Title: Application for Grants Under the Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP).

Frequency: Triennially.

Affected Public: State, Local or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 180.

Burden Hours: 4,500.

Abstract: The application is used by local educational agencies to apply under the magnet schools program. The Department uses this information to make grant awards.

[FR Doc. 97–28323 Filed 10–24–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No.: 84.200]

Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Program; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 1998

Purpose of Program: This program provides fellowships through academic departments and programs of institutions of higher education to assist graduate students of superior ability who demonstrate financial need. The purpose of the program is to sustain and enhance the capacity for teaching and research in areas of national need.

Eligible Applicants: Academic departments and programs of institutions of higher education that meet the requirements in 34 CFR 648.2.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: January 5, 1998.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: March 5, 1998.

Applications Available: November 7, 1998.

Available Funds: $16,000,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: $122,251–$750,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: $243,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 60.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR Parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 82, 85, and 86; and (b) the regulations in 34 CFR Part 648.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Stipend Level: The Secretary has determined that the maximum fellowship stipend for academic year 1998–1999 is $15,000, which is equal to the level of support that the National Science Foundation is providing for its graduate fellowships.

Institutional Payment: The Secretary estimates that the institutional payment for academic year 1998–1999 will be $10,051, which represents a 3.3 percent adjustment of the academic year 1997–1998 payment based on the Department of Labor's projection in April 1997 of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for 1997. The Secretary will adjust the institutional payment prior to the issuance of grant awards based on the Department of Labor's projection in December 1997 of the CPI for 1998.

Priorities

Absolute Priorities

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) and 34 CFR 648.33, the Secretary gives an absolute preference to applications that meet one or more of the following priorities. The Secretary funds under this competition only applications that meet one or more of these absolute priorities:

Applications that propose to provide fellowships in one or more of the following areas of national need: Biology, Chemistry, Computer and Information Sciences, Engineering, Geoscience, Mathematics, and Physics.

Invitational Priority 1—

Within the absolute priority specified above, the Secretary is particularly interested in receiving applications from mathematics programs that train Ph.Ds in mathematics who will specialize in the teaching of mathematics, to students at the K–12 level.

Invitational Priority 2—

Within the absolute priority specified above, the Secretary is interested in receiving applications from biology, chemistry, and physics programs that train Ph.Ds who will specialize in the teaching of biology, chemistry or physics, to students at the K–12 level.

Invitational Priority 3—

Within the absolute priority specified above, the Secretary is interested in receiving applications from engineering programs that train Ph.Ds for careers in the fields of environmental/environmental health and robotic technology.

For Applications or Information Contact

Cosette H. Ryan, U.S. Department of Education, International Education and Graduate Program Service, 600 Independence Ave, S.W., Suite 600–B, Portals Building, Washington, D. C. 20202–5247. Telephone: (202) 260–3608. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternate format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed in the preceding paragraph.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain a copy of the application package in an alternate format, also, by contacting that person. However, the Department is not able to reproduce in an alternate format the standard forms included in the application package.

Note: The official application notice for a discretionary grant competition is the notice published in the **Federal Register**.

Electronic Access to This Document

Anyone may view this document, as well as all other Department of Education documents published in the **Federal Register**, in text or portable document format (pdf) on the World Wide Web at either of the following sites:

http://ocfo.ed.gov/fedreg.htm
http://www.ed.gov/news.html

To use the pdf you must have the Adobe Acrobat Reader Program with Search, which is available free at either of the previous sites. If you have questions about using the pdf, call the U.S. Government Printing Office toll free at 1–888–293–6498.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1134l–1134q–1.

Dated: October 20, 1997.

David A. Longanecker,

Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

[FR Doc. 97–28425 Filed 10–24–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Hanford Site Solid (Radioactive and Hazardous) Waste Program; Environmental Impact Statement, Richland, WA

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces its intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Solid Waste Program at the Hanford Site, and to conduct a public scoping process pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended

(42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). The Hanford Site Solid Waste Program manages several types of solid wastes at the Hanford Site, including low-level, mixed low-level, transuranic and mixed transuranic, and hazardous wastes, and contaminated equipment. Mixed wastes contain radioactive and hazardous components. Other solid waste types (i.e., municipal solid waste, high-level waste, remediation waste) and spent nuclear fuel are managed by other Hanford Site programs.

The Hanford Site Solid (Radioactive and Hazardous) Waste Program EIS will evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with ongoing activities of the Hanford Site Solid Waste Program, the implementation of programmatic decisions resulting from the Final Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (WM PEIS, DOE/EIS–0200–F), and reasonably foreseeable treatment, storage, and disposal facilities/activities. The EIS will evaluate alternatives for management of the Program's radioactive and hazardous wastes, including waste generated at the Hanford Site or received from offsite generators, during the same 20-year period evaluated by the WM PEIS. This EIS will comprehensively analyze impacts of the proposed action and reasonable alternatives, including potential cumulative impacts of other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable activities. The EIS will be prepared in accordance with NEPA, the Council on Environmental Quality NEPA Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500–1508), and the DOE NEPA Regulations (10 CFR Part 1021).

