

SUMMARY: This announces the availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) which assesses the potential environmental impacts of the construction and operation of a facility to pilot test the chemical neutralization process followed by supercritical water oxidation (SCWO) as a potential disposal technology for bulk agent VX stored at Newport Chemical Depot (NECD).

DATES: The public review period will end 30 days following the publication of the Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: To obtain copies of the FEIS contact Ms. Mona Harney, Newport Outreach Office, 140 South Main Street, Newport, Indiana 47966.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Catherine Herlinger at (800) 488-0648 or (410) 463-2583.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed facility will be used to demonstrate, as part of a research and development program, the neutralization process followed by SCWO to destroy VX agent currently stored in containers at NECD.

The alternatives considered in this FEIS are the proposed action and no action (continued storage of VX in ton containers). Although the no action alternative is not viable under Pub. L. 99-145, it was analyzed to provide a comparison with the proposed action. In addition, the no action alternative would not comply with Pub. L. 102-484, which specifies that the Army must consider using a technological alternative to incineration.

The FEIS concludes that VX stored in bulk containers can be pilot tested at NECD using the neutralization process, followed by SCWO, in a safe and environmentally acceptable manner. At one time, the option of sending the neutralization hydrolysate to an off-site biotreatment facility was under consideration by the Army. However, technical and programmatic evaluations have concluded that off-site biotreatment is not suitable at this time. Therefore, off-site biotreatment is not addressed further in this EIS.

A Notice of Availability was published on June 12, 1998 (63 FR 32207), which provided notice that the Draft EIS was available for comment. Comments from the DEIS have been considered and responses are included in this FEIS. After a 30-day waiting period the Army will publish a Record of Decision.

Copies of the FEIS may also be obtained by calling the Newport Outreach Office at (765) 492-4445.

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 cherlin@cdra.apgea.army.mil.

Dated: December 22, 1998.

Raymond J. Fatz,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Advisory Committee Meeting Notice

AGENCY: U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC).

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), announcement is made of the following meeting:

Name of Committee: Distance Learning/Training Technology Subcommittee of the Army Education Advisory Committee.

Date: 20-22 January 1999.

Place: Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Time: 1400-1630 on 20 January 1999; 0830-1630 on 21 January 1999; and 0830-1130 on 22 January 1999.

Proposed Agenda: Review and discussion of the status of Army Distance Learning.

Purpose of the Meeting: The members will advise the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff (ADCST), HQ Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), on matters pertaining to education and training technologies to be used for Army Distance Learning and resident instruction.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

All communications regarding this subcommittee should be addressed to Mr. Richard Karpinski, at Commander, Headquarters TRADOC, ATTN: ATTG-CF (Mr. Karpinski), Fort Monroe, VA 23651-5000; telephone number (757) 728-5531.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Meeting of the advisory committee is open to the public. Because of restricted meeting space, attendance will be limited to those persons who have notified the Advisory Committee Management Office in writing at least five days prior to the meeting of their intention to attend. Contact Mr. Karpinski (757)

728-5531 for meeting agenda and specific locations.

Any member of the public may file a written statement with the committee before, during, or after the meeting. To the extent that time permits, the committee chairman may allow public presentations or oral statements at the meeting.

Mary V. Yonts,

Alternate Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.120A]

Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year 1999 under the Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program.

Purpose of Program

The Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program (MSEIP) is designed to effect long-range improvement in science education at predominantly minority institutions and to increase the flow of underrepresented ethnic minorities, particularly minority women, into scientific careers.

Eligibility for Grants

With the October 7, 1998 enactment of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998, Pub. L. 105-244, the criteria for eligibility for grants under MSEIP were amended. Congress also relocated MSEIP from Title X to Title III of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA). Under section 361 of the HEA, as now amended, eligibility for grants is now defined as follows:

Eligibility to receive grants under this part is limited to—

- (1) Public and private nonprofit institutions of higher education that:
 - (A) Award baccalaureate degrees; and
 - (B) Are minority institutions;
- (2) Public or private nonprofit institutions of higher education that:
 - (A) Award associate degrees; and
 - (B) Are minority institutions that:
 - (i) Have a curriculum that includes science or engineering subjects; and
 - (ii) Enter into a partnership with public or private nonprofit institutions of higher education that award baccalaureate degrees in science and engineering;
- (3) Nonprofit science-oriented organizations, professional scientific

societies, and institutions of higher education that award baccalaureate degrees, that:

