Addition:* Item 3.1 (a) Collector Manufacturing.

(2) *Addition:* Item 4.3 Average Thermal Performance Rating of Collector.

(3) *Revision:* Item 4.3 Market Sector becomes Item 4.4 Domestic Shipments by Sector.

- Collect domestic shipments by sector instead of total shipments by sector.
- Change the sector headings from Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Utility, and Other to Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Electric Power, and Transportation.

(4) *Revision/Deletion:* Item 4.4 End Use becomes Item 4.5 Domestic Shipments by End Use.

- Collect only domestic shipments by end use instead of domestic and foreign shipments by end use as the total number of shipments.

- Delete "other" end use type category under Item 4.4.8 Other (describe).

(5) *Revision/Deletion:* Item 4.9 becomes Item 4.10. Delete the seller type category Item 4.9 (f) Other (describe).

*Form EIA-63B, "Annual Photovoltaic Modules/Cells Manufacturers Survey."*

The EIA proposes the following revisions, additions, and deletions to harmonize the data requested across the three surveys.

(1) *Addition:* Item 3.4 What percentage of your company's total sales