DOE invites individuals, organizations, and agencies to comment on issues to be considered, alternatives to be analyzed, and environmental impacts to be addressed in the Hanford Site Solid (Radioactive and Hazardous) Waste Program EIS. Two public scoping meetings are scheduled during the public scoping period.

DATES: The public scoping period for the Hanford Site Solid (Radioactive and Hazardous) Waste Program EIS begins with the publication of this notice and continues until December 11, 1997. DOE invites all interested parties to submit written comments or suggestions during the scoping period. Written comments must be postmarked by December 11, 1997 to ensure consideration. Comments postmarked after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

Oral and written comments will be received at public scoping meetings on the dates and at the locations given below:

1. November 12, 1997, 1:00–4:00 p.m. PST and 7:00–10:00 p.m. PST at Federal Building, 825 Jadwin, Richland, WA 99352
2. November 13, 1997, 7:00–10:00 p.m. PST at Vert Center, 500 S.W. Dorion, Pendleton, OR 97801

For further information see Public Scoping Meetings under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**, below.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the scope of the Hanford Site Solid (Radioactive and Hazardous) Waste Program EIS, requests to speak at the public meetings, and requests for copies of the Draft EIS should be directed to the DOE Document Manager listed below.

Ms. Allison Wright, Document Manager, Hanford Site Solid (Radioactive and Hazardous) Waste Program EIS, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, MSIN S7–55, Post Office Box 550, Richland, Washington 99352, Telephone: (509) 373–7840, FAX: 509–372–1926, E-mail: solid__waste__eis__-__doe@rl.gov

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information regarding waste managed by the Hanford Site Solid Waste Program, contact Allison Wright at the above address. For general information on the DOE NEPA process, contact: Carol Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance (EH–42), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585, Telephone: 202–586–4600, or leave a message at 1–800–472–2756.

Copies of DOE documents referenced in this notice and related background information are available for inspection during normal business hours at the following locations:

- U.S. Department of Energy, Forrestal Building, Freedom of Information Reading Room 1E–190, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585, Telephone: (202) 586–6020.
- Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Dr., Richland, WA 99352–3539, Telephone: (509) 943–7457.
- Foley Center Library, Gonzaga University, E. 502 Boone Avenue, Spokane, WA 99258, Telephone: (509) 328–4220, Ext. 3132.
- Branford Price Millar Library, Government Documents Section, Portland State University, 951 Southwest Hall, Portland, OR 97201, Telephone: (503) 725–4617.
- Suzzallo Library, Government Publications, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195, Telephone: (206) 543–9158.
- U.S. DOE Public Reading Room, Consolidated Information Center, Washington State University-Tri Cities Campus, 100 Sprout Road, Richland, WA 99352, Telephone: (509) 372–7443.

Additional information on DOE and Hanford Site NEPA activities and documents, and Hanford solid waste volume information, may also be obtained at the following addresses on the world-wide web:

- DOE NEPA Information—http://tis.eh.doe.gov/nepa/
- Hanford Information—http://www.hanford.gov/hanford.html
- Hanford Environmental Assessments—http://www.hanford.gov/hanford.html#ea
- Hanford Environmental Impact Statements—http://www.hanford.gov/hanford.html#eis
- Hanford Solid Waste Volumes—http://www.hanford.gov/docs/ep0918/index

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Hanford Site occupies approximately 560 square miles adjacent to the Columbia River, principally in Benton and Franklin Counties, Washington, extending approximately 25 miles north of Richland, Washington. The Hanford Site's missions have included processing nuclear materials in support of defense, research, and medical programs of the United States. The Hanford Site defense production facilities included nuclear fuel fabrication facilities, nuclear production reactors, separation facilities, product preparation facilities, research facilities, and waste management facilities. The Site's activities have generated a variety of radioactively contaminated equipment and radioactive and hazardous wastes that are managed under the Hanford Site Solid Waste Program. These wastes include low-level radioactive waste (LLW), mixed low-level radioactive waste (MLLW) (which contains both hazardous and radioactive constituents), transuranic and mixed transuranic (TRU) waste, and hazardous waste (HW). Other waste types and spent nuclear fuel are managed by other Hanford Site programs.

The Hanford Site Solid (Radioactive and Hazardous) Waste Program EIS (hereafter referred to as the Solid Waste Program EIS) would facilitate accomplishment of the Program's mission, which is to:

- Manage wastes for which it is responsible in a safe and efficient

manner in compliance with applicable Federal, State, and local laws, codes, standards, and requirements.

