

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Office of the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training****President's National Hire Veterans Committee; Notice of Open Meeting**

The President's National Hire Veterans Committee was established under 38 U.S.C. 4100 note Public Law 107-288, Jobs For Veterans Act, to furnish information to employers with respect to the productivity advantages afforded by hiring qualified veterans and disabled veterans, and to encourage employer participation in the Career One Stop service system and other means.

The President's National Hire Veterans Committee will meet on Thursday, October 21, 2004, beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, 12600 Roosevelt Blvd., St. Petersburg, Florida 33716.

The committee will discuss raising employer awareness of the advantages of hiring veterans.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 5th day of October, 2004.

Frederico Juarbe Jr.,

Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

[FR Doc. 04-23133 Filed 10-14-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-79-P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**Notice of Meeting; Advisory Committee for Polar Programs**

In accordance with Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), the National Science Foundation announces the following meeting:

Name: Advisory Committee for Polar Programs (1130).

Date/Time: November 15, 2004, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; November 16, 2004, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Stafford II, Room 595.

Type of Meeting: Open.

Contact Person: Altie Metcalf, Office of Polar Programs (OPP), National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230, (703) 292-8030.

Minutes: May be obtained from the contact person list above.

Purpose of Meeting: To advise NSF on the impact of its policies, programs, and activities of the polar research community; to provide advice to the Director of OPP on issues related to long range planning, and to form ad hoc subcommittees to carry out needed studies and tasks.

Agenda: Staff presentations on program updates; review of the Committee of Visitors' report on the Polar Research Support Section; and discussions on International Polar Year.

Dated: October 12, 2004.

Susanne Bolton,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-23169 Filed 10-14-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**Advisory Committee for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences; Notice of Meeting**

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), the National Science Foundation announces the following meeting.

Name: Advisory Committee for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (ACSBE) (#1171).

Date and Time: November 4, 2004, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; November 5, 2004, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Place: The meeting will take place in Arlington, Virginia, exact location TBD; once known, the exact location of the meeting will be posed on SBE's Web site and you may also contact Patricia Vinson, (703) 292-8700 or via e-mail at pvinson@nsf.gov.

Type of meeting: Open.

Contact Person: Mr. Frederic J. Wending, Executive Officer, Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Room 905, Arlington, VA 22230, (703) 292-8741.

Summary Minutes: May be obtained from contact person listed above.

Purpose of Meeting: To provide advice and recommendations to the National Science Foundation on major goals and policies pertaining to Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate programs and activities.

Agenda: Discussion on issues, role and future direction of the Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences.

Dated: October 12, 2004.

Susanne Bolton,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-23168 Filed 10-14-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed USEC American Centrifuge Plant**

AGENCY: United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

ACTION: Notice of Intent (NOI).

SUMMARY: USEC Inc., (USEC) submitted a license application to the NRC on August 23, 2004, proposing the construction, operation and future decommissioning of the American Centrifuge Plant (ACP) gas centrifuge uranium enrichment facility in Piketon, OH. The NRC announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and NRC NEPA implementing regulations contained in 10 CFR part 51. The EIS will examine the potential environmental impacts of the proposed USEC ACP.

DATES: The public scoping process required by NEPA begins with publication of this NOI and continues until December 6, 2004. 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 possible.

NRC will conduct a public scoping meeting to assist in defining the appropriate scope of the EIS, including the significant environmental issues to be addressed. The meeting date, times and location are listed below:

Meeting Date: November 15, 2004.

Meeting Location: Vern Riffe Career Technology Center, 175 Beaver Creek Road, Piketon, Ohio 45661.

Scoping Meeting: 7 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.

Members of the NRC staff will be available for informal discussions with members of the public from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. The formal meeting and associated NRC presentation begins at 7 p.m. For planning purposes, those who wish to present oral comments at the meeting are encouraged to pre-register by contacting Matthew Blevins of the NRC by telephone at 1-800-368-5642, Extension 7684, or by e-mail at mxb6@nrc.gov no later than November 9, 2004. Interested persons may also register to speak at the meeting.

ADDRESSES: Members of the public and interested parties are invited and encouraged to submit comments to the Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch, Mail Stop T-6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Due to the current mail situation in the Washington, DC area, the NRC encourages comments to be submitted electronically to nrcprep@nrc.gov. Please refer to Docket No. 70-7004 when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general or technical information associated with the license review of the USEC application, please contact: Yawar Faraz at (301) 415-8113. For

general information on the NRC NEPA process, or the environmental review process related to the USEC application, please contact: Matthew Blevins at (301) 415-7684.

