

Internet address:

<http://www.nawcwpns.navy.mil/~pmeis>.

Navy will set up several information stations at these scoping meetings; each information station will be staffed by a Navy representative who will be available to answer questions from meeting attendees. In addition, Navy representatives will give a brief presentation about current NAWCWPNS activities on the Point Mugu Sea Range followed by a description of the proposed action and alternatives (including the No-Action alternative). Members of the public may offer verbal or written comments at the scoping meetings, or subsequent to the meetings by mail, by facsimile, or by toll-free telephone at (888) 217-9045. Verbal comments will be limited to three minutes per individual. All comments, whether verbal or written, will receive the same attention and consideration during EIS/OEIS preparation.

Navy's official repository is located at the Oxnard Public Library, Reference Desk, 251 South "A" Street, Oxnard, CA 93030, (805) 385-7507.

ADDRESSES: Navy will accept comments at the address listed below. To ensure that Navy has sufficient time to consider public input during preparation of the Draft EIS/OEIS, scoping comments should be submitted to the following address by September 13, 1997: Ms. Cora Fields, Point Mugu Sea Range EIS, c/o Code 832000E, 521 Ninth Street, Point Mugu, CA 93042-5001, telephone (805) 989-0128, FAX (805) 989-0143; or, Ms. Gina Smith, telephone (805) 989-0141, FAX (805) 989-0143. Individuals or groups with special needs, such as accessibility, foreign language translation, assistance for the blind or hearing impaired, should contact Ms. Fields or Ms. Smith at least one week before the scoping meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Additional information concerning this notice may be obtained by contacting Ms. Fields or Ms. Smith.

Dated: July 21, 1997.

M.D. Sutton,

LCDR, JAGC, USN, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-19615 Filed 7-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810-FF-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA 84.037]

Office of Postsecondary Education; Availability of the Amendments to the National Direct Student Loan and Federal Perkins Loan Programs Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools for Teacher Cancellation Benefits for the 1996-97 School Year

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the amendments to the 1996-97 National Direct Student Loan and Federal Perkins Loan Programs Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools.

SUMMARY: Institutions and borrowers participating in the Federal Perkins Loan and National Direct Student Loan Programs and other interested persons are advised that they may obtain information regarding the amendments to the National Direct Student Loan and Federal Perkins Loan Programs Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools for Teacher Cancellation Benefits for the 1996-97 School Year (Directory). The amendments identify changes in the list of schools that qualify borrowers for teacher cancellation benefits under each of the loan programs.

DATES: The amendments to the Directory are currently available.

ADDRESSES: Information concerning specific schools listed in the amendments to the Directory may be obtained from Systems Administration Branch, Campus-Based Programs System Division, Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., (Room 4051, ROB-3), Washington, DC, 20202-5453, Telephone (202) 708-6726.

Information concerning deferment and/or cancellation of a National Direct Student Loan or Federal Perkins Loan may be obtained from Gail McLarnon or Sylvia Ross, Campus-Based Loan Programs Section, Loans Branch, Policy Development Division, Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., (Room 3045, ROB-3), Washington, DC, 20202-5453, Telephone (202) 708-8242. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The amendments to the Directory are available at (1) each institution of higher

education participating in the Federal Perkins Loan Program, (2) each of the fifty-seven (57) State and Territory Departments of Education, (3) each of the major Federal Perkins Loan billing services, and (4) the U.S. Department of Education.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary of Education published a notice in the **Federal Register** on January 9, 1997, (62 FR 1376) that the Directory was available. The Secretary has revised the Directory due to the opening and closing of schools, school name changes, and the need for other corrections. These revisions are listed in the amendments to the Directory.

The procedures for selecting the schools that qualify borrowers for cancellation benefits are described in the Federal Perkins Loan Program regulations at 34 CFR 674.53 and 674.54. The Secretary has determined that for the 1996-97 academic year full-time teaching in the schools set forth in the Directory and the amendments to the Directory qualifies a borrower for cancellation benefits.

The Secretary is providing the amendments to the Directory to each institution participating in the Federal Perkins Loan Program. Borrowers and other interested parties may check with their lending institutions, the appropriate State or Territory Department of Education, regional offices of the Department of Education, or the Office of Postsecondary Education of the Department of Education concerning the identity of qualifying schools for the 1996-97 academic year.

