

Access to this information must be strictly limited to personnel having requisite security clearances and specific need-to-know. Unauthorized disclosure of the information to be discussed at the SAG meeting could have exceptionally grave impact upon national defense.

In accordance with section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, (5 U.S.C. App 2), it has been determined that this SAG meeting concerns matters listed in 5 USC 552b(c) and that, accordingly, this meeting will be closed to the public.

Dated: January 21, 1997.

L.M. Bynun,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 97-1808 Filed 1-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5000-04-M

Department of Air Force

USAF Scientific Advisory Board Meeting

The Joint Modeling and Simulation System (JMASS) "Quick Look" Study in supporting of the HQ USAF Scientific Advisory Board will meet 11-12 February 1997 at George Mason University, Fairfax, VA from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to evaluate the usefulness of the JMASS as a specific tool for the Air Force B-1 defensive system upgrade program and a modeling architecture for triservice approaches.

The meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with Section 552b of Title 5, United States Code, specifically subparagraphs (1) and (4) thereof.

For further information, contact the HQ USAF Scientific Advisory Board Secretariat at (703) 697-8404.

Carolyn A. Lunsford,

Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-1900 Filed 1-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3910-01-M

Department of the Air Force

USAF Scientific Advisory Board Meeting

The Spring General Board Meeting of the HQ USAF Scientific Advisory Board will meet 30 April-2 May 1997 at Air Education and Training Command, Randolph AFB, TX from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is for the members to receive feedback on studies

of the past year and hear special briefing on the upcoming year's focus.

The meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with Section 552b of Title 5, United States Code, specifically subparagraphs (1) and (4) thereof.

For further information, contact the HQ USAF Scientific Advisory Board Secretariat at (703) 697-8404.

Carolyn A. Lunsford,

Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-1901 Filed 1-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3910-1-M

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

Privacy Act; Systems of Records

AGENCY: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

ACTION: Annual notice of systems of records.

SUMMARY: Each Federal agency is required by the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a, to publish annually a description of the systems of records it maintains containing personal information. In this notice the Board provides the required information on five previously-noticed systems of records.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert M. Andersen, General Counsel, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue, NW., Suite 700, Washington, DC 20004-2901, (202) 208-6387.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Board currently maintains five systems of records under the Privacy Act. Each system is described below.

DNFSB-1

SYSTEM NAME:

Personnel Security Files.

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION:

Unclassified materials.

SYSTEM LOCATION:

Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20004-2901.

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:

Employees and applicants for employment with DNFSB and DNFSB contractors; consultants; other individuals requiring access to classified materials and facilities.

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

Personnel security folders and requests for security clearances, Forms

SF 86, 86A, 87, 312, and DOE Forms 5631.18, 5631.29, 5631.20, and 5631.21. In addition, records containing the following information:

(1) Security clearance request information;

(2) Records of security education and foreign travel lectures;

(3) Records of any security infractions;

(4) Names of individuals visiting DNFSB;

(5) Employee identification files (including photographs) maintained for access purposes.

AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:

National Defense Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 1989 (amended the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) by adding new Chapter 21—Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board).

ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSE OF SUCH USES:

DNFSB—to determine which individuals should have access to classified material and to be able to transfer clearances to other facilities for visitor control purposes.

DOE—to determine eligibility for security clearances.

Other Federal and State agencies—to determine eligibility for security clearances.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORING, RETRIEVING, ACCESSING, RETAINING, AND DISPOSING OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

STORAGE:

Paper records, magnetic disk, and computer printouts.

RETRIEVABILITY:

By name, social security number, and numeric code.

SAFEGUARDS:

Access is limited to employees having a need to know. Records are stored in locked file cabinets in a controlled access area.

RETENTION AND DISPOSAL:

Records retention and disposal authorities are contained in the "General Records Schedules" published by National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC. Records within DNFSB are destroyed by shredding, burning, or burial in a sanitary landfill, as appropriate.

SYSTEM MANAGER(S) AND ADDRESS: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue, NW., Suite 700, Washington, DC 20004-2901. Attention: Security Management Officer.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE:

Requests by an individual to determine if DNFSB-1 contains information about him/her should be directed to the Privacy Act Officer, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue, NW., Suite 700, Washington, DC 20004-2901. Required identifying information: Complete name, social security number, and date of birth.

RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURE:

Same as Notification procedure above, except individual must show official photo identification, such as driver's license, passport, or government identification before viewing records.

CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURE:

Same as Record Access procedure.

RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:

Subject individuals, Questionnaire for Sensitive Positions (SF-86), agency files, official visitor logs, contractors, and DOE Personnel Security Branch.

SYSTEM EXEMPTED FROM CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE ACT:

None.

DNFSB-2

SYSTEM NAME:

Administrative and Travel Files.

SYSTEM CLASSIFICATION:

Unclassified.

SYSTEM LOCATION:

Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 615 Indiana Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20004-2901.

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:

Employees and applicants for employment with DNFSB, including DNFSB contractors and consultants.

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

Records containing the following information:

- (1) Time and attendance;
- (2) Payroll actions and deduction information requests;
- (3) Authorizations for overtime and night differential;
- (4) Credit cards and telephone calling cards issued to individuals;
- (5) Destination, itinerary, mode and purpose of travel;
- (6) Date(s) of travel and all expenses;
- (7) Passport number;
- (8) Requests for advance of funds, and voucher with receipts;

- (9) Travel authorizations;
- (10) Employee relocation records;
- (11) Name, address, social security number and birth date;
- (12) Employee parking permits;
- (13) Employee public transit subsidy applications and vouchers.

AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:

National Defense Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 1989 (amended the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) by adding new Chapter 21—Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board).

ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSES OF SUCH USES:

Treasury Department—To collect withheld taxes, print payroll checks, and issue savings bonds.

Internal Revenue Service—To process Federal income tax.

State and Local Governments—To process state and local income tax.

Office of Personnel Management—Retirement records and benefits.

Social Security Administration—Social Security records and benefits.

Department of Labor—To process Workmen's Compensation claims.

Department of Defense—Military Retired Pay Offices—To adjust Military retirement.

Savings Institutions—To credit accounts for savings made through payroll deductions.

Health Insurance Carriers—To process insurance claims.

General Accounting Office—Audit—To verify accuracy and legality of disbursement.

Veterans Administration—To evaluate veterans' benefits to which the individual may be entitled.

States' Departments of Employment Security—To determine entitlement to unemployment compensation or other state benefits.

Travel Agencies—To process travel itineraries.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORING, RETRIEVING, ACCESSING, RETAINING, AND DISPOSING OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

STORAGE:

Paper records, magnetic disk, and computer printouts.

RETRIEVABILITY:

By name, social security number, travel dates, relocation dates, and alphanumeric code.

SAFEGUARDS:

Access is limited to employees having a need to know. Records are stored in locked file cabinets in a controlled access area in accordance with Board directives and Federal guidelines.

RETENTION AND DISPOSAL:

Records retention and disposal authorities are contained in the "General Records Schedules" published by National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC. Records within DNFSB are destroyed by shredding, burning, or burial in a sanitary landfill, as appropriate.

SYSTEM MANAGERS AND ADDRESS:

Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue, NW., Suite 700, Washington, DC 20004-2901, Attention: Director of Finance and Administration.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE:

Requests by an individual to determine if DNFSB-2 contains information about him/her should be directed to the Privacy Act Officer, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20004-2901. Required identifying information: Complete name, social security number, and date of birth.

RECORDS ACCESS PROCEDURE:

Same as Notification procedures above, except individual must show official photo identification, such as driver's license, passport, or government identification before viewing records.

CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURE:

Same as Record Access procedure.

RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:

Subject individuals, timekeepers, official personnel records, GSA for accounting and payroll, OPM for official personnel records, IRS and State officials for withholding and tax information, and travel agency contract.

SYSTEM EXEMPTED FROM CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE ACT:

None.

DNFSB-3

SYSTEM NAME:

Drug Testing Program Records—DNFSB.

SYSTEM CLASSIFICATION:

Unclassified.

SYSTEM LOCATION:

Primary System: Division of Personnel, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004-2901. Duplicate Systems: Duplicate systems may exist, in whole or in part, at contractor testing laboratories and collection/evaluation facilities.

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:

DNFSB employees and applicants for employment with the DNFSB.

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

These records contain information regarding results of the drug testing program; requests for and results of initial, confirmatory and follow-up testing, if appropriate; additional information supplied by DNFSB employees or employment applicants in challenge to positive test results; information supplied by individuals concerning alleged drug abuse by Board employees or contractors; and written statements or medical evaluations of attending physicians and/or information regarding prescription or nonprescription drugs.

AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:

- (1) Executive Order 12564; September 15, 1986.
- (2) Section 503 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1987, Pub. L. 100-71, 101 Stat. 391, 468-471, codified at 5 U.S.C. 7301 note (1987).

ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSE OF SUCH USES:

Information in these records may be used by the DNFSB management:

- (1) To identify substance abusers within the agency;
- (2) To initiate counseling and rehabilitation programs;
- (3) To take personnel actions;
- (4) To take personnel security actions; and
- (5) For statistical purposes.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORING, RETRIEVING, ACCESSING, RETAINING, AND DISPOSING OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:**STORAGE:**

Records are maintained on paper in file folders. Additionally, records used for initiating a random drug test are maintained on the Random Employee Selection Automation system. This is a stand-alone system resident on a desktop computer and is password-protected.

RETRIEVABILITY:

Records maintained in file folders are indexed and accessed by name and social security number. Records maintained for random drug testing are accessed by using a computer data based which contains employees' names, social security number, and job titles. Employees are then selected from the available pool by the computer, and a listing is given to the Drug Program Coordinator of employees and alternates selected for drug testing.

SAFEGUARDS:

Access to and use of these records is limited to those persons whose official duties require such access, with records maintained and used with the highest regard for personal privacy. Records in the Division of Human Resources are stored in an approved security container under the immediate control of the Director, Division of Human Resources, or designee. Records in laboratory/ collection/evaluation facilities will be stored under appropriate security measures so that access is limited and controlled.

RETENTION AND DISPOSAL:

(1) Test results, whether negative or positive, and other drug screening records filed in the Division of Human Resources will be retained and retrieved as indicated under the Retrievability category. When an individual terminates employment with the DNFSB, negative test results will be destroyed by shredding, or by other approved disposal methods. Positive test results will be maintained through the conclusion of any administrative or judicial proceedings, at which time they will be destroyed by shredding, or by other approved disposal methods.

(2) Test results, whether negative or positive, on file in contractor testing laboratories, ordinarily will be maintained for a minimum of two years in the laboratories. Upon instructions provided by the Division of Human Resources, the results will be transferred to the Division of Human Resources when the contract is terminated or whenever an individual, previously subjected to urinalysis by the laboratory, terminates employment with the DNFSB. Records received from the laboratories by the Division of Human Resources will be incorporated into other records in the system, or if the individual has terminated, those records reflecting negative test results will be destroyed by shredding, or by other approved disposal methods. Positive test results will be maintained through the conclusion of any administrative or judicial proceedings, at which time they will be destroyed by shredding, or by other approved disposal methods.

(3) Negative specimens will be destroyed according to laboratory/ contractor procedures.

(4) Positive specimens will be maintained through the conclusion of administrative or judicial proceedings.

SYSTEM MANAGERS AND ADDRESS:

Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suit 700, Washington, DC 20004-2901, Attention: Director of Human Resources.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE:

Requests by an individual to determine if DNFSB-3 contains information about him/her should be directed to Director of Human Resources, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20004-2901. Required identifying information: Complete name, social security number.

RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURE:

Same as Notification procedures above, except individual must show official photo identification, such as driver license or government identification before viewing records.

CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURE:

Same as Notification procedures above.

RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:

DNFSB employees and employment applicants who have been identified for drug testing, who have been tested, or who have admitted abusing drugs prior to being tested; physicians making statements regarding medical evaluations and/or authorized prescriptions for drugs; individuals providing information concerning alleged drug abuse by Board employees or contractors; DNFSB contractors for processing, including but not limited to, specimen collection, laboratories for analysis, and medical evaluations; and DNFSB staff administering the drug testing program to ensure the achievement of a drug-free workplace.

SYSTEM EXEMPTED FROM CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE ACT:

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(5), the Board has exempted portions of this system of records from 5 U.S.C. 552a(c)(3), (d), (e)(1), (e)(4)(C), (H), and (J), and (f). The exemption is invoked for information in the system of records which would disclose the identity of a person who has supplied information on drug abuse by a Board employee or contractor.

DNFSB-4**SYSTEM NAME:**

Personnel Files.

