

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE****Department of the Army****Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for Pilot Testing Neutralization/Biotreatment of Mustard Agent at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland**

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, DoD.  
**ACTION:** Record of Decision.

**SUMMARY:** This announces the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) which documents and explains the Department of the Army's decision to construct and operate a facility to pilot test the neutralization/biotreatment process of mustard agent using water at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Maryland.

**ADDRESSES:** To obtain copies of the ROD, contact Ms. Nancy Hoffman, Edgewood Community Outreach Office, Woodbridge, Station, 1011 Woodbridge Center Way, Edgewood, Maryland 21040.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Catherine Herlinger at (800) 488-0648 or (410) 436-2583.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Army has determined that the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) adequately addresses the potential impacts of the Army's actions relating to the disposal of mustard agent stored at APG. The Army has also determined that the conclusions in the Final EIS establish that the decision to pilot test the neutralization/biotreatment process for mustard agent using water at the preferred site provides maximum protection to the environment, the general public, and workers at the pilot test facility. The Army plans to dispose of 615 tons of mustard agent stored at APG consistent with the terms of the ROD.

The alternatives considered in the Final EIS were no action (i.e., continued storage of mustard agent at APG) and locating the pilot facility at one of two potential sites within APG. Although the no action alternative is not viable under Public Law 99-145 (the Department of Defense Authorization Act of 1986), it was analyzed to provide a comparison with the proposed action. A comparison was made of the potential impacts of two different locations at APG for the facility. The locations were identified using criteria based on safety and compatibility with current APG activities. The selected site, located on the Bush River Peninsula, has the advantage of being adjacent to the Chemical Agent Storage Yard, where the mustard agent is stored in ton containers. Additionally, it was

determined to result in lower potential impacts to human health, land, water and ecological resources. Detonations of explosives and ordnance and testing munitions have previously contaminated the alternative site. Site clean up and remediation activities are not currently scheduled prior to construction. This would result in increased project duration and significantly impact the Chemical Stockpile Disposal Program mission's schedule date targeted for December 2004. Based on these impact analyses, it is concluded that conducting pilot test operations at the selected site is the preferred environmental alternative for implementing the neutralization/biotreatment process using water.

Copies of the ROD may also be obtained by calling Ms. Hoffman, Edgewood Community Outreach Office, at (410) 676-6800.

Questions may be forwarded to Office of the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization, ATTN: SFAE-CD-P (Ms. Herlinger), Building E4585, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21010-5401; or via e-mail at [cherling@cdra.apgea.army.mil](mailto:cherling@cdra.apgea.army.mil).

Dated: September 16, 1998.

**Richard E. Newsome,**

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health) OASA (I, L&E).*

[FR Doc. 98-25394 Filed 9-22-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-M

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE****Department of the Army****Environmental Assessment (EA) on the Disposal and Reuse of the Defense Distribution Depot Memphis, Tennessee (DDMT)**

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, DoD.

**ACTION:** Extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Army is announcing today the extension of the comment period for the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the disposal and reuse of the Defense Distribution Depot Memphis, Tennessee (DDMT).

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before October 23, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Questions and comments should be directed to Mr. Jerry Jones, Corps of Engineers, Mobile District (ATTN: CESAM-PD-EI), 109 St. Joseph Street, P.O. Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Mr. Jerry Jones at facsimile (334) 694-3815.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** A Notice of Availability (NOA) and a summary of the proposed action was published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 24165) on May 1, 1998. The notice described the Army's preferred alternative of encumbered disposal of DDMT to mitigate the adverse economic impact of closing the installation. The FNSI was signed on March 13, 1998. Following publication of the NOA, the Defense Depot Memphis Concerned Citizens Committee, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation requested an extension of the public comment period. The original comment period closed June 1, 1998.

The EA evaluates the environmental and socioeconomic effects associated with the disposal and subsequent reuse of the DDMT. The Army proposes to dispose of 642 acres divided into two sections, the main installation (574 acres) and Dunn Field (68 acres). This EA concludes that the disposal and subsequent reuse of the property will not have a significant impact on the human environment.

A copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact has been placed at the Memphis/Shelby County Public Library, Main Branch, 1850 Peabody, Memphis, TN 38104; Memphis/Shelby County Health Department, Pollution Control Division, 814 Jefferson Avenue, Memphis, TN 38106; Memphis/Shelby County Public Library, Cherokee Branch, 3300 Sharpe Avenue, Memphis, TN 38111; The Memphis Depot Caretaker, 2163 Airways Boulevard, Building 14, Memphis, TN 38114.

