

DATES: Comments may be submitted on or before January 26, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jack O'Neill, Federal Acquisition Policy Division, GSA (202) 501-3856.

ADDRESSES: Comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, should be submitted to: FAR Desk Officer, OMB, Room 10102, NEOB, Washington, DC 20503, and a copy to the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat, 1800 F Street, NW, Room 4037, Washington, DC 20405. Please cite OMB Control No. 9000-0135, Subcontractor Payments, in all correspondence.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Purpose

Part 28 of the FAR contains guidance related to obtaining financial protection against damages under Government contracts (e.g., use of bonds, bid guarantees, insurance etc.). Part 52 contains the texts of solicitation provisions and contract clauses. These regulations implement a statutory requirement for information to be provided by Federal contractors relating to payment bonds furnished under construction contracts which are subject to the Miller Act (40 USC 270a-270d). This collection requirement is mandated by Section 806 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 1992 and 1993 (Pub. L. 102-190), as amended by Section 2091 of the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994 (Pub. L. 103-335). The clause at 52.228-12, Prospective Subcontractor Requests for Bonds, implements Section 806(a)(3) of Public Law 102-190, as amended, which specifies that, upon the request of a prospective subcontractor or supplier offering to furnish labor or material for the performance of a construction contract for which a payment bond has been furnished to the United States pursuant to the Miller Act, the contractor shall promptly provide a copy of such payment bond to the requestor.

In conjunction with performance bonds, payment bonds are used in Government construction contracts to secure fulfillment of the contractor's obligations under the contract and to assure that the contractor makes all payments, as required by law, to persons furnishing labor or material in performance of the contract. This regulation provides prospective subcontractors and suppliers a copy of the payment bond furnished by the contractor to the Government for the performance of a Federal construction

contract subject to the Miller Act. It is expected that prospective subcontractors and suppliers will use this information to determine whether to contract with that particular prime contractor. This information has been and will continue to be available from the Government. The requirement for contractors to provide a copy of the payment bond upon request to any prospective subcontractor or supplier under the Federal construction contract is contained in Section 806(a)(3) of Public Law 102-190, as amended by Sections 2091 and 8105 of Public Law 103-355.

B. Annual Reporting Burden

The annual reporting burden is estimated as follows: Respondents, 12,000; responses per respondent, 5; total annual responses, 60,000; preparation hours per response, .5; and total response burden hours, 30,000.

Obtaining Copies of Proposals: Requester may obtain a copy of the justification from the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (VRS), Room 4037, 1800 F Street, Washington, DC 20405, telephone (202) 501-4755. Please cite OMB Control No. 9000-0135, Subcontractor Payments, in all correspondence.

Dated: November 20, 1997.

Sharon A. Kiser,
FAR Secretariat.

[FR Doc. 97-30896 Filed 11-24-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6820-34-U

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Draft Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Certain Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy Stored at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) announces the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Certain Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy Stored at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (draft EIS) for public review and comment. The Department has prepared this draft EIS pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. § 4321, *et seq.*), in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508) and the DOE NEPA implementing regulations (10 CFR part 1021). The draft EIS analyzes reasonable alternative means of

processing certain plutonium residues and all of the scrub alloy currently stored at the Rocky Flats Site near Golden, Colorado to a form suitable for disposal or other disposition. Plutonium residues and scrub alloy are materials that were generated during the manufacture of components for nuclear weapons. DOE will hold three public hearings during the comment period, which ends January 5, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the draft EIS should be directed to: Center for Environmental Management Information, P.O. Box 23769, Washington, D.C. 20026-3769, 1-800-736-3282 or in Washington, D.C., 202-863-5084. Copies of the draft EIS are also available for public review at the locations listed at the end of this Notice.

Written comments on the draft EIS should be mailed to: Mr. Charles R. Head, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Management (EM-60), 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 5B-086, Washington, DC 20585-0001. Comments may also be submitted to RFPR.EIS@EM.DOE.GOV by E-mail.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information about the draft EIS and about plutonium residues and scrub alloy, contact: Mr. Charles Head at the above address or call (202) 586-5151.

For information on the DOE NEPA process, contact: Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0001, (202) 586-4600 or leave a message at 1-800-472-2756.

