



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

February 28, 1996

To Interested Parties:

The Department of Energy's *Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (Storage and Disposition PEIS) is now available for public review. The formal public comment period for the draft will begin on March 8, 1996 and will close on May 7, 1996. Copies of the document may be obtained by written request to:

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Fissile Materials Disposition
P.O. Box 23786
Washington, D.C. 20026-3786

or by calling 1-800-820-5134.

As part of the formal comment period and pursuant to the *National Environmental Policy Act*, the Office of Fissile Materials Disposition will hold public meetings at eight different locations to solicit written and oral comments on the draft Storage and Disposition PEIS. These meetings are an important component of the Department's continuing efforts to provide the public with meaningful and easily-accessible opportunities to participate in its decision making process.

The public meetings will be held between the dates of March 26, 1996 and April 30, 1996. Two sessions (afternoon and evening) will be held at each location and will include workshops to provide an opportunity for discussion and comment. Preregistration for the meetings is requested. For your convenience, preregistration may be accomplished by fax, electronic bulletin board, or a toll-free telephone number. Please refer to the preregistration form on the back of this letter for specific meeting dates, times, locations, and registration instructions. Also enclosed are additional items of information on the draft PEIS.

After the comment period on the draft PEIS has closed, the Department will evaluate all comments received. The final PEIS will incorporate changes to the text and will include responses to all comments. The final PEIS would be completed in the fall of 1996 and would be followed by a Record of Decision.

We welcome your interest in the fissile materials disposition program and look forward to the receipt of your comments and your participation in the public meetings.

Sincerely,

Greg Rudy
Acting Director
Office of Fissile Materials Disposition



Enclosures





Office of Fissile Materials Disposition
Storage and Disposition
of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials
Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Preregistration Fax Form

United States Department of Energy

Please provide the following information to register for the public meetings on the *Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement*. Fax your completed form to 1-800-820-5156. If necessary, make copies so there is only one participant per form. A preregistration packet will be mailed to you promptly. If further assistance is required or if you have any questions you can reach a registration representative at 1-800-820-5134, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

MEETING LOCATION AND WORKSHOP:

March 26, 1996
Denver, CO (RFETS)

- Afternoon Workshop - 12:00 am-4:00 pm
- Evening Workshop - 6:00 pm-10:00 pm

March 28 & 29, 1996
Las Vegas, NV (NTS)

- March 28 Evening Workshop - 6:00 pm-11:00 pm
- March 29 Morning Workshop - 8:00 am-1:00 pm

April 2, 1996
Oak Ridge, TN (ORR)

- Morning Workshop - 8:00 am-1:00 pm
- Evening Workshop - 6:00 pm-10:00 pm

April 11, 1996
Richland, WA (Hanford)

- Afternoon Workshop - 1:00 pm-5:00 pm
- Evening Workshop - 6:00 pm-10:00 pm

April 15, 1996
Idaho Falls, ID (INEL)

- Afternoon Workshop - 1:00 pm-5:00 pm
- Evening Workshop - 6:00 pm-10:00 pm

April 18, 1996
Washington, D.C. (Headquarters)

- Morning Workshop - 9:00 am-12:30 am

April 22 & 23, 1996
Amarillo, TX (Pantex)

- April 22 Evening Workshop - 6:00 pm-11:00 pm
- April 23 Morning Workshop - 8:00 am-12:00 pm
- April 23 Afternoon Workshop - 1:00 pm-5:00 pm

April 30, 1996
North Augusta, SC (SRS)

- Morning Workshop - 8:00 am-1:00 pm
- Evening Workshop - 6:00 pm-11:00 pm

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION:

- Send me the draft PEIS (3 volumes plus the summary)
- Send me the draft PEIS summary

Mr. Ms. Dr. _____
(first name) (last name)

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____
(street/post office box) (suite/apartment/mail stop)

(city) (state) (zip code)

Telephone: () _____ Fax: () _____

For further information contact:
U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fissile Materials Disposition, MD-4
Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Ave., SW Washington, D.C. 20585



Office of Fissile Materials Disposition
Storage and Disposition
of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials
Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Public Comment Opportunities
Fact Sheet

United States Department of Energy

COMMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The *National Environmental Policy Act* of 1969 (NEPA) includes provisions for public participation during the preparation of an environmental impact statement for major Federal actions that may significantly affect the quality of the environment. The Department of Energy (DOE) supports the public's involvement in the NEPA process. DOE is fully committed to giving the public access to information about its activities and opportunities for involvement in the Department's decisionmaking process.