- Manage LLW, MLLW, TRU, and HW received from on-site and off-site generators, and legacy wastes associated with prior operations,
- Decontaminate equipment for reuse or disposal.

Waste management operations include receipt, storage, repackaging, treatment, and disposal or other disposition, such as reuse.

Regulatory and Programmatic Framework

The Atomic Energy Act (42 USC 2011 *et seq.*) requires DOE to manage the wastes that it generates. Wastes that have hazardous components are subject to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) (42 USC 6901 et seq.), the Toxic Substances Control Act and other applicable laws and regulations.

Tri-Party Agreement

The Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (referred to as the ''Tri-Party Agreement'') is an interagency agreement among DOE, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the Washington State Department of Ecology. The parties to this agreement have established milestones to bring DOE operating facilities into compliance with RCRA and to coordinate the cleanup of past Hanford disposal sites under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

Waste Management Programmatic EIS

DOE is currently examining its complex-wide integrated waste management program and evaluating the suitability of existing and reasonably foreseeable future facilities in light of recent changes in the missions of DOE facilities. The Final WM PEIS was issued in May 1997. Alternatives evaluated in the WM PEIS for each type of waste include no action, decentralization, regionalization, and centralization of waste management functions at one or more DOE facilities. WM PEIS Records of Decision could transfer management responsibilities for some types of waste to or from the Hanford Site. In general, the alternatives analysis in the Solid Waste Program EIS will be consistent with the DOE complex-wide policies and practices that have been analyzed in the WM PEIS. The Solid Waste Program EIS will be coordinated with Records of Decision for the WM PEIS and other DOE EISs that affect waste management at the Hanford Site.

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Disposal Phase Final Supplemental EIS

DOE is currently considering whether and, if so, how to begin disposal of TRU waste at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant site near Carlsbad, New Mexico. The decisions to be based on the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Disposal Phase Final Supplemental EIS (DOE/EIS–0026–S–2, issued in September 1997) are whether to dispose of TRU waste at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, the transportation method, the contents of the disposal inventory, and what level of treatment is required for disposal or storage (i.e., repackaging to meet planning-basis Waste Isolation Pilot Plant waste acceptance criteria, thermal treatment, or treatment by shred and grout). In the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Disposal Phase Final Supplemental EIS, the Hanford Site is considered for treatment of TRU waste by any of the three methods and for storage of TRU waste (either without disposal at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant or pending disposal). The analysis in the Solid Waste Program EIS of TRU waste management will be consistent with the forthcoming Record of Decision for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Disposal Phase Final Supplemental EIS.

Other Programmatic Decisions

The DOE Office of Environmental Management has proposed a strategic plan for accelerated cleanup by the year 2006 of most types of radioactive and hazardous wastes at DOE facilities. This ''2006 Strategic Plan'' (formerly the Ten-Year Plan) would reduce the cost and risks associated with managing radioactive and hazardous waste that currently exists at DOE facilities, and make resources available for other uses in the future. The goals of the 2006 Plan will be incorporated into the action alternatives evaluated for the Solid Waste Program EIS.

Waste Types To Be Addressed

The waste types to be addressed in the Solid Waste Program EIS are LLW, MLLW, TRU, HW. The EIS also will address management alternatives for contaminated equipment. The radioactive waste can be further defined as being contact-handled or remote-handled. Contact-handled waste containers produce radiation levels less than or equal to 200 mrem/hr at contact; remote-handled containers produce greater than 200 mrem/hr.

The management of high-level waste, most liquid wastes, spent nuclear fuel, naval reactor compartments, non-hazardous solid wastes and most remediation wastes are outside the scope of the Solid Waste Program EIS. Each of these materials has special physical or regulatory management requirements that are quite different from those that typically apply to wastes managed under the Solid Waste Program. Further, most of these other materials have been or are being addressed by separate NEPA reviews or other appropriate environmental review process, and impacts from managing these wastes will be included in analyses of cumulative impacts in the Solid Waste Program EIS.

Low-Level Radioactive Waste

Solid LLW includes operating and laboratory wastes (e.g., protective clothing, plastic sheeting, gloves, and analytical wastes), contaminated equipment, reactor and reactor fuel hardware, spent lithium-aluminum targets from which tritium has been extracted, and spent deionizer resin from reactor operations. The analytical laboratories, reactors, separations facilities, plutonium processing facilities, and waste management activities generated most of the LLW currently managed at Hanford. Analytical laboratory and research operations facility deactivation processes, waste management activities, and other on-site and off-site activities would likely continue to generate LLW wastes in the foreseeable future. The WM PEIS estimates that Hanford Site LLW, including waste generated during the next 20 years, would be about 89,000 m^3 (or 6% of the LLW in the DOE complex).