DATES: The comment period ends on January 5, 1998. Comments postmarked after that date will be considered to the extent practicable. DOE will hold public hearings as follows:

Golden, Colorado—December 10, 1997
Los Alamos, New Mexico—December 11, 1997
Augusta, Georgia—December 16, 1997

Further details on the hearings are provided under **SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION.**

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On November 19, 1996, DOE published a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the **Federal Register** (61 FR 58866) to prepare an EIS on the management of certain plutonium residues and scrub alloy stored at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site. The plutonium residues and scrub alloy were generated as intermediate products or byproducts resulting from the manufacture of components for nuclear

weapons. Now that nuclear weapons manufacturing and processing activities at Rocky Flats have ceased, the plutonium residues and scrub alloy are being stored pending disposition.

The purpose and need for agency action is to process certain plutonium residues and all of the scrub alloy currently stored at the Rocky Flats Site to address health and safety concerns raised by the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board in its Recommendation 94-1, and to prepare these materials for offsite disposal or other disposition, while supporting site closure and limiting worker exposure and waste production. The proposed action is to process the plutonium residues and scrub alloy in preparation for disposal or other disposition.

The materials addressed in this draft EIS include approximately 40% of the 106,600 kg (235,000 lb) existing inventory of Rocky Flats plutonium residues, and also the entire inventory of Rocky Flats scrub alloy. The covered material consists of 42,200 kg (93,000 lb) of plutonium residues [containing 2,600 kg (5,730 lb) of plutonium] and 700 kg (1,540 lb) of scrub alloy [containing 200 kg (440 lb) of plutonium]. The remaining Rocky Flats plutonium residues will meet the requirements for disposal after being processed as discussed in DOE's Solid Residues Environmental Assessment (DOE/EA-1120, April 1996), and are not addressed in the draft EIS.

Alternatives Considered

The draft EIS evaluates reasonable processing alternatives that could be applied in the 1998-2004 time frame. Three alternatives are analyzed for each residue category and the scrub alloy:

Alternative 1—No Action

Alternative 2—Processing without

Plutonium Separation

Alternative 3—Processing with
Plutonium Separation

Any plutonium separated from the plutonium residues and scrub alloy as a result of the proposed action would be placed into safe and secure storage pending disposition by immobilization or conversion to mixed-oxide fuel in accordance with decisions to be made under DOE's Surplus Plutonium Disposition Environmental Impact Statement (62 FR 28009, May 22, 1997). The processing technology options for each material category analyzed in the draft EIS include those that can be accomplished at Rocky Flats, and those for plutonium separation only that can be accomplished offsite at the Savannah River Site, near Aiken, South Carolina, and/or at Los Alamos National Laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico.

Invitation To Comment

The public is invited to submit written and oral comments on any or all portions of the draft EIS. DOE especially welcomes comments on the following topics: the technical adequacy of the document; the alternative(s) that DOE should select upon completion of the document; and the criteria that DOE should use in making these selections.

Public Hearings and Procedures

DOE will hold three public hearings according to the schedule provided at the end of this section. The hearing format will provide for collection of written and oral comments and will enable the public to discuss issues and concerns with DOE staff. Participants who wish to speak at the hearings are asked to register in advance by calling toll-free: 1-800-736-3282. Requests to speak that have not been submitted prior to the hearings will be handled in the order in which they are received during the meetings. DOE's responses to comments received during the public comment period will be presented in the final EIS.

An independent facilitator will open the hearings by explaining the format to be followed. The hearings will be conducted in a manner that is intended to foster a cordial, open and mutually beneficial dialog between the participants and the DOE representatives. In the interests of achieving this goal, DOE representatives may ask clarifying questions regarding statements made at the hearings, will answer questions from the public, and may comment on statements made by other hearing participants.

To ensure that everyone has an adequate opportunity to speak, each speaker at a public hearing will be allotted 5 minutes. Depending on the number of persons who request an opportunity to speak, more time may be allowed for speakers representing several parties or organizations. Persons wishing to speak on behalf of organizations should identify the organization in their request. Written comments will also be accepted at the hearings, and speakers at public hearings are encouraged to provide written versions of their oral comments for the record.