The Office of Fissile Materials Disposition recently published the *Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (Storage and Disposition PEIS). The Office is soliciting comments from interested individuals and organizations during the comment period of March 8, 1996, through May 7, 1996. Various means listed below are available for providing public comment. All comments, both written and oral, will be equally considered, and no action will be taken until the decisions are made public.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

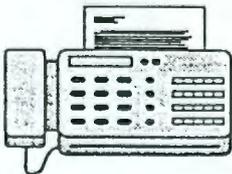
Written comments can be submitted via U.S. mail, fax, electronic bulletin board (EBB), and at the public meetings held during the comment period.

U.S. MAIL



U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Fissile Materials Disposition
P.O. Box 23786
Washington, D.C. 20026-3786

FAX



1-800-820-5156

PUBLIC MEETINGS



Participants attending the public meetings will have access to the following tools to assist them in submitting written comments:
Program staff: Available to answer questions and discuss issues w/ participants.
Laptop Computer: To access the EBB to submit comments.
Comment Forms: For drafting comments during public meetings.

For further information contact:

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fissile Materials Disposition, MD-4,
Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20585

EBB



Internet (World Wide Web):

URL = <http://web.fie.com/ntdoc/fed/doe/fsl/pub/menu/any/index.htm>

Modem: 1-800-783-3349 or (301) 258-0953

Menu selections: FEDIX; Comprehensive Information; Department of Energy;
Office of Fissile Materials Disposition

ORAL COMMENTS

During the public meetings, DOE will give briefings and hold small group discussions so participants can learn about DOE's activities, ask questions, and submit comments. Notetakers will record the discussions during the interactive sessions and the question and answer periods. These notes will be summarized and published in a meeting summary report which will be available upon request. Oral comments will also be submitted using a toll-free number equipped with an answering machine.

PUBLIC MEETINGS



Notetakers: Record the discussions, comments, and questions
Telephone: Toll-free number to leave recorded comments

TOLL-FREE COMMENT LINE



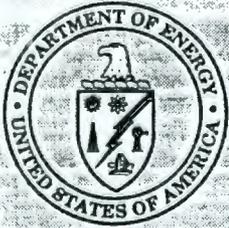
1 - 800 - 820 - 5156

COMMENT TRACKING AND ANALYSIS

All written and oral comments collected during the comment period will be entered into a tracking database system. The system is used to facilitate the analysis of comments into specific issues that are then individually addressed by DOE. The comments and DOE's responses to them will be published as part of the final Storage and Disposition PEIS.

For further information contact:

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fissile Materials Disposition, MD-4,
Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20585



Office of Fissile Materials Disposition
Storage and Disposition
of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials
Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
National Environmental Policy Act
Fact Sheet

United States Department of Energy

Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

The *National Environmental Policy Act* of 1969 (NEPA) requires Federal agencies, including the Department of Energy (DOE), to evaluate potential environmental impacts when planning a major federal action. Pursuant to NEPA requirements, a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) is used to assess broad issues and integrated approaches to Federal programs. A PEIS is used to support a DOE programmatic decision, and it provides an opportunity for a NEPA review to coincide with meaningful points in agency planning and decisionmaking. The PEIS may be used to support later NEPA documents of narrower scope (called tiering), such as site-specific or project-specific NEPA reviews.

Under NEPA, the term "environment" encompasses the natural and physical environment (air, water, geology, and ecology) as well as the relationship of people with that environment (health and safety, jobs, housing, schools, transportation, cultural resources, noise, and aesthetics). An "impact" is a consequence or change that results from the proposed action.

The NEPA Process

A PEIS is prepared pursuant to the procedural requirements established by the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for all Federal agencies and also to the specific regulations of individual agencies. There are various levels of NEPA assessments. If the proposed action will have significant impacts on the environment, the Act outlines a detailed process for preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS). If the answer is unknown, a less detailed study or an environmental assessment (EA) is prepared. An EA either determines the need for an EIS or results in a *finding of no significant impact* (FONSI). A PEIS addresses national, program-wide alternatives rather than site-specific actions,

and it is prepared whenever a Federal agency is considering a broad-scope environmental analysis of a program or policy, such as conducting new research, establishing regulations, or effectively managing weapons-usable fissile materials so as to prevent the potential for proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The major steps in the DOE NEPA process for preparing a PEIS are listed below. A PEIS is prepared in a series of steps identical to those followed for preparing an EIS: gathering input from Federal agencies, states, local governments, Native American tribes, and other stakeholders; preparing the draft PEIS; receiving and responding to public comments on the draft PEIS; and preparing the final PEIS. The PEIS does not make any decisions; rather, it is one tool decisionmakers must use to make informed decisions.

