

| T-Nex region/contractor | States | Start healthcare delivery |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| North (Health Net Federal Services, Inc.) | Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, West Virginia, Virginia (except the Northern Virginia/National Capital Area), North Carolina, Eastern Iowa, Rock Island, IL, Fort Campbell catchment area of Tennessee. | 1 July 2004. |
| | Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Northern Virginia, West Virginia (portion). | 1 September 2004. |
| South (Humana Military Healthcare Services) | Oklahoma, Arkansas and major portions of Texas and Louisiana. | 1 November 2004. |
| | Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Eastern Louisiana, South Carolina, Tennessee, small area of Arkansas, New Orleans area. | 1 August 2004. |
| West (TriWest Healthcare Alliance Corp.) | Washington, Oregon, Northern Idaho | 1 June 2004. |
| | California, Hawaii, Alaska | 1 July 2004. |
| | Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, western portion of Texas, Wyoming. | 1 October 2004. |

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
David Bennett, Medical Benefits and Reimbursement Systems, TRICARE Management Activity, telephone (303) 676-3494.

Dated: March 22, 2004.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 04-6761 Filed 3-25-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-06-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Defense Science Board

AGENCY: Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of advisory committee meeting.

SUMMARY: The Defense Science Board (DSB) Task Force on Strategic Strike Skills will meet in closed session on April 14, 2004, in Arlington, VA. The Task Force will assess the future strategic strike force skills needs of the Department of Defense (DoD).

The mission of the DSB is to advise the Secretary of Defense and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology & Logistics on scientific and technical matters as they affect the perceived needs of the Department of Defense. Last summer the DSB assessed DoD needs for future strategic strike forces. Assessed was the application of technology for non-nuclear weapons systems, communications, planning systems, and intelligence as well as the integration of strategic strike with active defenses as part of the new triad. This

“skills” study will complement the previous strategic forces study by focusing on the people and the skills necessary to develop, maintain, plan, and successfully execute future strategic strike forces. At this meeting, the Task Force will: Assess current skills available, both nuclear and non-nuclear of current long-range strike forces; identify, assess and recommend new/modified/enhanced skill sets necessary for successful future strike force development, planning, and operations; and recommend a strategy for the successful evolution of the current skills to those required by future strike forces.

In accordance with section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. 92-463, as amended (5 U.S.C. app. II), it has been determined that this Defense Science Board Task Force meeting concerns matters listed in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1) and that, accordingly, the meeting will be closed to the public.

Dated: March 22, 2004.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 04-6760 Filed 3-25-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-06-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Army Science Board; Notice of Open Meeting

In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), announcement is made of the following Committee Meeting:

Name of Committee: Army Science Board (ASB).

Date(s) of Meeting: April 1-2, 2004.

Time(s) of Meeting: 0800-1700, April 1, 2004, 0800-1700, April 2, 2004.

Place: Arlington, VA.

Agenda: The FCS Urban Operations Study and Force Balance Study of the Army Science Board FY04 Summer Studies are holding a joint plenary on April 1-2, 2004. The meetings will be held at the Crystal City Sheraton in Arlington, VA and will begin at 0800 hrs on the 1st and will end at approximately 1700 hrs on the 2nd. For further information on the FCS Urban Operations Study, please contact MAJ Al Visconti at (865) 574-8798 or e-mail at viscontiaj@ornl.gov. For the Force Balance Study, please contact MAJ Al Klee at (703) 604-2212 or e-mail at alvin.klee@hqda.army.mil.

Wayne Joyner,

Program Support Specialist, Army Science Board.

[FR Doc. 04-6807 Filed 3-25-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Defense Logistics Agency

Notice of Availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Defense National Stockpile Center, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of availability of a Final Mercury Management Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) announces the availability of its Final Mercury Management Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS). This announcement is pursuant to

the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508) and DLA's regulation (DLAR 1000.22) that implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The Defense National Stockpile Center (DNSC) inventory of elemental mercury (approximately 4,436 metric tons) is currently stored in enclosed warehouses at four sites in the United States: Near New Haven, Indiana; in Oak Ridge, Tennessee; in Hillsborough, New Jersey; and near Warren, Ohio. Because the mercury has been declared in excess of national defense needs, DNSC must decide on a strategy for the long-term management of this excess commodity. The Final EIS analyzes in detail three alternatives for managing the National Defense Stockpile inventory of excess mercury: (1) Consolidated storage of the mercury stockpile at one site, (2) no-action, *i.e.*, leave the mercury at the existing storage locations, and (3) sale of the stockpile. DNSC's preferred alternative is consolidated storage. The Final EIS evaluates a range of locations that would be environmentally acceptable consolidation sites.