DOE will take notes and prepare a summary of the oral comments received during the public hearings.

Schedule of Public Hearings

December 10, 1997—Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site, Near Golden, CO

6:00-9:00 pm mountain time, Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site, Building 060 (outside of the West Gate of the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site), State Highway 93, Golden, CO 80402. Contact: Michael Konczal, 303-966-7095.

December 11, 1997—Los Alamos, NM

6:00-9:00 pm mountain time, Los Alamos Area Office, 528-35th Street, Rooms 100/129, Los Alamos, NM 87544. Contact: Bob Promell, 505-665-4411.

December 16, 1997—Augusta, Georgia

6:00-9:00 pm eastern time, Ramada Plaza Hotel, Grove Room, 640 Broad Street, Augusta, GA 30901. Contact: Drew Grainger, 807-725-1523.

Public Reading Rooms where the draft EIS is available:

U.S. Department of Energy, Freedom of Information Room, Room 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585. Telephone 202-586-6020.

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, East Gate Visitors Center, Greenville Road, Livermore, CA 94550. Telephone 510-424-4026.

California State University, Northridge/Oviatt Library, 18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330. Telephone 818-677-2274.

U.S. Department of Energy, Oakland Operations Office, Public Reading Room, Energy Information Center, 8th Floor, 1301 Clay Street, Oakland, CA 94612. Telephone 510-637-1762.

Simi Valley Public Library, 2629 Tapo Canyon Road, Simi Valley, CA 93063. Telephone 805-525-2384.

Platt Brand Public Library, 23600 Victory Boulevard, Woodland Hills, CA 91367. Telephone 818-887-0160.

Standley Lake Public Reading Room, 8485 Kipling Street, Arvada, CO 80005. Telephone 303-456-0806.

University of Colorado Libraries, Government Publications, Campus Box 184, Boulder, CO 80309. Telephone 303-492-1411.

U.S. EPA Superfund Records Center, 999 18th Street, 5th Floor Denver, CO 80202. Telephone 303-312-6473.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Information Center, 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, CO 80222. Telephone 303-692-2037.

Colorado State University, Document Department, The Libraries, Fort Collins, CO 80523. Telephone 970-491-1101.

U.S. Department of Energy, Golden Field Office, Public Reading Room,

14869 Denver West Parkway, Golden, CO 80401. Telephone 303-275-4742.

Colorado School of Mines, Arthur Lakes Library, 1400 Illinois Street, Golden, CO 80401. Telephone 303-273-3000.

Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board, Public Reading Room, 9035 Wadsworth Avenue, Suite 2250, Westminster, CO 80021. Telephone 303-420-7855.

Rocky Flats Public Reading Room, Front Range Community College Library, 3645 West 112th Avenue, Westminster, CO 80030. Telephone 303-469-4435.

Pullen Public Library, 100 Decatur Street, SE, Atlanta, GA 30303. Telephone 404-651-2185.

Georgia Institute of Technology, Bobby Dodd Way, Atlanta, GA 30332. Telephone 404-894-4519.

Reese Library—Augusta College, 2500 Walton Way, Augusta, GA 30904. Telephone 706-737-1744.

Chatham Effingham Library, 2002 Bull Street, Savannah, GA 31499. Telephone 912-234-5127.

Argonne National Laboratory, Technical Library, P.O. Box 2528, Idaho Falls, ID 83403. Telephone 208-533-7341.

University of Illinois at Chicago, U.S. Department of Energy, Public Document Room, 3rd Floor, 801 S. Morgan Street, Chicago, IL 60607. Telephone 312-996-2738.

East St. Louis Public Library, 405 North 9th Street, East St. Louis, IL 62201. Telephone 618-747-7280.

Lincoln Public Library, 326 South 7th Street, Springfield, IL 62701. Telephone 217-753-4900.

Salina Public Library, 301 West Elm, Salina, KS 67401. Telephone 785-825-4624.

Washburn Law Library, 1700 College, Topeka, KS 66621. Telephone 913-231-1010.

U.S. Department of Energy, Environmental Information Center, 175 Freedom Boulevard, Kevill, KY 42053. Telephone 502-462-2550.