DOE needs to determine the treatment, storage and disposal activities required to properly manage solid LLW that currently exists or may exist at Hanford during the next 20 years. Currently, most of the LLW is certified, packaged to meet waste acceptance criteria, and placed in the Low Level Burial Grounds (LLBG). DOE needs to evaluate options for the disposal of such wastes, including expansion or reconfiguration and ultimate closure of the current LLBG. Small quantities of DOE-generated waste that cannot meet Hanford Site waste disposal criteria are currently stored at various facilities until methods are developed for their disposal. The Hanford Solid Waste Program classifies such wastes as ''greater-than-Category-3 (GTC3).'' DOE must evaluate alternatives for the management of Hanford's GTC3 wastes.

Mixed Low-Level Radioactive Waste

Hanford's MLLW was generated from reactor operations, chemical separation facilities, and laboratory operations, and consists of materials such as sludges, ashes, resins, paint wastes, soils, and contaminated equipment. Hazardous components may include lead and other heavy metals, solvents, paints, oils, other hazardous organic materials, or components that exhibit the RCRA characteristics of ignitability, corrosivity, toxicity, or reactivity. The WM PEIS estimates that the Hanford Site MLLW, including waste generated during the next 20 years, would be about 36,000 m^3 (or 16% of the MLLW in the DOE complex).

DOE needs to determine the storage, treatment and disposal activities required to properly manage solid MLLW that currently exists or may exist at the Hanford Site during the next 20 years. Currently, most MLLW at the Hanford Site is stored in the Central Waste Complex awaiting treatment before disposal.

A small amount of contact-handled MLLW is treated on-site by macroencapsulation or other processes. The remaining contact-handled MLLW requires treatment by other processes, either thermal or non-thermal, before disposal. To meet this need and ensure that DOE meets its commitments under the Tri-Party Agreement, the Hanford Solid Waste Program is pursuing two proposals as interim actions to this EIS. Each proposal involves a separate procurement of commercial treatment services for contact-handled MLLW—one for non-thermal treatment services and the other for thermal treatment services.

Under the Tri-Party Agreement, DOE is required to: 1) award a contract for stabilization of contact-handled MLLW by September 30, 1997 (target milestone M–19–01–T02; DOE has completed this milestone); 2) complete all NEPA requirements related to the commercial contract for stabilization of contact-handled MLLW by September 30, 1998 (target milestone M–19–01–T03); 3) initiate treatment of contact-handled MLLW by September 30, 1999 (milestone M–19–01); and 4) initiate thermal treatment of currently stored and newly generated contact-handled MLLW (at least 600 cubic meters will be treated by December 2005, milestone M–91–12).

DOE is preparing an environmental assessment (DOE/EA–1189) regarding its proposal to procure commercial non-thermal treatment services. Under the proposed action, DOE would transport up to 1860 cubic meters of contact-handled MLLW to a commercial vendor for treatment; the treated waste would be returned to the Hanford Site for disposal. The Hanford Solid Waste Program issued a Request for Proposals for non-thermal treatment services in April 1997. On September 5, 1997, after considering a comparative evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of the offerors' proposals in accordance with its NEPA regulations (10 CFR Part 1021.216), DOE selected a commercial vendor for further consideration of its proposal to provide such services at an existing non-DOE facility in Richland, Washington.

Regarding its proposal to procure commercial thermal treatment services for contact-handled MLLW, DOE issued a Request for Proposals for such services in April 1994. In November 1995, after considering a comparative evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of the offerors' proposals in accordance with its NEPA regulations (10 CFR Part 1021.216), DOE selected a vendor in Richland, Washington (same vendor as for non-thermal treatment) for further consideration of its proposal to provide such services. According to a draft EIS issued in September 1997 by the City of Richland (prepared under the State of Washington Environmental Policy Act to support the City's action regarding the siting, construction and operation of the vendor's proposed thermal treatment facility), the vendor plans to construct a new thermal treatment (gasification and vitrification technology) unit at its facility in Richland and market both thermal and non-thermal treatment services to both the Government and the private sector. DOE is preparing an environmental assessment (DOE/EA–1135) regarding DOE's proposed action, which is to transport up to 5,120 cubic meters of contact-handled MLLW that requires thermal treatment to the vendor's commercial treatment facility for thermal treatment and return the treated (vitrified) waste to the Hanford Site for disposal. DOE's MLLW would comprise about 25% of the capacity of the thermal treatment unit.

If DOE determines that an EIS is required for one or both of the interim actions described above, DOE would rely on the analyses in the Solid Waste Program EIS to support a decision on whether to proceed with one or both of the proposed interim actions. If DOE issues a finding of no significant impact for one or both of the proposed interim actions, DOE's NEPA review would be complete and DOE would evaluate the cumulative environmental impacts of the proposals in the Solid Waste Program EIS. DOE welcomes comments on this approach for fulfilling its environmental review responsibilities under NEPA for these proposals.