Information and documents associated with the USEC project, including the USEC license application (submitted on August 23, 2004), are available for public review through the NRC Electronic Reading Room: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>, using accession number ML042800551. Documents may also be obtained from the NRC Public Document Room at U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland, 20852-2738.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1.0 Background

USEC submitted a license application which included an Environmental Report for a gas centrifuge uranium enrichment facility, known as the ACP, to the NRC on August 23, 2004. The NRC environmental review will evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed ACP in parallel with the NRC safety and security reviews of the license application. The environmental review will be documented in draft and final Environmental Impact Statements in accordance with NEPA and NRC NEPA implementing regulations contained in 10 CFR part 51.

2.0 USEC Enrichment Facility

If licensed, the proposed ACP would enrich uranium for use in manufacturing commercial nuclear fuel for use in power reactors. Feed and product material would be in the form of uranium hexafluoride (UF₆). USEC seeks approval from the NRC to enrich uranium in the uranium-235 isotope up to 10 percent. The enriched UF₆ would be transported to a fuel fabrication facility. The depleted UF₆ would be stored on site until a disposition strategy (either re-use or disposal) is carried out.

Initially, the licensed capacity of the plant would be up to 3.5 million separative work units (SWU) per year [SWU relates to a measure of the work used to enrich uranium]. USEC has requested that the NRC environmental review examine the impacts of an enrichment plant with a 7 million SWU per year capacity to bound potential future expansions. The safety and security reviews of any future expansion beyond 3.5 million SWU per year would still have to be conducted by the NRC under a separate license amendment request from USEC.

3.0 Alternatives To Be Evaluated

No action—The no-action alternative would be to not build the proposed ACP. Under this alternative the NRC would not approve the license application. This alternative serves as a baseline for comparison.

Proposed action—The proposed action is the construction and operation of a gas centrifuge uranium enrichment facility located in Piketon, OH. Implementation of the proposed action would require the issuance of an NRC license under the provisions of 10 CFR parts 30, 40 and 70.

Other alternatives not listed here may be identified through the scoping process.

4.0 Environmental Impact Areas To Be Analyzed

The following resource areas have been tentatively identified for analysis in the EIS:

—*Public and Occupational Health:*

Potential public and occupational consequences from construction, routine operation, transportation, and credible accident scenarios (including natural events);

—*Waste Management:* Types of wastes expected to be generated, handled, stored and subject to re-use or disposal;

—*Land Use:* Plans, policies and controls;

—*Transportation:* Transportation modes, routes, quantities, and risk estimates;

—*Geology and Soils:* Physical geography, topography, geology and soil characteristics;

—*Water Resources:* Surface and groundwater hydrology, water use and quality, and the potential for degradation;

—*Ecology:* Wetlands, aquatic, terrestrial, economically and recreationally important species, and threatened and endangered species;

—*Air Quality:* Meteorological conditions, ambient background, pollutant sources, and the potential for degradation;

—*Noise:* Ambient, sources, and sensitive receptors;

—*Historical and Cultural Resources:* Historical, archaeological, and traditional cultural resources;

—*Visual and Scenic Resources:* Landscape characteristics, manmade features and viewshed;

—*Socioeconomics:* Demography, economic base, labor pool, housing, transportation, utilities, public services/facilities, education, recreation, and cultural resources;

—*Environmental Justice:* Potential disproportionately high and adverse

impacts to minority and low-income populations; and

—*Cumulative Effects:* Impacts from past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions at and near the site.

The examples under each resource area are not intended to be all inclusive, nor is this list an indication that environmental impacts will occur. The list is presented to facilitate comments on the scope of the EIS. Additions to, or deletions from, this list may occur as a result of the public scoping process.

5.0 Scoping Meetings

This NOI is to encourage public involvement in the EIS process and to solicit public comments on the proposed scope and content of the EIS. NRC will hold a public scoping meeting in Piketon, OH on November 15, 2004 to solicit both oral and written comments from interested parties.

Scoping is an early and open process designed to determine the range of actions, alternatives, and potential impacts to be considered in the EIS, and to identify the significant issues related to the proposed action. Scoping is intended to solicit input from the public and other agencies so that the analysis can be more clearly focused on issues of genuine concern. The principal goals of the scoping process are to:

- Identify public concerns;
- Ensure that concerns are identified early and are properly studied;
- Identify alternatives that will be examined;
- Identify significant issues that need to be analyzed; and
- Eliminate unimportant issues.

The scoping meetings will begin with NRC staff providing a description of NRC's role and mission followed by a brief overview of NRC's environmental review process and goals of the scoping meeting. The bulk of the meeting will be allotted for attendees to make oral comments.

6.0 Scoping Comments

Written comments should be mailed to the address listed above in the **ADDRESSES** section.