Notice of Intent and Scoping Process As the first step in preparing a PEIS, a Federal agency issues a notice of intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register* to inform the public that a study will be done. The NOI describes the proposed action the agency is considering, provides information on issues and potential impacts, and invites comments and suggestions on the scope of the PEIS. In the process known as *scoping*, the public can provide comments directly to the Federal agency on the scope of the PEIS and can help to determine the alternatives, issues, and environmental impacts to be analyzed in the PEIS. DOE regulations require that at least one public meeting be held to facilitate the collection of public input.

Implementation Plan Although this step is not required by NEPA or the CEQ, DOE has established internal regulations that require the preparation of an implementation plan (IP). The IP provides guidance for the preparation of a PEIS; records the results of the scoping process; and includes a statement of the planned scope and content of the PEIS, the purpose and need for the proposed action, and the target

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schedule for the PEIS process. The IP is made available to the public for their information.

Draft PEIS The draft PEIS is the next step in the NEPA process. It describes, analyzes, and compares the potential environmental impacts of the alternatives and their implementation, and it provides additional information on the methodologies and assumptions used for the analyses. If one or more preferred alternatives exist at this stage of the NEPA process, they will be identified in the draft PEIS. NEPA requires a minimum 45-day period for public comment after the draft PEIS is issued.

Final PEIS and Record of Decision After the public comment period on the draft PEIS is completed, the Federal agency issues a final PEIS that responds to oral and written comments received during the public review of the draft. The agency is now prepared to make an informed decision. After a 30-day waiting period, the agency issues a record of decision (ROD), which is published in the *Federal Register*. The ROD may include consideration of other decision factors such as costs, technical feasibility, agency statutory mission, or national objectives. No action is taken until the decision has been made public.

The NEPA process does not dictate that an agency select the most environmentally beneficial alternative, nor does it dictate that the agency select the least expensive. The purpose of the process is to ensure that necessary and accurate studies are

done, that they are done with public involvement, and that public officials, like those at DOE, make decisions based on an understanding of environmental consequences.

Focus of the PEIS

The Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement examines the potential impacts of the proposed action, as well as impacts from several reasonable alternatives. The study identifies both the negative and positive effects, looks at all interrelated elements of the environment (both the natural and the human components), and identifies any opportunities for reducing or eliminating significant adverse impacts. The PEIS also examines the impacts of not implementing the proposed action. This is called the no-action alternative, and it means that DOE would continue using existing approaches.

You are vital to the process

Public input in the NEPA process is emphasized early in the scoping phase and during public comment periods. Concerns raised during public scoping help shape the issues addressed in the PEIS. Comments received during comment periods are addressed directly and are included in the final document. Public involvement opportunities throughout the NEPA process are announced in the *Federal Register*, and may also be advertised in local newspapers and public service announcements.

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Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Ave., SW Washington, D.C. 20585



**Office of Fissile Materials Disposition
Storage and Disposition
of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials
Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement**

***Public Meeting Format
Fact Sheet***

United States Department of Energy

Purpose of the Public Meetings

The Department of Energy (DOE) is holding public meetings to solicit comments on its *Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (Storage and Disposition PEIS). These meetings are held in communities near the areas that are being evaluated as candidate sites for disposition activities in the Storage and Disposition PEIS. When possible, these meetings are being held jointly with other related DOE Programs (Stockpile Stewardship and Management PEIS and Pantex Site-Wide EIS) in order to address the interrelationships of proposed actions. The public meetings are intended to:

- solicit relevant input from affected or interested local and regional stakeholders;
- allow the systematic collection and documentation of input that will influence the development of the final PEIS;
- provide a forum where participants can discuss issues directly with DOE program officials;
- increase mutual understanding between DOE and the public; and
- demonstrate full compliance with NEPA requirements.

Public Meeting Format

The public meetings will follow a workshop format that provides stakeholders with a variety of opportunities to learn about the issues and express their comments and concerns. Each workshop consists of a short plenary session, followed by small group discussions, and concludes with summarizing remarks.