Treatment, storage and disposal options for the remainder of Hanford Site MLLW, which is predominantly remote-handled MLLW that cannot be treated or disposed of under existing or planned processes, will be addressed in the Solid Waste Program EIS.

The Hanford Solid Waste Program currently has two RCRA-compliant MLLW trenches that could be used to dispose of MLLW that meet RCRA land disposal restrictions. Additional MLLW disposal capacity is necessary to dispose of MLLW to be managed by the Hanford Site Solid Waste Program.

Transuranic and Mixed Transuranic Waste

Transuranic waste contains radioactive isotopes with atomic numbers greater than 92 (i.e., transuranic isotopes) and half-lives longer than 20 years at concentrations exceeding 100 nanocuries of alpha-emitting radionuclides per gram (mixed transuranic waste also contains hazardous constituents). TRU waste is generated as a result of similar activities to those that generated LLW and MLLW, as described above. The major difference is that TRU waste is contaminated with transuranic isotopes most often associated with plutonium handling facilities. The WM PEIS estimates that Hanford Site TRU waste, including waste generated during the next 20 years, would be about 52,000 m^3 (38% of the TRU waste in the DOE complex).

DOE needs to determine the retrieval, treatment, and storage activities required to properly manage solid TRU waste that currently exists or may exist during the next 20 years at the Hanford Site. Since 1970, DOE has segregated and retrievably stored TRU waste in trenches and caissons, and in above ground storage buildings at the Hanford Site (mainly in the Central Waste Complex and the Transuranic Storage and Assay Facility). DOE hopes to dispose of the existing inventory of TRU waste and anticipated future quantities of TRU waste at the proposed Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. Capabilities such as those provided by Hanford's Waste Receiving and Processing Facility would be needed to meet the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant planning-basis waste acceptance criteria. Alternatives for the treatment of remote-handled TRU have not been determined. Additionally, DOE needs to evaluate alternatives for the transition or reuse of certain existing facilities (e.g., the 221–T canyon)

managed by the Hanford Site Solid Waste Program.

Hazardous Waste

HW is similar to MLLW except that HW is not radioactive. Hazardous components include materials such as lead and other heavy metals, solvents, paints, oils, other hazardous organic materials, or materials that exhibit RCRA characteristics of ignitability, corrosivity, toxicity, or reactivity. They are generated from activities such as facility operations, decontamination and decommissioning of facilities, environmental restoration, waste management, and vehicle maintenance. The WM PEIS estimates that Hanford Site HW, including waste generated during the next 20 years, would be about 6,100 m^3 (9% of the HW in the DOE complex).

DOE needs to determine the activities required to properly manage its existing and anticipated HW. Currently, non-wastewater HW is stored, packaged, and shipped to off-site commercial facilities for treatment and disposal. Based on the WM PEIS, DOE will decide the extent to which it should continue to rely on commercial facilities. The Solid Waste Program EIS will analyze alternatives for the management of Hanford's HW.

Contaminated Equipment

DOE activities have resulted in the contamination of equipment, sometimes to the extent that it is no longer suitable for use. Some of the equipment would potentially be useable if the radioactive and/or hazardous constituent contamination were removed or reduced to acceptable levels. In other cases, decontamination of the equipment may be desirable prior to disposal to minimize worker exposure or to reduce the volume of material that must be disposed of as LLW, HW, or MLLW.

DOE needs to determine the future storage and treatment activities required to properly manage Hanford's contaminated equipment and materials, including those that may be received by Hanford in the future from off-site facilities. Currently, decontamination services are provided at the 2706–T building and 221–T (T–Plant canyon) facilities at Hanford; however, additional services and methods may be desirable to recycle or reuse contaminated equipment and materials.

Preliminary Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives

The preliminary proposed action and alternatives to the proposed action described below for each waste type are consistent with relevant EISs for other DOE sites, and encompass the range of reasonable waste management activities that could be undertaken at the Hanford Site to implement programmatic decisions that would be based on the WM PEIS. The quantities and characteristics of the wastes to be considered would be based on reasonable estimates of wastes from ongoing operations, Hanford's environmental restoration and decontamination and decommissioning operations, and wastes that Hanford might receive from off-site as a result of decisions based on the WM PEIS, decisions under the Federal Facility Compliance Act, or other reasonably foreseeable future programmatic decisions. The alternatives would be adjusted as necessary to conform to new decisions as they are made. The following descriptions indicate the general approach to development of these alternatives, and include examples of potential actions for each type of waste.

No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative, DOE would continue ongoing waste management activities and implement those actions for which NEPA reviews have been completed and decisions made (the baseline for analytical purposes would be the time of issuance of the Draft EIS). The no action alternative will provide a baseline for comparison of the environmental impacts of the proposed action and its alternatives. The following are examples of activities that would be included in the no action alternative (listed by waste type).