The NRC staff will prepare a scoping summary report in which it will summarize public comments. The NRC will make the scoping summary report and project-related materials available for public review through its Electronic Reading Room: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The scoping meeting summary and project-related materials will also be available on the NRC's USEC Web page: <http://www.nrc.gov/materials/fuel-cycle-fac/usecfacility.html> (case sensitive).

7.0 The NEPA Process

The EIS for the proposed ACP will be prepared according to NEPA and NRC NEPA implementing regulations contained in 10 CFR part 51.

After the scoping process is complete, the NRC will prepare a draft EIS. The draft EIS is scheduled to be published by July 2005. A 45-day comment period on the draft EIS is planned, and a public meeting to receive comments will be held approximately three weeks after publication of the draft EIS. Availability of the draft EIS, the dates of the public comment period, and information about the public meeting will be announced in the **Federal Register**, on NRC's USEC Web page, and in the local news media. The final EIS is expected to be published in March 2006 and will incorporate, as appropriate, public comments received on the draft EIS.

Signed in Rockville, MD, this 7th day of October 2004.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

B. Jennifer Davis,

Chief, Environmental and Performance Assessment Directorate, Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 04-23134 Filed 10-14-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

Proposed Submission of Information Collection for OMB Review; Comment Request; Liability for Termination of Single-Employer Plans

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

ACTION: Notice of intention to request extension of OMB approval.

SUMMARY: The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation ("PBGC") intends to request that the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") extend approval, under the Paperwork Reduction Act, of a collection of information contained in its regulation on Liability for Termination of Single-Employer Plans, 29 CFR part 4062 (OMB control number 1212-0017; expires January 31, 2005). This notice informs the public of the PBGC's intent and solicits public comment on the collection of information.

DATES: Comments should be submitted by December 14, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to the Office of the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 1200 K Street, NW., Washington, DC

20005-4026, or delivered to Suite 340 at that address during normal business hours. Comments also may be submitted electronically through the PBGC's Web site at <http://www.pbgc.gov/paperwork>, or by fax to (202) 326-4112. The PBGC will make all comments available on its Web site, <http://www.pbgc.gov>.

Copies of the collection of information may be obtained without charge by writing to the PBGC's Communications and Public Affairs Department at Suite 240 at the above address or by visiting that office or calling (202) 326-4040 during normal business hours. (TTY and TDD users may call the Federal relay service toll-free at 1-800-877-8339 and ask to be connected to (202) 326-4040.) The regulation on Liability for Termination of Single-Employer Plans can be accessed on the PBGC's Web site at <http://www.pbgc.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Harold J. Ashner, Assistant General Counsel, or Thomas H. Gabriel, Attorney, Office of the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 1200 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005-4026, (202) 326-4024. (For TTY and TDD, call (800) 877-8339 and request connection to (202) 326-4024).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 4062 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 provides that the contributing sponsor of a single-employer pension plan and members of the sponsor's controlled group ("the employer") incur liability ("employer liability") if the plan terminates with assets insufficient to pay benefit liabilities under the plan. The PBGC's statutory lien for employer liability and the payment terms for employer liability are affected by whether and to what extent employer liability exceeds 30 percent of the employer's net worth.

Section 4062.6 of the PBGC's employer liability regulation (29 CFR 4062.6) requires a contributing sponsor or member of the contributing sponsor's controlled group who believes employer liability upon plan termination exceeds 30 percent of the employer's net worth to so notify the PBGC and to submit net worth information. This information is necessary to enable the PBGC to determine whether and to what extent employer liability exceeds 30 percent of the employer's net worth.

The collection of information under the regulation has been approved by OMB under control number 1212-0017 through January 31, 2005. The PBGC intends to request that OMB extend its approval for another three years. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to,

a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The PBGC estimates that an average of 5 contributing sponsors or controlled group members per year will respond to this collection of information. The PBGC further estimates that the average annual burden of this collection of information will be 12 hours and \$3,300 per respondent, with an average total annual burden of 60 hours and \$16,500.

The PBGC is soliciting public comments to—

- Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Issued in Washington, DC, this 12th day of October, 2004.

Stuart A. Sirkin,

Director, Corporate Policy and Research Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

[FR Doc. 04-23182 Filed 10-14-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7708-01-P

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

Required Interest Rate Assumption for Determining Variable-Rate Premium; Interest on Late Premium Payments; Interest on Underpayments and Overpayments of Single-Employer Plan Termination Liability and Multiemployer Withdrawal Liability; Interest Assumptions for Multiemployer Plan Valuations Following Mass Withdrawal

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

ACTION: Notice of interest rates and assumptions.

SUMMARY: This notice informs the public of the interest rates and assumptions to be used under certain Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation regulations. These