SYSTEM CLASSIFICATION:

Unclassified.

SYSTEM LOCATION:

Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indian Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20004-2901.

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:

Employees and applicants for employment with the DNFSB, including DNFSB contractors and consultants.

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

Records concerning the following information:

(1) Name, social security number, sex, date of birth, home address, grade level, and occupational code

(2) Official Personnel Folders (SF-66), Service Record Cards (SF-7), and SF-171

(3) Records on suggestions, awards, and bonuses

(4) Training requests, authorization data, and training course evaluations

(5) Employee appraisals, appeals, grievances, and complaints

(6) Employee disciplinary actions

(7) Employee retirement records

(8) Records on employment transfer

(9) Applications for employment with the DNFSB

AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:

National Defense Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 1989 (amended the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) by adding new Chapter 21—Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board).

ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSE OF SUCH USES:

GSA—Maintains official personnel records for DNFSB.

Office of Personnel Management—Transfer and retirement records and benefits, and collection of anonymous statistical reports.

Social Security Administration—Social Security records and benefits.

Federal, State, or Local government agencies—For the purpose of investigating individuals in connection with, security clearances, and administrative or judicial proceedings.

Private Organizations—For the purpose of verifying employees' employment status with the DNFSB.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORING, RETRIEVING, ACCESSING, RETAINING, AND DISPOSING OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:**STORAGE:**

Paper records, magnetic disk, and computer printouts.

RETRIEVABILITY:

By name and social security number.

SAFEGUARDS:

Access is limited to employees having a need-to-know. Records are stored in locked file cabinets in a controlled access area in accordance with Board directives and Federal guidelines.

RETENTION AND DISPOSAL:

Records retention and disposal authorities are contained in the "General Records Schedules" published

by National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC. Records within DNFSB are destroyed by shredding or burning, as appropriate.

SYSTEM MANAGER(S) AND ADDRESS:

Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20004-2901, Attention: Director of Human Resources.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE:

Requests by an individual to determine if DNFSB-4 contains information about him/her should be directed to Director of Human Resources, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20004-2901. Required identifying information: Complete name, social security number, and date of birth.

RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURE:

Same as Notification procedures above, except individual must show official photo identification, such as driver license or government identification before viewing records.

CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURE:

Same as Notification procedures above.

RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:

Subject individuals, official personnel records, GSA, OPM for official personnel records, State employment agencies, educational institutions, and supervisors.

SYSTEM EXEMPTED FROM CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE ACT:

None.

DNFSB-5**SYSTEM NAME:**

Personnel Radiation Exposure Files.

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION:

Unclassified materials.

SYSTEM LOCATION:

Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004-2901.

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:

DNFSB employees, contractors, and consultants.

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

Personnel folders containing radiation exposure and whole body count, including any records of mandatory training associated with site work or visits.

AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:

National Defense Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 1989 (amended the Atomic

Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) by adding new Chapter 21—Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board).

ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSE OF SUCH USES:

DNFSB—to monitor radiation exposure of its employees and contractors.

DOE—to monitor radiation exposure of visitors to the various DOE facilities in the United States.

Other Federal and State Health Institutions—To monitor radiation exposure of DNFSB personnel.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORING, RETRIEVING, ACCESSING, RETAINING, AND DISPOSING OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:**STORAGE:**

Paper records, magnetic disk, and computer printouts.

RETRIEVABILITY:

By name, social security number, and numeric code.

SAFEGUARDS:

Access is limited to employees having a need to know. Records are stored in locked file cabinets in a controlled access area.

RETENTION AND DISPOSAL:

Records retention and disposal authorities are contained in the "General Records Schedules" published by National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC. Records within DNFSB are destroyed by shredding, burning, or burial in a sanitary landfill, as appropriate.

SYSTEM MANAGER(S) AND ADDRESS:

Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20004-2901. Attention: Security Management Officer.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE:

Requests by an individual to determine if DNFSB-5 contains information about him/her should be directed to the Privacy Act Officer, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20004-2901. Required identifying information: Complete name, social security number, and date of birth.

RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURE:

Same as Notification procedure above, except individual must show official photo identification, such as driver's license, passport, or government identification before viewing records.

CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURE:

Same as Record Access procedure.

RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:

Subject individuals, previous employee records, DOE contractors' film badges, whole body counts, bioassays and dosimetry badges.