The use of small, interactive discussion sessions is the cornerstone for building mutual understanding between DOE representatives and workshop participants. In these sessions, the participants discuss substantive issues of interest to them directly with DOE program officials and each other. All parties have an opportunity to discuss the document(s), learn more about potential decisions and their implementation, and understand the importance of values associated with potential environmental impacts. Independent facilitators will lead the workshops.

Plenary Session

The plenary session begins with introductions of the DOE Headquarters and site officials. Participants will then be given a brief overview of the draft program document(s), an outline of the workshop session, and an explanation of how comments will be incorporated in DOE's decisions. The plenary session concludes with a brief question and answer period.

Small Group Discussions

Following the plenary session, participants may attend one of two concurrent discussion groups. Each group will be chaired by an independent facilitator and attended by technical program and environmental officials who can address participants' questions and concerns about the Storage and Disposition PEIS assumptions, methodologies, analyses, and conclusions. At those workshops held jointly with other DOE Programs, participants will have the opportunity to attend a separate small group discussion for each of the

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Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20585**

proposed actions. Comments made by participants during the discussion group will be captured by the facilitators and notetakers.

Directly following the small group discussions, a summary session will be convened. During the session each facilitator will summarize the main issues addressed in their discussion group. The summary session concludes with a 30-minute question and answer period to allow participants to offer final comments. During this time, the participants have the opportunity to read prepared statements.

Exhibit Hall

Throughout the day, meeting participants may visit a multi-purpose exhibit hall. In this hall, participants will find information on the programs, exhibits on alternatives, and a comment collection area. The exhibit hall will be staffed by DOE technical and program managers. The comment area will offer several options for submitting comments in either written or oral form. Available materials include forms for composing written comments; telephones with instructions on using a toll-free number to record oral comments; and a laptop computer for accessing the program's electronic bulletin board system.

Registration

After the Notice of Availability (NOA) that formally announces the availability of the draft Storage and Disposition PEIS and commences the

start of the public comment period is published in the *Federal Register*, an invitation letter will be sent to stakeholders on the program's current mailing list. Both the NOA and the invitation letter includes information on preregistration methods, which allow participants to select their preferred meeting location and workshop time. Participants can choose to preregister by mail, fax, electronic bulletin board, or toll-free telephone number. Additional public announcements will be placed in appropriate local print and radio advertisements. Registration is also available the day of each meeting.

Response to Comments

Comments will be analyzed and responded to in the final Storage and Disposition PEIS. Written and oral comments addressing the Storage and Disposition PEIS submitted during the public comment period will be uniquely identified and become part of the official record. This will be true whether the comments are submitted by U.S. mail, fax, electronic bulletin board, through use of the toll-free telephone number, or submitted at any of the public meetings. Oral comments made during the workshops will be summarized in the *Storage and Disposition PEIS Public Meeting Comment Summary Report*. This report will be available upon request.

For further information contact:

**U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fissile Materials Disposition, MD-4
Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20585**



Office of Fissile Materials Disposition
 Storage and Disposition
 of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials
 Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Meeting Schedule
Fact Sheet

United States Department of Energy

March 26, 1996
Denver, CO (RFETS)
 Arvada Center
 6901 Wadsworth Boulevard
 Arvada, CO 80003
 (303) 431-3082

SINGLE MEETING
 Afternoon Workshop - 12:00 pm-4:00 pm
 Evening Workshop - 6:00 pm-10:00 pm
 Storage and Disposition PEIS

March 28 & 29, 1996
Las Vegas, NV (NTS)
 Sands Convention Center
 201 East Sands Avenue
 Las Vegas, NV 89109
 (702) 733-5369

JOINT MEETING
 March 28 Evening Workshop - 6:00 pm-11:00 pm
 March 29 Morning Workshop - 8:00 am-1:00 pm
 Stockpile Stewardship and Management PEIS
 Storage and Disposition PEIS

April 2, 1996
Oak Ridge, TN (ORR)
 Garden Plaza
 215 South Illinois Street
 Oak Ridge, TN 37830
 (423) 481-2468

JOINT MEETING
 Morning Workshop - 8:00 am-1:00 pm
 Stockpile Stewardship and Management PEIS
 Storage and Disposition PEIS
 Evening Workshop - 6:00 pm-10:00 pm
 Storage and Disposition PEIS

April 11, 1996
Richland, WA (Hanford)
 Red Lion/Hanford House
 802 George Washington Way
 Richland, WA 99352
 (509) 946-7611