The Final EIS reflects changes made in response to comments received during the public comment period on the Draft EIS. No sooner than 30 days after the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability for DNSC's Final Mercury Management EIS is published in the **Federal Register**, the DLA intends to issue a Record of Decision (ROD) which will announce the selection of the alternative that will be implemented. DLA will publish its ROD in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Bound copies of the Final EIS (about 1000 pages) and Executive Summary (about 20 pages) are available by writing to: Attention: Project Manager, Mercury Management EIS; DNSC-E; Defense National Stockpile Center, 8725 John J. Kingman Road, Suite 3229, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060–6223, or calling toll free at 1–888–306–6682. Electronic versions of the Executive Summary and the Final EIS are found on the Internet at <http://www.mercuryeis.com>. Copies of the Final EIS may also be reviewed at the information repository locations listed in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for information can be made by: Leaving a voice message at 1–888–306–6682; faxing a message to 1–888–306–8818; e-mailing a request to information@mercuryeis.com; or

accessing the Mercury Management EIS Web site at <http://www.mercuryeis.com>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DNSC is responsible for the disposition of stockpiled materials declared in excess of national defense needs. The United States Congress has determined that the U.S. Department of Defense no longer needs to maintain a stockpile of commodity grade mercury because of the increased use of mercury substitutes and because of increases in the nation's secondary mercury production through recovery and recycling. The DNSC excess mercury was offered for sale in open competitions until 1994 when concerns over mercury accumulation in the environment prompted DNSC to suspend sales. The DNSC inventory of mercury (approximately 4,436 metric tons) is stored in enclosed warehouses at four sites in the United States: New Haven, Indiana (557 metric tons); Oak Ridge, Tennessee (699 metric tons); Hillsborough, New Jersey (2,617 metric tons); and Warren, Ohio (564 metric tons).

As custodian of the mercury, DNSC must decide on a strategy for long-term management of this material. In compliance with NEPA and DLA Regulation 1000.22, "Environmental Considerations in DLA Actions in the United States," DNSC prepared the EIS to evaluate the environmental impacts of a range of reasonable alternatives for long-term management (*i.e.*, 40 years) of the excess mercury. The alternatives are: (1) No action, *i.e.*, maintaining storage at the four existing sites; (2) consolidation and storage at one of three current DNSC mercury storage sites or at another location; and (3) sale of the mercury inventory. Three other candidate locations (*i.e.*, Hawthorne Army Depot, Hawthorne, Nevada; PEZ Lake Development, Romulus, New York; and Utah Industrial Depot, Tooele, Utah) were evaluated as possible consolidation sites and to analyze the environmental acceptability of a wider range of sites. The PEZ Lake Development site is included in the EIS to broaden the range of environmental and socioeconomic settings analyzed; however, the site is no longer under consideration as a consolidated storage site. The company which manages the site, withdrew it from consideration based on business development plans.

The Final EIS describes the potential environmental, human health, and socioeconomic impacts of these alternatives, together with cost considerations. Several treatment technologies were considered as possible alternatives for mercury management. Based on the immaturity

of bulk mercury treatment technologies and the lack of an EPA-approved path forward, bulk treatment and disposal of elemental mercury is not considered viable at this time and is not evaluated in detail in the Final EIS.

The DLA's preferred alternative is consolidated storage at one location. Managing the mercury at one site rather than at multiple sites would simplify storage operations and result in economies of scale (fewer resources would be required to maintain the mercury inventory). Consolidating the excess DNSC mercury inventory at one site does not result in significant environmental impacts at any site analyzed and would slightly improve environmental conditions at the sites where the mercury would be removed. The preferred alternative is also compatible with DNSC's long-term depot closure plans. The EIS evaluates a range of locations that would be acceptable consolidation sites. If a site other than one of those analyzed in the Final EIS is selected, additional environmental documentation would be prepared as needed.