LLW: Continued near term storage/disposal operations at the LLBG; indefinite storage of GTC3 waste; continued use of other existing waste management facilities (without expansion or reconfiguration) and off-site treatment technology; and limitations in the receipt of waste from off-site generators to current rates with a gradual reduction as capacity diminishes.

TRU: Indefinite storage of existing and newly generated TRU waste in the existing central facilities; no retrieval of existing TRU waste; no receipt of TRU waste from off-site generators; no treatment of TRU waste on-site; and no shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant for disposal.

MLLW: Continued indefinite storage operations at present centralized facilities, without expansion or closure of disposal facilities; indefinite storage at generator sites; and no new treatment processes initiated.

HW: Continued short-term storage of existing and newly-generated HW at generator sites with shipment off-site for treatment and disposal.

Contaminated Equipment: Continued use of 2706–T and 221–T facilities for current decontamination activities and minimal transition activities for future uses of T–Plant.

Proposed Action

This alternative is the Hanford Solid Waste Management Program long-term planning baseline. In general, it consists of a hybrid of actions from the other alternatives, with options for managing at the Hanford Site some radioactive and hazardous wastes from off-site facilities, including on-site and off-site treatment, storage, and disposal, depending upon the type of waste. The proposed action would implement programmatic decisions resulting from DOE's WM PEIS.

The proposed action includes Hanford solid waste management actions that are needed to comply with regulatory requirements, protect human health and the environment, and support Hanford Site missions. Before the implementation of some of the proposed actions, DOE may need to conduct further project-specific NEPA reviews tiered from this EIS.

LLW: Disposal of LLW in the LLBG, including the expansion, reconfiguration, and closure of burial grounds; development and use of new treatment technologies; receipt of waste from off-site generators or shipment of Hanford waste to other sites; and storage and disposal of GTC3 waste.

TRU: Retrieval and characterization of TRU waste from active LLBG trenches and caissons; storage at the Central Waste Complex; receipt of some TRU waste from off-site generators; treatment of contact-handled TRU waste in the Waste Receiving and Processing Facility or another qualified facility; development at Hanford of treatment technologies/facilities for remote-handled and other special TRU waste or shipment off-site for treatment; and shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant for disposal.

MLLW: Disposal of MLLW in existing RCRA-compliant trenches at the Hanford Site; expansion of Hanford's MLLW trenches; use of vendor treatment services or other treatment; development of new treatment technologies/facilities; receiving and managing MLLW from off-site generators; development and implementation of leachate treatment technologies; disposal of leachate; closure of MLLW trenches; and disposal at off-site facilities.

HW: Packaging and shipping HW to off-site treatment, storage, and disposal

facilities; and closing or transitioning for other use the Nonradioactive Dangerous Waste Storage Facility (this HW storage facility is currently in standby mode).

Contaminated Equipment: Continued decontamination activities at 2706–T and 221–T facilities; evaluation of other decontamination methods and technologies; and receiving equipment from other DOE sites for decontamination at Hanford.

Minimize Solid Waste Management at Hanford Alternative

This alternative would minimize the use of land and facilities at Hanford (i.e., maximize management of Hanford's solid radioactive and hazardous wastes at either commercial facilities or other DOE sites).

LLW: Disposal of existing LLW at LLBG; newly generated waste shipped off-site for treatment, storage, and disposal; no receipt of waste from off-site generators; GTC3 waste managed on-site for eventual off-site disposal; and closure of LLBG.

TRU: All retrievable TRU waste from the LLBG retrieved; and all newly generated and existing TRU waste packaged and shipped off-site for treatment and disposal.

MLLW: Storage of MLLW pending treatment; newly generated and existing MLLW shipped off-site for treatment and disposal; and no receipt of waste from off-site generators.

HW: Packaging and shipping HW to off-site treatment, storage, and disposal facilities; and the Nonradioactive Dangerous Waste Storage Facility transitioned to other uses.

Contaminated Equipment: Contaminated equipment shipped off-site for treatment and disposal; discontinue use of 221–T and 2706–T facilities for decontamination; and deactivate T-plant.

Maximize Solid Waste Management at Hanford Alternative

This alternative would maximize the use of Hanford Site land and facilities for management of solid radioactive and hazardous wastes. It would include management of wastes from other DOE facilities, consistent with alternatives in the WM PEIS under which the Hanford Site would serve as a regional or national management site for specific types of waste.

Under this alternative, the Hanford Site would manage more waste than under the proposed action, and DOE would improve or add to waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities at the Hanford Site accordingly. This increase would be described and analyzed in terms of increases to the waste quantities used to evaluate the proposed action.