SINGLE MEETING
 Afternoon Workshop - 1:00 pm-5:00 pm
 Evening Workshop - 6:00 am-10:00 pm
 Storage and Disposition PEIS

April 15, 1996
Idaho Falls, ID (INEL)
 Shilo Inn
 780 Lindsay Boulevard
 Idaho Falls, ID 83402
 (208) 523-0088

SINGLE MEETING
 Afternoon Workshop - 1:00 pm-5:00 pm
 Evening Workshop - 6:00 pm-10:00 pm
 Storage and Disposition PEIS

For further information contact:

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fissile Materials Disposition, MD-4
 Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Ave., SW Washington, D.C. 20585

April 18, 1996

Washington, D.C. (Headquarters)

DOE Forrestal, Room 1E-245
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585
(202) 586-4513

JOINT MEETING

Morning Workshop - 9:00 am-12:30 pm
Stockpile Stewardship and Management PEIS
Storage and Disposition PEIS

April 22 & 23, 1996

Amarillo, TX (Pantex)

Radisson Inn
Amarillo Airport
7909 I-40
East Amarillo, TX 79104
(806) 373-3303

JOINT MEETING

April 22 Evening Workshop - 6:00 pm-11:00 pm
April 23 Morning Workshop - 8:00 am-12:00 pm
April 23 Afternoon Workshop - 1:00 pm-5:00 pm
Stockpile Stewardship and Management PEIS
Pantex Site-Wide EIS
Storage and Disposition PEIS

April 30, 1996

North Augusta, SC (SRS)

North Augusta Community Center
495 Brookside Avenue
North Augusta, SC
(803) 441-4290

JOINT MEETING

Morning Workshop - 8:00 am-1:00 pm
Evening Workshop - 6:00 pm-11:00 pm
Stockpile Stewardship and Management PEIS
Pantex Site-Wide EIS
Storage and Disposition PEIS

For further information contact:

**U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fissile Materials Disposition, MD-4
Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Ave., SW Washington, D.C. 20585**



Office of Fissile Materials Disposition
Storage and Disposition
of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials
Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
DOE Public Reading Room Locations
Fact Sheet

United States Department of Energy

The Department of Energy (DOE) will provide publications and documentation relating to the *Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* to the following public reading rooms. The public is encouraged to visit these reading rooms to gain a better understanding of the projects and learn how they can become more involved.

ALBUQUERQUE OPERATIONS OFFICE

National Atomic Museum
20358 Wyoming Blvd., SE
Kirtland AFB, NM 87117
505-284-3243

NEVADA OPERATIONS OFFICE

Nevada Operations Office
U.S. Department of Energy
Public Reading Room
2621 Losse Road
North Las Vegas, NV 89030
702-295-1128

OAK RIDGE OPERATIONS OFFICE

U.S. Department of Energy
Public Reading Room
55 South Jefferson Circle
Room 112
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-8501
423-241-4780

RICHLAND OPERATIONS OFFICE

Washington State University
Tri-Cities Branch Campus
100 Sprout Road, Room 130 West
Richland, WA 99352
509-376-8583

ROCKY FLATS OFFICE

Front Range Community College Library
3645 West 112th Avenue
Westminster, CO 80030
303-469-4435

SAVANNAH RIVER OPERATIONS OFFICE

Gregg-Graniteville Library
University of South Carolina-Aiken
171 University Parkway
Aiken, SC 29801
803-641-3320

LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY

U.S. Department of Energy
c/o Los Alamos Community Reading Room
1350 Central, Suite 101
Los Alamos, NM 87544
505-665-2127

CHICAGO OPERATIONS OFFICE

Office of Planning, Communications & EEO
U.S. Department of Energy
9800 South Cass Avenue
Argonne, IL 60439
708-252-2013

AMARILLO AREA OFFICE

U.S. Department of Energy
Amarillo College
Lynn Library/Learning Center
2201 South Washington
P.O. Box 447
Amarillo, TX 79178
806-371-5400

U.S. DOE Reading Room

Carson County Library
401 Main Street
P.O. Box 339
Panhandle, TX 79068
806-537-3742

SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORY/CA

Livermore Public Library
1000 S. Livermore Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550
510-373-5500

IDAHO NATIONAL ENGINEERING LABORATORY

Idaho Public Reading Room
1776 Science Center Drive
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402
208-526-0271

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Public Reading Room
Forrestal Building
1000 Independence Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20585
202-586-3142

For further information contact:

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fissile Materials Disposition, MD-4
Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20585

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