(A) Provide a needed service to a group of minority institutions; or

(B) Provide in-service training for project directors, scientists, and engineers from minority institutions; or

(4) Consortia of organizations, that provide needed services to 1 or more minority institutions, the membership of which may include:

(A) Institutions of higher education which have a curriculum in science and engineering;

(B) Institutions of higher education that have a graduate or professional program in science or engineering;

(C) Research laboratories of, or under contract with, the Department of Energy;

(D) Private organizations that have science or engineering facilities; or

(E) Quasi-governmental entities that have a significant scientific or engineering mission.

Section 365(4) was also amended to include behavioral sciences in the definition of science programs that can be supported.

Deadline for Application Transmittal: March 5, 1999.

Applications Available: January 5, 1999.

Eligible Applicants: (a) For institutional, design, and special projects described in 34 CFR 637.14 (a), (b), and (c)—public and nonprofit private minority institutions as defined in section 361 (1) and (2) of the HEA.

(b) For special projects described in 34 CFR 637.14 (b) and (c)—non-profit organizations, institutions, and consortia as defined in section 361 (3) and (4) of the HEA.

(c) For cooperative projects described in 34 CFR 637.15—groups of nonprofit accredited colleges and universities whose primary fiscal agent is an eligible minority institution as defined in 34 CFR 637.4(b).

Note: A minority institution is defined in 34 CFR 637.4(b) as an accredited college or university whose enrollment of a single minority group or combination of minority groups, as defined in 34 CFR 637.4(b), exceeds 50 percent of the total enrollment.

Estimated Range and Average Size of Awards: The amounts referenced below are advisory and represent the Department's best estimates at this time. The average size of an award is the estimate for a single-year project or for the first budget period of a multi-year project.

Institutional

Estimated Range of Awards:
\$100,000–\$200,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards:
\$120,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 22.

Design

Estimated Range of Awards: \$15,000–\$20,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards:
\$18,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 4.

Special

Estimated Range of Awards: \$20,000–\$150,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards:
\$25,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 11.

Cooperative

Estimated Range of Awards: \$20,000–\$500,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards:
\$280,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 4.

Applicable Regulations

Regulations applicable to this program are (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 83, 85, and 86; and (b) The regulations in 34 CFR part 637, except for 34 CFR 637.2 which has been superseded by section 361 of the HEA, as amended.

Note: The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to institutions of higher education only.

Project Period: Up to 36 months.
For Application or Information Contact: Mr. Kenneth Waters or Ms. Deborah Newkirk, Institutional Development and Undergraduate Service, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Maryland Avenue, SW (Portals CY-80), Washington, DC 20202-5335. Telephone: 202/708-9926 or by Internet to deborah_newkirk@ed.gov. The government encourages applicants to FAX requests for applications to 202/401-7532.

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800/877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 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. However, the Department is not able to reproduce in an alternate format the standard forms included in the application package.

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

Sections 301 (a), (b), and 307 of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998, Public Law 105-244, 112 Stat. 1581.

Dated: December 22, 1998.

David A. Longanecker,

Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

(CFDA Nos.: 84.297A and 84.209A)

Native Hawaiian Curriculum Development, Teacher Training and Recruitment Program and Native Hawaiian Family-Based Education Centers Program

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of proposed funding priorities for fiscal year (FY) 1999.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Education proposes to establish absolute priorities for the FY 1999 grant competitions under the Native Hawaiian Curriculum Development, Teacher Training and Recruitment Program and the Native Hawaiian Family-Based Education Centers Program. Under the priorities, funds under the Native Hawaiian Curriculum Development, Teacher Training and Recruitment Program would be used to support activities in the areas of (1) computer literacy and technology education, (2) agriculture education partnerships, (3) astronomy, (4) indigenous health, (5) waste management, and (6) prisoner education. Funds under the Native Hawaiian Family-Based Education Centers Program would be used to support preschool education.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before January 28, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Madeline Baggett, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 3E228, Washington, D.C. 20202-6410,