Dated: September 17, 1998.

**Richard E. Newsome,**

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health) OASA (I, L&E).*

[FR Doc. 98-25404 Filed 9-22-98; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee**

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. No. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770), notice is given of a meeting of the Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee (BESAC).

**DATES AND TIMES:** Monday, October 26, 1998—8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 27, 1998—8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Gaithersburg Hilton, 620 Perry Parkway, Gaithersburg, MD 20877.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Patricia Dehmer; Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee; U.S. Department of Energy; ER-10, GTN; 19901 Germantown Road; Germantown, MD 20874-1290; Telephone: (301) 903-5565.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Purpose of the Meeting:* The Committee will provide advice and guidance with respect to the basic energy sciences research program.

*Tentative Agenda:* Agenda will include discussions of the following:

- BESAC High Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR) Review Report
- BESAC 4th Generation Light Source Panel Update
- BESAC Complex and Collective Phenomena Update

*Public Participation:* The meeting is open to the public. The Chairperson of the Committee is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will, in her judgment, facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Any member of the public who wishes to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact Patricia Dehmer at the address or telephone number listed above. Requests must be received at least five days prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation on the agenda. Public comment will follow the 10 minute rule.

*Minutes:* The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room; 1E-190, Forrestal Building; 1000 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, DC 20585; between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Issued in Washington, DC on September 16, 1998.

**Althea T. Vanzego,**

*Acting Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 98-25417 Filed 9-22-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. ER98-3774-000]

**Choctaw Generation Limited Partnership; Notice of Issuance of Order**

September 17, 1998.

Choctaw Generation Limited Partnership (Choctaw), a Delaware limited partnership, and wholly-owned subsidiary of Tractebel Power, Inc., a Delaware corporation, which is in turn an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Tractebel, S.A., a Belgian energy services corporation, filed an application to engage in wholesale power sales at market-based rates, and for certain waivers and authorizations. In particular, Choctaw requested that the Commission grant blanket approval under 18 CFR Part 34 of all future issuances of securities and assumptions of liabilities by Choctaw. On September 15, 1998, the Commission issued an Order Accepting For Filing Proposed Market-Based Rates (Order), in the above-docketed proceeding.

The Commission's September 15, 1998, Order granted the request for blanket approval under Part 34, subject to the conditions found in Ordering Paragraphs (C), (D), and (F):

(C) Within 30 days of the date of this order, any person desiring to be heard or to protest the Commission's blanket approval of issuances of securities or assumptions of liabilities by Choctaw should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures, 18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214.

(D) Absent a request to be heard within the period set forth in Ordering Paragraph (C) above, Choctaw is hereby authorized to issue securities and assume obligations and liabilities as guarantor, indorser, surety or otherwise in respect of any security of another person; provided that such issue or assumption is for some lawful object within the corporate purposes of Choctaw, compatible with the public interest, and reasonably necessary or appropriate for such purposes.

(F) The Commission reserves the right to modify this order to require a further showing that neither public nor private interests will be adversely affected by continued Commission approval of Choctaw's issuances of securities or assumptions of liabilities \* \* \*.

Notice is hereby given that the deadline for filing motions to intervene or protests, as set forth above, is October 15, 1998.

Copies of the full text of the Order are available from the Commission's Public Reference Branch, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

**David P. Boergers,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-25383 Filed 9-22-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. RP98-400-000]

**Crossroads Pipeline Company; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff**

September 17, 1998.

Take notice that on September 14, 1998, Crossroads Pipeline Company (Crossroads) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Original Volume No. 1, the following tariff sheets, with an effective date of August 1, 1998:

Third Revised Sheet No. 39  
Third Revised Sheet No. 76  
First Revised Sheet No. 76.1

Crossroad states that the filing is being filed to comply with Order No. 587-G, Standards of Business Practices of Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines issued on April 16, 1998 in Docket No. RM96-1-007, 83 FERC ¶ 61,029. Crossroads states that the revised tariff sheet included herewith reflects Version 1.2 standards promulgated by the Gas Industry Standards Board which were adopted by the Commission and incorporated by reference in the Commission's Regulations. Specifically, in addition to upgrading the version of previously adopted standards, newly adopted Standards 1.4.6, 2.4.6, 4.3.5, 4.3.16 and 5.3.30 are incorporated by reference and Standard 4.3.4 has been deleted.

Crossroad states that copies of its filing are being served on all affected customers, applicable state regulatory agencies and all parties to this proceeding.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Sections 385.214 or 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests must be filed in accordance with Section 154.210 of the