SYSTEM EXEMPTED FROM CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE ACT:

None.

Dated: January 21, 1997.

John T. Conway,
Chairman.

[FR Doc. 97-1943 Filed 1-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3670-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**National Board of the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education; Meeting**

AGENCY: National Board of the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, Education.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the National Board of the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education. This notice also describes the functions of the Board. Notice of this meeting is required under Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

DATES AND TIME: February 12, 1997 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Holiday Inn Capitol, 550 C Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles Karelis, Director, Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, 7th & D Streets, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202. Telephone: (202) 708-5750.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Board of the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (National Board) is established under Section 1003 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1135a-1). The National Board of the Fund is authorized to recommend to the Director of the Fund and the Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education priorities for funding and approval or disapproval of grants submitted to the Fund.

On February 12, 1997 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the Board will meet in open session. The proposed agenda for the open portion of the meeting will include a review of FIPSE's operating principles, the revision of FIPSE's Comprehensive Program guidelines, an overview of the Comprehensive

Program, the North American Mobility in Higher Education, the European Community/United States of America Joint Consortia for Cooperation in Higher Education and Vocational Education Program, and an orientation for new Board members.

Records are kept of all Board proceedings, and are available for public inspection at the Office of the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, Room 3100, Regional Office Building #3, 7th & D Streets, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202 from the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

David A. Longanecker,

Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

[FR Doc. 97-1869 Filed 1-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Record of Decision: Environmental Impact Statement for the Continued Operation of the Pantex Plant and Associated Storage of Nuclear Weapon Components**

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Record of decision.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy is issuing this Record of Decision for the continued operation of the Pantex Plant and associated storage of nuclear weapon components. This Record of Decision is based on the information, analysis, and public comment contained in the *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Continued Operation of the Pantex Plant and Associated Storage of Nuclear Weapon Components* (Pantex Plant EIS) (DOE/EIS-0225, November 1996). The Department has decided to implement the preferred alternative by: (1) Continuing nuclear weapon operations involving assembly and disassembly of nuclear weapons at the Pantex Plant; (2) implementing facility projects, including upgrades and construction consistent with conducting these operations; and (3) continuing to provide interim pit storage at the Pantex Plant and increasing the storage level from 12,000 to 20,000 pits.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information on or copies of the Pantex Plant EIS or other information related to this Record of Decision, please call 505-845-4351 or write to: Ms. Nanette D. Founds, Pantex Plant EIS Project Manager, EIS Project Office, U.S. Department of Energy, Albuquerque Operations Office, P.O. Box 5400, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87175-5400.

For information on the Department's National Environmental Policy Act

(NEPA) process, please contact: Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, EH-42, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20585, telephone 202-586-4600 or leave a message at 800-472-2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of Energy has prepared this Record of Decision pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and the Department's NEPA implementing regulations (10 CFR Part 1021). This Record of Decision is based on the *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Continued Operation of the Pantex Plant and Associated Storage of Nuclear Weapon Components* (DOE/EIS-0225, November 1996), hereafter referred to as the Pantex Plant EIS, and other factors.

Background

Until 1989, Pantex Plant activities were closely coupled with operations at the Rocky Flats Plant, now the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site, near Denver, Colorado. Two of the Rocky Flats Plant's primary missions were: (1) The manufacture of plutonium components (pits) which were eventually transported to the Pantex Plant for final assembly into nuclear weapons, and (2) receipt of pits from the Pantex Plant from disassembled weapons for recovery, reprocessing, and fabrication of the special nuclear material into new pits. In December 1989, plutonium processing and pit fabrication operations at the Rocky Flats Plant were curtailed by the Department of Energy pending resolution of safety and environmental issues. The Pantex Plant continued to disassemble weapons, but shipments of pits from dismantled weapons between Pantex and Rocky Flats were suspended. The pits from those weapons were staged in Zone 4 at the Pantex Plant for later shipment to Rocky Flats. The Department had anticipated that shipments of pits to the Rocky Flats Plant would be reinitiated when processing activities in support of new weapons programs were resumed. Efforts to restart plutonium processing operations continued until January 1992, when they were terminated by the Department because of reduced requirements for nuclear weapons production in support of the national defense.

Because pit transfers were suspended, the Department prepared the *Environmental Assessment for Interim Storage of Plutonium Components at*