The Office of Postsecondary Education retains, on a permanent basis, copies of all published amendments and Directories.

Dated: July 16, 1997.

David A. Longanecker,

Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

[FR Doc. 97-19665 Filed 7-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Impact Statement for Siting, Construction, and Operation of the National Spallation Neutron Source

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of Intent (NOI).

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces its intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act

(NEPA), on the siting, construction, and operation of the proposed National Spallation Neutron Source (NSNS). The proposed NSNS facility would consist of a proton accelerator system; a spallation target; and appropriate experimental areas, laboratories, offices, and support facilities to allow ongoing and expanded programs of neutron research. The proposed site for the NSNS is the DOE-owned Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The alternative sites under consideration are three other DOE-owned laboratories: Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois; Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico; and Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York. DOE invites the public, organizations, and agencies to present oral or written comments concerning: (1) The scope of the EIS, (2) the issues the EIS should address, and (3) the alternatives the EIS should analyze.

DATES: The public scoping period begins with publication of this NOI and continues until September 12, 1997. Written comments submitted by mail should be postmarked by that date to ensure consideration. Comments mailed after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

DOE will conduct public scoping meetings to assist in defining the appropriate scope of the EIS and to identify significant environmental issues to be addressed. These meetings will be held at the following times and locations:

August 11, 1997, American Museum of Science and Energy, 300 South Tulane Avenue, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830; Times: 1:30–4:30 p.m. and 6:30–9:30 p.m.

August 14, 1997, Argonne National Laboratory, Building 401—Advanced Photon Source, Room A1100, 9700 Cass Avenue, Argonne, Illinois 60439; Times: 1:30–4:30 p.m. and 6:30–9:30 p.m.

August 19, 1997, Los Alamos Area Office, Main Conference Room (Room 100), 528 35th Street, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544; Times: 1:30–4:30 p.m. and 6:30–9:30 p.m.

September 4, 1997, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Berkner Hall (Bldg. 488), Brookhaven Avenue, Upton, New York 11973; Times: 1:30–4:30 p.m. and 6:30–9:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Please direct comments or suggestions on the scope of the EIS, requests to speak at the public scoping meetings, requests for meeting special needs to enable participation at scoping meetings (e.g., interpreter for the hearing-impaired) and questions

concerning the project to: David Wilfert, U.S. Department of Energy, Oak Ridge Operations Office, 200 Administration Road, 146/FEDC, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831, telephone: (800) 927-9964, facsimile: (423) 576-4542, or e-mail NSNSEIS@ornl.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information associated with the research aspects of the NSNS, please contact: Iran Thomas, Deputy Associate Director, Office of Basic Energy Research, Office of Energy Research, U.S. Department of Energy, ER-10, Germantown, MD 20874, telephone: (301) 903-3427.

For general information on the DOE NEPA process, please contact: Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, EH-42, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585-0119, telephone: (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Over the past 40 years, the use of neutrons for research purposes, a use pioneered in the United States, has played a valuable role in advancements in the fields of fundamental physical and biological sciences, material technology, and medicine. However, in the last two decades, the United States has fallen behind the European scientific community in the availability of state-of-the-art neutron sources and instrumentation because of the age of its existing facilities. Existing United States reactor-based neutron sources were built in the 1960s, and existing accelerator-based sources were built in the early 1980s. These facilities have had minimal upgrading and modernization, and are not well suited for the specific areas of research to which scientific investigation has evolved. In 1994, a proposal to build a new reactor-based neutron source, the Advanced Neutron Source (ANS), was not supported by Congress because of high costs (approximately \$3 billion) and potential nuclear proliferation issues. Now, DOE is proposing to construct and operate the NSNS Project to provide the United States with a modern accelerator-based neutron source and neutron science research facility at a cost of approximately \$1 billion to meet current and future research needs.