The Department of Energy (DOE) and EPA are Cooperating Agencies in the preparation of this Final EIS. DOE is recognized because of their special expertise and because some of the DNSC excess mercury is stored at its Y–12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. EPA is recognized because of its special expertise in the areas of mercury fate and effects in the environment, mercury stabilization and disposal technologies, and the regulation of hazardous material.

The public comment period for the Draft EIS began with the publication of the EPA Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register** on April 11, 2003, and continued until July 18, 2003. In response to public requests to extend the comment period, the deadline for submittal of comments was extended informally until September 2, 2003. The Draft EIS or the Executive Summary was distributed to more than 830 individuals and organizations.

During the comment period, DNSC held seven meetings to receive comments on the Draft EIS. The meetings were held in the communities that could be affected by the proposed actions, as well as in Washington, DC. Approximately 230 people attended the public meetings. The transcript of each meeting is available at a nearby information repository. Locations of these repositories are listed below:

Allen County Public Library, 435 Ann Street, New Haven, Indiana 46774.

Bridgewater Branch Library, North Bridge Street and Vogt Drive, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807.
 Fairfax County Public Library, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 324, Fairfax, Virginia 22035.
 Ford Memorial Library, 7169 North Main Street, Ovid, New York 14521.
 Hillsborough Public Library, 379 South Branch Road, Hillsborough, New Jersey 08844.
 Martin Luther King Jr. Library, 901 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20001.
 Mineral County Public Library, P.O. Box 1390, Hawthorne, Nevada 89415.
 Oak Ridge Public Library, 1401 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830.
 Raritan Valley Community College, Evelyn S. Field Library, North Branch, Route 28 and Lamington Road, Somerville, New Jersey 08876.
 Seneca Army Depot, 5786 State Route 96, Building 123, Romulus, New York 14541.
 Somerville Public Library, 35 West End Avenue, Somerville, New Jersey 08876.
 Tooele City Public Library, 128 West Vine Street, Tooele, Utah 84074.
 Warren-Trumbull County Public Library, 444 Mahoning Avenue, NW., Warren, Ohio 44483.
 Waterloo Library and Historical Society, 31 East Williams Street, Waterloo, New York 13165.
 West End Branch Library, 1101 24th and L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20037.

The DNSC received 295 comment documents (*i.e.*, letters, e-mails, faxes, voice messages, comment forms, and meeting transcripts) containing 633 comments. Volume II of the Final EIS presents the comment documents, identifies the specific comment(s) from each, and provides DNSC's responses. The majority of the comments received on the Draft EIS are related to the Consolidated Storage Alternative, impacts on human health and safety, and environmental and economic impacts.

Input from the public meetings along with comments received by other means (*i.e.*, mail, phone, fax, e-mail, and Web site), were used by DNSC in preparing the Final EIS. DNSC considered all comments received.

A copy of the Final EIS is available for public review at the information repositories listed in this notice. No sooner than 30 days after the EPA's Notice of Availability for DNSC's Final Mercury Management EIS is published in the **Federal Register**, the DLA intends to issue a ROD which will announce the selection of the alternative that will be implemented. DLA will publish its ROD in the **Federal Register**.

Issued at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, on this 08 day of March, 2004.

Cornel A. Holder,

Administrator, Defense National Stockpile Center, Defense Logistics Agency.

[FR Doc. 04-6435 Filed 3-25-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3620-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before May 25, 2004.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, *e.g.* new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the

respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: March 22, 2004.

Angela C. Arrington,

Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of Postsecondary Education

Type of Review: Reinstatement.

Title: Annual Performance Report for the Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math/Science, and Veterans Upward Bound Programs.

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 950

Burden Hours: 14,250.

Abstract: Upward Bound grantees must submit the report annually. The reports are used to evaluate the performance of grantees prior to awarding continuation funding and to assess a grantee's prior experience at the end of the budget period. The Department will also aggregate the data across grantees to provide descriptive information on the program and to analyze the impact of the program on the academic progress of participating students.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 2482. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651 or to the e-mail address vivian_reese@ed.gov. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the internet address OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov or faxed to 202-708-9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Joseph Schubart at his e-mail address Joe.Schubart@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

[FR Doc. 04-6769 Filed 3-25-04; 8:45 am]

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