LLW: Treatment, consolidation and disposal of existing LLW and GTC3 on-site; acceptance of LLW from off-site generators for treatment, storage, and disposal at Hanford; expansion of treatment, storage and disposal facilities on-site as necessary with minimum use of off-site options; and closure of LLBG.

MLLW: Receipt of MLLW from off-site generators for treatment, storage, and disposal; development of new treatment technologies/facilities; minimized use of off-site options, maximized on-site treatment; disposal of leachate on-site; disposal of newly generated and existing MLLW on-site; expansion of existing MLLW disposal facilities and possible construction of new facilities as needed; and closure of MLLW trenches.

TRU: Retrieval and characterization of TRU waste from active LLBG trenches and caissons; storage at the Central Waste Complex; receipt of TRU waste from off-site generators (i.e., serve as primary regional/national treatment facility to prepare TRU waste for disposal at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant); treatment of contact-handled TRU waste in the Waste Receiving and Processing Facility or another qualified facility; development at Hanford of technologies/facilities for the treatment of remote-handled and other special TRU waste; and shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant for disposal.

HW: Development and use of on-site treatment, storage, and disposal facilities; and receipt of HW from off-site generators for disposition.

Contaminated Equipment: Continued decontamination activities at 2706–T and 221–T facilities or at new facilities that would be constructed as needed; development of mobile or other decontamination methods and technologies; and receipt of equipment from off-site generators for decontamination at Hanford.

Relationship to Other Actions

Interim Actions

The following environmental assessments are currently being prepared for potential interim actions that DOE is considering during the preparation of this EIS:

- Off-Site Thermal Treatment of Low-level Mixed Waste, DOE/EA–1135.
- Solid Low-level Mixed Waste Non-Thermal Treatment, DOE/EA–1189.

Other Potentially-Related NEPA Documents in Preparation

The following DOE or other-agency NEPA documents in preparation may be related to the Hanford Site Solid Waste Program EIS:

- DOE/EIS–0222, Hanford Remedial Action EIS and Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
- DOE/EIS–0274, Disposal of S3G and D1G Prototype Reactor Plants EIS.
- DOE/EIS–0283, Surplus Plutonium Disposition EIS
- Commercial Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Site (U.S. Ecology) on the Hanford Site (an EIS being prepared by the State of Washington Department of Ecology and Department of Health under the State of Washington Environmental Policy Act).
- Off-Site Thermal Treatment of Low-Level Mixed Waste, Richland Washington (an EIS being prepared by the City of Richland under the State of Washington Environmental Policy Act).

Existing Related NEPA Documentation

The following lists completed DOE or other-agency NEPA documents that are related to the Hanford Site Solid Waste Program EIS:

- ERDA–1538, EIS for Waste Management Operations, Hanford Reservation, Richland, Washington, U.S. Energy and Research Development Administration, Washington, D.C., 1975.
- DOE/EIS–0113, EIS for Disposal of Hanford High-Level, Transuranic, and Tank Wastes, December 1987. Record of Decision, 53 FR 12449, April 14, 1988.
- DOE/EIS–0119, Decommissioning of Eight Surplus Production Reactors at the Hanford Site EIS, Richland, Washington, December 1992. Record of Decision, 58 FR 48509, September 16, 1993.
- DOE/EIS–0189, Tank Waste Remediation System, Hanford Site EIS, August 1996. Record of Decision, 62 FR 8693, February 26, 1997.
- DOE/EIS–0200–F, Waste Management Programmatic EIS, May 1997.
- DOE/EIS–0026–S2, Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Supplemental EIS–II, September 1997.
- DOE/EIS–0245, Management of Spent Nuclear Fuel from the K Basins at the Hanford Site EIS, Richland, Washington, January 1996. Record of Decision, 61 FR 10736, March 15, 1996.
- DOE/EIS–0244, Plutonium Finishing Plant Stabilization EIS, Hanford Site, Richland, Washington, May 1996. Record of Decision, 61 FR 36352, July 10, 1996.
- Disposal of Decommissioned Defueled Naval Submarine Reactor Plants EIS (prepared by the Department of the Navy), May 1984. Record of Decision, 49 FR 47649, December 6, 1984.
- DOE/EIS–0259, Disposal of Decommissioned, Defueled Cruiser,

Ohio and Los Angeles Class Naval Reactor Plants EIS, adopted by the U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, D.C., May 1996. Record of Decision, 61 FR 41596, August 9, 1996.

- DOE/EA–0981, Solid Waste Retrieval Complex, Enhanced Radioactive and Mixed Waste Storage Facility, Infrastructure Upgrades, and Central Waste Support Complex, Hanford Site, Richland Washington, Environmental Assessment, September 1995.
- DOE/EA–1203, Trench 33 Widening in Low Level Waste Burial Ground 218–W–5, Environmental Assessment, July 1997.
- DOE/EA–1211, Relocation and Storage of Isotopic Heat Sources (formerly DOE/EA-0982, Special Case Waste), Environmental Assessment, June 1997.