The proposed NSNS would produce short pulses of neutrons for use in materials research. This would be accomplished through the “spallation” process wherein (1) subatomic particles, called protons, are accelerated to very

high energies; (2) the high energy protons are “bunched” into a compact group; (3) the bunched, high energy protons are directed onto a target made of a high atomic number material, in this case mercury; and (4) the collision of the protons with the target produces a pulse of neutrons from the target material. Once the spallation process is completed and the neutron pulse is produced, the neutrons would be slowed to useful energy levels, and would be guided onto samples of the materials being studied. The interactions of the neutrons and the specimens would be measured and analyzed, thus revealing information on the structure, properties, and behavior of the test material.

Purpose and Need for the NSNS

The purpose of the proposed NSNS Project is to provide the United States with its only modern, high performance pulsed neutron research facility. Since the 1970s, numerous assessments have firmly established the need for new neutron sources and instrumentation in the United States. The proposed facility would allow for advanced research in the United States in the physical and biological sciences, for industrial application, and medical research. Current facilities are inadequate to meet the existing demand for neutron research and, even if upgraded, would not be able to satisfy the growing future demand.

The need for new neutron sources has been recognized by national panels investigating the status of neutron sources and science in the United States since a National Academy of Sciences (NAS) study in 1984. After reviewing all major domestic facilities for materials research, a NAS panel recommended:

1. Construction of a steady-state, high-flux neutron source; and
2. Development of a plan leading to the construction of a major pulsed spallation neutron source.

These recommendations were reaffirmed in 1993 by DOE's Basic Energy Science Advisory Committee (BESAC) Panel on “Neutron Sources for America's Future.” Although a reactor-based Advanced Neutron Source (ANS) Project was proposed in each of fiscal years 1994 and 1995, the proposal was not continued in the fiscal year 1996 budget process, primarily due to the high cost (approximately \$3 billion) of the total project. As a result, emphasis shifted to the lower cost proposed accelerator-based NSNS facility. According to the most recent BESAC recommendations (1996), there is an urgent need to build a short pulsed spallation source in the 1 MW power

range, dedicated to neutron scattering, with sufficient design flexibility to permit future modification for operation at higher power. The EIS will analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of the facility in its fully upgraded condition (4–5 MW).

Proposed Action and Alternatives

The proposed NSNS facility would consist of a proton accelerator system, a spallation source to produce neutron pulses, and appropriate experimental areas, laboratories, offices, and support facilities to allow ongoing and expanded programs of neutron research. The NSNS Project would provide key capabilities to support multiple elements of DOE strategic planning, such as:

- Constructing leading-edge facilities for use by industries, universities, and government laboratories;
- Providing new insights into the nature of matter and energy;
- Maintaining core competencies and partnering with the private sector and other agencies; and
- Accelerating the use of emerging technologies.

DOE proposes to construct and operate the NSNS at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Locating the NSNS at ORNL would offer access to existing facilities which could support the proposed NSNS facility and would take advantage of experienced staff at those facilities, including researchers with expertise in the appropriate scientific disciplines. Supporting facilities, including utilities, waste management and storage facilities, also exist at ORNL.

DOE will evaluate reasonable alternative locations, the no-action alternative, and technology alternatives. In addition to ORNL, the proposed site of the NSNS, the EIS will also analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with constructing and operation of the NSNS at three other reasonable sites: Argonne National Laboratory (ANL), Argonne, Illinois; Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), Los Alamos, New Mexico; and Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), Upton, New York. DOE identified these sites as reasonable through the application of four screening criteria to a total of thirty-nine candidate sites. The four criteria were: (1) The availability of 110 acres of land; (2) the existence of a one mile buffer zone separating the proposed NSNS from populated areas; (3) the ready availability of 50 to 60 MW of electric power; and (4) existence of the infrastructure and trained personnel associated with an ongoing neutron

science program. Technology alternatives include reactor-based neutron sources and variations in the accelerator-based system. The no action alternative would be not to build or operate the NSNS.

Conceptual Design

Neutrons are one of two major particles (protons being the other) comprising the nucleus of atoms, and because they have no electric charge, they can penetrate deeply into the molecules of test materials to give scientists new insights into the structure and properties of the material. The NSNS facility would extract neutrons from the nuclei of "target" material so they can be subsequently used for research on various specimens.

