

biocontainment facilities (as regulated by the Centers for Disease Control and prevention (CDC)) and expertise to safely conduct critical biomedical research. In addition to its original mission to protect military personnel, USAMRIID has been assigned a second mission to leverage these capabilities to support government-wide biological defense efforts by acting as the DoD's lead laboratory for T&E of medical biological defense products.

USAMRIID must expand its facilities to meet both the requirements for increased understanding of current biological threats and the threat of emerging diseases to U.S. military service members and citizens. Replacing the existing USAMRIID facilities on Area A of Fort Detrick is essential to accelerate the research, development, testing, and evaluation of vaccines, drugs and diagnostics for military and civilian applications. This laboratory complex, built primarily in the 1950s and 1960s for 325 personnel, now houses approximately 750 staff personnel in approximately 500,000 gsf of floor space. Major utilities and other support systems within the laboratory complex have exceeded their life expectancies and cannot readily accept new technologies. Despite high levels of maintenance that consume up to 25% of the USAMRIID operating budget, the existing facilities no longer provide an adequate platform for USAMRIID to execute its critical missions. It is estimated that approximately 900 people will staff the Stage 1 facility and a total of approximately 1,300 people will be employed upon completion of Stage 2.

The proposed new USAMRIID facilities will include biocontainment laboratories designed, constructed, and operated to Biosafety Levels (BSLs) -2, -3, and -4 and enhanced BSL-3 standards. The animal facilities will be designed, constructed and operated to Animal Biosafety Level (ABSL) -2 and enhanced ABSL-3 standards. (Note: BSLs and ABSLs are designations within a well-defined system established by the CDC and the National Institutes of Health consisting of facilities, equipment, and procedural guidelines designed to minimize risk of exposure to potentially hazardous biological pathogens for laboratory workers and the outside environment.) These BSL and ABSL facilities will enable USAMRIID researchers to safely conduct the research and development and medical T&E work required to support USAMRIID's evolving missions. The research conducted at USAMRIID has been and will continue to be solely defensive in nature. The army does not

conduct offensive chemical or biological weapon research in any way, and is firmly committed to compliance with both international and domestic law including, but not limited to, the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction* and the *Biological Weapons Anti-terrorism Act*.

Environmental analyses of the Proposed Action and alternatives will evaluate land use, climate, geology, soils, water resources, wetlands, plant and animal ecology, air quality, historical and cultural resources, socioeconomic environment, noise, odors, transportation, energy resources, hazardous material management, human health and safety, environmental justice, and cumulative effects with respect to unknown or potentially significant impacts. The issues to be addressed will include safety of laboratory operations and demolition of the existing biocontainment laboratories; public health and safety; handling, collection, treatment, and disposal of research wastes; analysis of other risks; and pollution prevention.

The EIS will address several alternatives, including demolition of the existing USAMRIID facilities; partial renovation of existing USAMRIID facilities for laboratory or non-laboratory use; and a No-Action alternative, under which the proposed new USAMRIID facilities would not be built and operated and the existing USAMRIID facilities would not be decommissioned and demolished or reused. Additional alternatives may be identified in the public scoping process.

Public participation: The Army invites full public participation to promote open communication and informed decision-making. All interested persons and organizations, including minority, low-income, disadvantaged, and Native American groups, are urged to participate in this NEPA environmental analysis process. Assistance will be provided upon request to anyone with special needs to facilitate their participation in the NEPA process.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this Proposed Action and the scope of this EIS are addressed, oral and written comments are invited from all interested parties, including appropriate Federal, state, and local agencies, and private organizations and citizens. The scoping process supporting this effort will include: establishment of the public USAMRIID EIS Web site at <http://www.usamriid.army.mil/eis>; dissemination of public information

packages; publication in local newspapers; and coordination with public interest groups. These efforts will allow the public to provide input regarding the scope of the study and reasonable alternatives.

Public comments are welcome throughout the NEPA process and should be directed to Carree Vander Linden at the address above. Additional formal opportunities for public participation after the public scoping phase are tentatively scheduled as follows: review and comment on the Draft EIS, August–September 2006; public information meeting on the Draft EIS, August 2006. Notices of Availability for the Draft EIS, Final EIS, and Record of Decision will be provided through direct mail, the **Federal Register**, and other media. Notifications also will be sent to Federal, state, and local agencies and persons and organizations that submit comments or questions throughout the NEPA process. Precise schedules and locations for public meetings will be announced in the local news media. Interested individuals and organizations may request to be included on the mailing list for public distribution of meeting announcements and associated documents.

Dated: February 3, 2006.

Addison D. Davis,

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health).

[FR Doc. 06–1165 Filed 2–7–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710–08–M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[Docket No. EA–307]

Application To Export Electric Energy; Silverhill Ltd.