Preliminary Identification of Environmental Issues

The following issues have been tentatively identified for analysis in the EIS. The list is presented to facilitate comment on the scope of the EIS. It is not intended to be all-inclusive or to predetermine the potential impacts of any of the alternatives.

- Effects on the public and on-site workers from releases of radiological and nonradiological materials during normal operations and reasonably foreseeable accidents.
- Long-term risks to human populations resulting from waste disposal.
- Effects on air and water quality from normal operations and reasonably foreseeable accidents.
- Cumulative effects, including impacts from other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions at the Hanford Site.
- Effects on endangered species, archaeological/cultural/historical sites, floodplains and wetlands, and priority habitat.
- Effects from transportation and from reasonably foreseeable transportation accidents.
- Socioeconomic impacts on surrounding communities.
- Disproportionately high and adverse effects on low-income and minority populations (Environmental Justice).
- Unavoidable adverse environmental effects.
- Short-term uses of the environment versus long-term productivity.
- Potential irretrievable and irreversible commitment of resources.
- The consumption of natural resources and energy, including water, natural gas, and electricity.
- Pollution prevention, waste minimization, and potential mitigative measures.

Development of the Hanford Site Solid Waste Program EIS

DOE will consider comments and suggestions received during the scoping period in its preparation of the draft EIS. On completing the draft EIS, DOE will announce its availability in the **Federal Register** and local media, and will again solicit public comments. DOE will consider comments on the draft EIS in its preparation of the final EIS. The preliminary schedule for issuance of the Hanford Site Solid Waste Program EIS is:

Availability of Draft EIS: Spring 1998.
Draft EIS Public Comment Period: Summer 1998.
Availability of Final EIS: Late 1998.
Record of Decision: Early 1999.

Public Scoping Meetings

DOE invites the public to attend scoping meetings at which comments may be presented on the scope of the EIS. Oral and written comments will be considered equally in preparation of the EIS. Oral and written comments will be received at public scoping meetings to be held on the dates and at the locations given below:

November 12, 1997—Meeting Times: 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. PST and 7:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m. PST, Federal Building, 825 Jadwin, Richland, WA 99352

November 13, 1997—Meeting Time: 7:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m. PST, Vert Center, 500 S.W. Dorion, Pendleton, OR 97801

DOE staff will begin each scoping meeting with a short presentation on the EIS process, the Hanford Site Solid Waste Program, and the proposed action and alternatives. A brief informal question and answer session will follow. Individuals and organization and agency spokespersons will then be invited to present comments.

Requests to speak at the public meetings may be made in person at the meeting, by calling the DOE NEPA Document Manager by 3:00 p.m. PST the day before the meeting, or by writing to the DOE Document Manager (see **ADDRESSES**, above). Speakers will be heard on a first-come, first-served basis as time permits. Written comments also will be accepted at the meetings. Speakers are encouraged to provide written versions of their oral comments for the record.

The meetings will be conducted by a moderator. DOE staff and the moderator may ask speakers clarifying questions. Individuals requesting to speak on behalf of an organization must identify the organization. Each speaker will be allowed five minutes to present comments unless more time is available. Comments will be recorded by a court reporter and will become part of the scoping meeting record. DOE also will provide opportunities for separate informal discussions about the scope and content of the EIS, and will make subject matter experts available to answer questions.

Issued in Washington, DC this 21st day of October, 1997.

Peter N. Brush,

Acting Assistant Secretary, Environment, Safety and Health.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Chicago Operations Office; Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology; Notice of Solicitation for Cooperative Agreement/Applications

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of Solicitation.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), pursuant to theDOE Financial Assistance Rules, intends to issue Solicitation No. DE–SC02–98NE21596, for Administrative and Management Services for the NuclearEngineering /Health Physics Fellowship & Scholarship Program on or about October 31, 997. This is a reissue to the notification previously published of the **Federal Register** on June 25, 1997.

DATES AND ADDRESSES: Applications submitted in response to this Notice should be received byDecember 4, 1997. To obtain a complete solicitation package, please contact Nadine S. Kijak, Chairperson, U.S. Department of Energy, Chicago Operations Office, Acquisition and Assistance Group, 9800 S. Cass Avenue, Argonne, IL 60439 Telephone 630/252–2508.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nadine S. Kijak at 630/252–2508 or by fax at 630/252–2522.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Program Title: Nuclear Engineering/ Health Physics Fellowship and Scholarship Program.

Solicitation Number: DE-SC02–98NE21596.

Citation of Authority: PL 95–91.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology, supports graduate fellows and undergraduate scholars as a means