Paducah Public Library, 555 Washington Street, Paducah, KY 42001. Telephone 502-442-2510.

Mid Continent Public Library, Blue Ridge Branch, 9253 Blue Ridge Boulevard, Kansas City, MO 64138. Telephone 816-761-3382.

St. Louis Public Library, 1301 Olive Street, St. Louis, MO 63103. Telephone 314-241-2288.

Scenic Regional Library, 308 Hawthorn Drive, Union, MO 63084. Telephone 314-583-3224.

Albuquerque Operations Office, National Atomic Museum, 20358 Wyoming Boulevard SE, Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque, NM 87185. Telephone 505-845-4378.

U.S. Department of Energy, Technical Vocation Institute, Main Campus Library, 525 Buena Vista SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106. Telephone 505-845-4378.

U.S. Department of Energy, FOIA Reading Room, 4700 Morris NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111. Telephone 505-224-5731.

Los Alamos Community Reading Room, 1350 Central, Suite 101, Los Alamos, NM 87544. Telephone 505-665-2127.

New Mexico State Library, 325 Don Gasper, Santa Fe, NM 87503. Telephone 505-827-3800.

U.S. Department of Energy, Public Reading Room, Gregg Graniteville Library, 171 University Parkway, Aiken, SC 29801. Telephone 803-641-3465.

County Library, 404 King Street, Charleston, SC 29403. Telephone 803-723-1645.

South Carolina State Library, 1500 Senate Street, Columbia, SC 29211. Telephone 803-734-8666.

Orangeburg County Free Library, 510 Louis Street, NE, Orangeburg, SC 29116. Telephone 803-531-4636.

Lawson McGhee Public Library, 500 West Church Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37902. Telephone 615-544-5750.

Nashville Public Library, 225 Polk Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203. Telephone 615-862-5800.

U.S. Department of Energy, Public Reading Room, Oak Ridge Operations Office, 55 Jefferson Circle, Room 1123, Oak Ridge, TN 37831. Telephone 615-576-1216.

Issued in Washington, D.C., November 20, 1997.

David G. Huzienga,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Material and Facility Stabilization, Office of Environmental Management.

[FR Doc. 97-30957 Filed 11-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP98-81-000]

Florida Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

November 19, 1997.

Take notice that on November 12, 1997, Florida Gas Transmission Company, (FGT) 1400 Smith Street, Houston, Texas 77002, filed in the above docket a request pursuant to Sections 157.205 and 157.212 of the Commission's Regulations, under the Natural Gas Act (NGA) (18 CFR 157.205

and 157.212) for authorization to construct and operate a new delivery point in Iberville Parish, Louisiana under FGT's blanket authority issued in Docket No. CP82-553-000 pursuant to Section 7 of the NGA, all as more fully set forth in the request which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Specifically, FGT proposes to construct, operate and own a new delivery point for Iberville Parish Natural Gas System (Iberville) at or near mile post 19.9 on FGT's existing Chacahoula Lateral in Iberville Parish, Louisiana. FGT states that the subject delivery point will include minor connecting pipe, electronic flow measurement equipment, and any other related appurtenant facilities necessary for FGT to transport for and deliver up to 500 MMBtu per day and 182,500 MMBtu per year of natural gas to Iberville. FGT further states that Iberville will construct, own and operate the meter and regulation station. Iberville will reimburse FGT for the \$30,000 estimated construction costs.

FGT states that the proposed quantities to be delivered by FGT to Iberville at the subject delivery point will be on an interruptible basis and consequently will have no incremental effect on FGT's pipeline system. FGT states that the proposed request will not impact FGT's peak day deliveries but could impact FGT's annual gas deliveries up to 182,500 MMBtu.

FGT states that the proposed activity described herein is not prohibited by its existing tariff and that it has sufficient capacity to continue all services without detriment or disadvantage to FGT's other customers. FGT further states that the total volumes to be delivered after this request will not exceed the total volumes delivered prior to this request.

Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after issuance of the instant notice by the Commission, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Procedural Rules (18 CFR 385.214) a motion to intervene or notice of intervention and pursuant to Section 157.205 of the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205) a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the time allowed therefor, the proposed activity shall be deemed to be authorized effective the day after the time allowed for filing a protest. If a protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for