A process known as "spallation" is applied to extract neutrons from target nuclei. In the spallation process, target nuclei containing large numbers of neutrons (typically heavy metals such as lead, mercury, tungsten, etc.) are struck with high energy (fast moving) particles to eject some of the contained neutrons. A large part of the NSNS facility is the accelerator system needed to produce and deliver the high energy particles (in this case protons) onto the target material. The accelerator system is comprised of:

1. An ion source to electrically charge hydrogen atoms (a hydrogen atom is comprised of a single proton in the nucleus and one orbiting electron) so they can be accelerated using magnetic fields and electromagnetic energy. This part of the facility is relatively small, i.e., only a few meters in length.
2. A Linear Accelerator (linac), which is a series of energy-inducing devices used to accelerate (increase energy level) the protons (hydrogen ions) and form a beam of high energy particles. The linac structure is approximately 550 meters (about 1/3 mile) long.
3. A storage ring to accumulate large numbers of the high energy protons, and then release that grouping of protons in a single pulse onto the target. The storage ring is a rectangular-shaped structure approximately 80 meters across.

The accelerator system is operated so that proton pulses from the storage ring are repeatedly directed onto the target at a repetition rate of 6 Hz (60 times per second). The initial design of the NSNS would involve approximately 1 MW of power (equivalent to approximately 1,340 horsepower) being deposited onto the target from this series of proton pulses. As time and technology permits, the NSNS may undergo a series of upgrades in future years to raise the beam power on the target.

The target of the proton pulse power would be liquid mercury circulated in a stainless steel vessel. Mercury, as a target material, provides good conversion of protons to released neutrons and, as a liquid, it can be continuously circulated in a closed system to absorb the impact of the proton pulses, release pulses of neutrons, and transport impact energy (heat) to remote cooling systems. Approximately 1 cubic meter of mercury would be used in the NSNS, a volume that would be expected to last for the facility's design life of 40 years.

Because the neutrons released by the spallation process are moving very fast, they must be moderated (slowed) to levels suitable for research needs. Neutron moderation is achieved by successive collisions of the fast neutrons with cooler nuclei. In the NSNS, two thermal moderators and two cryogenic moderators would be positioned around the mercury target to slow the neutrons in each pulse. First, the thermal moderators would use water to slow the neutrons to speeds associated with room temperatures (approximately 2200 meters per second). Concurrently, cryogenic moderators would use liquid hydrogen to slow the neutrons to speeds associated with very low temperatures (approximately 500 meters per second). Beam guides, 18 in all, would direct the slowed neutrons to experiment stations where the scientific research is conducted. The building housing the target, moderators, beam guides, and research instruments would be approximately 50 by 75 meters in size.

The NSNS facility would be appropriately integrated into the site infrastructure of the host laboratory, including roadways, utilities, and monitoring systems. The laboratory would provide security and fire protection. The entire facility would require approximately 110 acres of cleared land, and ready access to and availability of 50–60 MW of electric power. It would have a design lifetime of 40 years, but the design would not preclude lifetime extensions beyond 40 years. Systems and structures would be designed to facilitate eventual decontamination and removal.

Design of the NSNS is projected to span four years (FY 1999–2002), and construction nearly five years (FY 2000–2004). Facility commissioning would occur in FY 2003–2004, with FY 2005 being the first full year of operation. Project staffing is estimated to rise from approximately 30 to approximately 90 during conceptual design (FY 1996–1998); rise from approximately 100 to a peak of approximately 1200 and decline to approximately 225 during design/

construction (FY 1999–2004); and hold at approximately 225 for operation (FY 2004 and beyond). The estimated total project cost from conceptual design through commissioning is approximately \$1 billion.

Preliminary Environmental Analysis

DOE plans to analyze potential impacts of the NSNS project on the following parameters. This list is neither intended to be all-inclusive, nor is it a predetermination of potential impacts. Additions to or deletions from this list may occur as a result of the scoping process.