AGENCY: Office Electricity Delivery & Energy Reliability, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of Application.

SUMMARY: Silverhill Ltd. (Silverhill) has applied for authority to transmit electric energy from the United States to Canada pursuant to section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act.

DATES: Comments, protests or requests to intervene must be submitted on or before March 10, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Comments, protests or requests to intervene should be addressed as follows: Office Electricity Delivery & Energy Reliability (Mail Code OE–20), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585–0350 (FAX 202–287–5736).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Mintz (Program Office), 202–586–9506 or Michael Skinker (Program Attorney) 202–586–2793.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Exports of electricity from the United States to a foreign country are regulated and require authorization under section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act (FPA) (16U.S.C. 824a(e)).

On January 6, 2006, the Department of Energy (DOE) received an application from Silverhill to transmit electric energy from the United States to Canada. Silverhill is a corporation formed under Ontario law with its principal place of business in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Silverhill does not own or control any transmission or distribution assets, nor does it have a franchised service area. The electric energy which Silverhill proposes to export to Canada would be purchased from electric utilities and Federal power marketing agencies within the U.S.

Silverhill proposes to arrange for the delivery of electric energy to Canada over the existing international transmission facilities owned by Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Bonneville Power Administration, Citizens Utilities Company, Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative, International Transmission Company, Joint Owners of the Highgate Project, Long Sault, Inc., Maine Electric Power Company, Maine Public Service Company, Minnesota Power Inc., Minnkota Power Cooperative, New York Power Authority, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, Northern States Power, and Vermont Electric Transmission Company. The construction, operation, maintenance, and connection of each of the international transmission facilities to be utilized by Silverhill as more fully described in the application, has previously been authorized by a Presidential permit issued pursuant to Executive Order 10485, as amended.

Procedural Matters: Any person desiring to become a party to this proceeding or to be heard by filing comments or protests to this application should file a petition to intervene, comment or protest at the address provided above in accordance with §§ 385.211 or 385.214 of the FERC's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214). Fifteen copies of each petition and protest should be filed with DOE on or before the date listed above.

Comments on the Silverhill application to export electric energy to Canada should be clearly marked with Docket EA–307. Additional copies are to be filed directly with George Radan,

President, Silverhill Ltd., 17 Golf Crest Road, Toronto, Ontario, M9A 1L2.

A final decision will be made on this application after the environmental impacts have been evaluated pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and a determination is made by the DOE that the proposed action will not adversely impact on the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system.

Copies of this application will be made available, upon request, for public inspection and copying at the address provided above or by accessing the program's Home Page at <http://www.fe.doe.gov/programs/electricityregulation/>. Upon reaching the Home page, scroll down and select "Pending Proceedings."

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 1, 2006.

Anthony J. Como,

Director, Permitting and Siting, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability.

[FR Doc. E6–1697 Filed 2–7–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Nuclear Energy Research Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Nuclear Energy Research Advisory Committee. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463, 86 Stat. 770), requires that public notice of the meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Wednesday, February 22, 2006, 9 am to 5 pm and Thursday, February 23, 2006, 9 am to 12:15 pm.

ADDRESSES: Sheraton Crystal City, 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Crystal City, Virginia 22202, (703) 486–1111.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Mark Roth, Designated Federal Officer, Nuclear Energy Research Advisory Committee, U.S. Department of Energy, NE–20, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874, Telephone Number 301.903.5501, E-mail: mark.roth@nuclear.energy.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Purpose of the Meeting: To provide advice to the Director of the Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology (NE) of the Department of Energy on the many complex planning, scientific and technical issues that arise in the development and implementation of the Nuclear Energy research program.

Tentative Agenda

Wednesday February 22, 2006

Welcome Remarks

Organizational Issues

Status of Office of Nuclear Energy,

Science and Technology Programs and Budget

- FY 2007 Budget

- New Initiatives

Subcommittee Reports

- Generation IV Subcommittee Report

- Advanced Nuclear Transformation Technologies Subcommittee

Thursday, February 23, 2006

Continuation of Discussions from

Wednesday

Public comment period

Setting of Dates for Next Meeting

Adjournment

Public Participation: The day and a half meeting is open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis because of limited seating. Written statements may be filed with the committee before or after the meeting. Members of the public who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact Mark Roth at the addresses or telephone listed above. Requests to make oral statements must be made and received five days prior to the meeting; reasonable provision will be made to include the statement in the agenda. The Chair of the committee is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business.

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

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 2, 2006.

Rachel M. Samuel,

Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. E6–1698 Filed 2–7–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. EL06–50–000]

American Electric Power Service Corporation; Notice of Filings

February 1, 2006.

Take notice that on January 31, 2006, as supplemented on February 1, 2006,