- Earth Resources: physiography, topography, geology, and soil characteristics.
- Land Use: plans, policies and controls.
- Water Resources: surface and groundwater hydrology, use, and quality.
- Air Quality: Meteorological basis, ambient background, pollutant sources, and potential degradation.
- Radiation Background: Cosmic, rock, soil, water, and air.
- Hazardous Materials: Handling, storage, and use; waste management both near- and long-term.
- Noise: Ambient, sources, and sensitive receptors.
- Ecological Resources: Aquatic, terrestrial, economically/recreationally important species, threatened and endangered species.
- Socioeconomics: Demography, economic base, labor pool, housing, transportation, utilities, public services/facilities, education, recreation, and cultural resources.
- Historical and Archaeological Resources: Paleontological and archaeological sites, Native American resources, historic and prehistoric sites.
- Scenic and Visual Resources.
- Wetlands: Protection and remediation.
- Health and Safety: Public and occupational impacts from routine operation and credible accident scenarios.
- Natural Disasters: Floods, tornadoes, and seismic events.
- Unavoidable Adverse Impacts.
- Natural and Depletable Resources: Requirements and conservation potential.
- Environmental Justice: Disproportionately high and adverse impacts to minority and low income populations.

The preliminary identification of reasonable alternatives and environmental issues presented in this NOI is not meant to be exhaustive or final. Alternatives other than those

presented in this document may warrant examination, and new issues may be identified for evaluation.

Relevant issues related to decommissioning of the NSNS will be addressed to the extent possible. Additional NEPA review may be necessary in the future when decommissioning plans are proposed.

Scoping Meetings

The purpose of this NOI is to encourage early public involvement in the EIS process and to solicit public comments on the proposed scope and content of the EIS. DOE plans to hold formal public scoping meetings in the vicinity of the proposed and alternative sites to solicit both oral and written comments from interested parties.

DOE will designate a presiding officer for the scoping meetings. The scoping meetings will not be conducted as evidentiary hearings, and there will be no questioning of the commentators. However, the presiding officer may ask for clarification of statements to ensure that DOE fully understands the comments and suggestions. The presiding officer will establish the order of speakers. At the opening of each meeting, the presiding officer will announce any additional procedures necessary for the conduct of the meetings. To ensure that all persons wishing to make a presentation are given the opportunity, a five-minute limit may be enforced for each speaker, with the exception of public officials and representatives of groups who will be allotted ten minutes each. Comment cards will also be available for those who would prefer to submit their comments in written form.

DOE will make transcripts of the scoping meetings and other environmental and project-related materials available for public review in the following reading rooms:

1. U.S. Department of Energy, Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, Forrestal Building, Room 1E-190, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585, Telephone: (202) 586-3142
2. U.S. Department of Energy Reading Room, Oak Ridge Operations Office, 200 Administration Road, Room G-217, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831, Telephone: (423) 241-4780
3. Argonne National Laboratory, Documents Department, University Library, Third Floor Center, University of Illinois at Chicago, 801 South Morgan Street, Chicago, Illinois 60439, Telephone: (312) 996-2738
4. BNL Research Library, Bldg. 477A Brookhaven Ave., Upton, NY 11973, Telephone: (516) 344-3483

5. Longwood Public Library, 800 Middle Country Rd., Middle Island, NY 11953, Telephone: (516) 924-6400
6. Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library, 301 William Floyd Parkway, Shirley, NY 11967, Telephone: (516) 399-1511
7. Los Alamos National Laboratory Public Outreach and Reading Room, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544, Telephone: (505) 665-2127

NEPA Process

The EIS for the proposed facility will be prepared according to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508) and DOE's NEPA Regulations (10 CFR part 1021).

The draft EIS is scheduled to be published by March 1998. A 45-day comment period on the draft EIS is planned, and public hearings to receive comments will be held approximately one month after distribution of the draft EIS. Availability of the draft EIS, the dates of the public comment period, and information about the public hearings will be announced in the **Federal Register** and in the local news media when the draft EIS is distributed.

The final EIS, which will incorporate public comments received on the draft EIS, is expected in July 1998. No sooner than 30 days after a notice of availability of the final EIS is published in the **Federal Register**, DOE will issue its Record of Decision and publish it in the **Federal Register**.

Signed in Washington, DC this 21st day of July, 1997.

Peter N. Brush,

*Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary,
Environment, Safety and Health.*

[FR Doc. 97-19616 Filed 7-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 11175-002 Minnesota]

Crown Hydro Company; Notice Modifying and Establishing a Restricted Service List for Comments on a Programmatic Agreement for Managing Properties Included in or Eligible for Inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places

July 21, 1997.

On April 20, 1997, the Commission issued a notice for Project No. 10455 proposing to establish a restricted