

(HEU) Materials Storage mission and Special Materials mission. The preferred alternative is to construct and operate a new HEU Materials Storage Facility and a new Special Materials Complex. Preferred sites on Y-12 for these new facilities have not been selected, but will be identified in the Y-12 Final SWEIS.

DATES: Comments on the Y-12 Draft SWEIS may be submitted to DOE (see Addresses below) until February 5, 2001. To ensure consideration in the Y-12 Final SWEIS, comments must be postmarked by February 5, 2001. Late comments will be considered to the extent practicable. Two public hearings to discuss issues and receive oral comments on the Y-12 Draft SWEIS will be held as follows: Thursday, January 25, 2001, in the Cumberland Room at the Oak Ridge Conference Center located at the Oak Ridge Mall, Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The first hearing will be held from 1-4 p.m. The second public hearing will be held from 6-9 p.m. The public hearings will provide the public with an opportunity to present comments, ask questions, and discuss concerns with DOE/NNSA officials regarding the Y-12 Draft SWEIS.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the Y-12 Draft SWEIS may be submitted by mail (U.S. Department of Energy, Oak Ridge Operations Office, Attn: Mr. Gary Hartman, P.O. Box 2001, Oak Ridge, TN 37831), by fax (1-865-576-1237), by phone (1-865-576-0273), or electronically (Y12EIS@oro.doe.gov). Specific information regarding the public meetings can be obtained by calling 1-865-576-0273, writing to the address above, or electronically via the Y-12 SWEIS web site: <http://www.ttclients.com/y12/>. Copies of the Y-12 Draft SWEIS and/or its Summary may also be obtained by contacting Mr. Gary Hartman by any of the means described above. The Y-12 Draft SWEIS is also available for review at the U.S. Department of Energy Public Reading Room at 230 Warehouse Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information on the NNSA NEPA process, please contact: Mr. Henry Garson, NEPA Compliance Officer for Defense Programs, U.S. Department of Energy/NNSA, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585; or telephone 1-800-832-0885, ext. 30470. For general information on the DOE NEPA process, please contact: Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NNSA is responsible for providing the Nation with nuclear weapons and ensuring that those nuclear weapons remain safe, secure, and reliable. As one of the major production facilities, the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant has been DOE's primary site for enriched uranium processing and storage, and one of the manufacturing facilities for maintaining the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile. In recent years, the emphasis of the U.S. weapons program has shifted from developing and producing new weapons to dismantlement and maintenance of a smaller stockpile.

The Y-12 Draft SWEIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts from continued operation of the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant, and the construction and operation of new facilities for two of Y-12's missions: HEU Materials Storage mission and Special Materials mission. Alternatives considered for the HEU Materials Storage mission include constructing and operating a new HEU Materials Facility at one of two candidate sites, or expanding and operating Building 9215. Three candidate sites are evaluated for a new Special Materials Complex for the Special Materials mission at Y-12. More specifically, the Y-12 Draft SWEIS analyzes potential impacts on land uses, transportation, socioeconomic, geology and soils, hydrology, biological resources, air quality/noise, site facilities and support activities, waste management, and cultural resources. In addition, environmental justice, radiological and chemical impacts during normal operations, and effects of accidents on workers and the public are included in the assessment. A disclaimer statement was mistakenly printed on the inside cover of each volume of the Draft SWEIS. DOE wishes to inform the public that the information contained in the Draft SWEIS is accurate and complete. Please disregard this disclaimer statement.

The preferred alternative is to construct and operate a new HEU Materials Storage Facility and a new Special Materials Complex. Preferred sites on Y-12 for these new facilities have not been selected, but will be identified in the Y-12 Final SWEIS. The Y-12 Final SWEIS is scheduled to be completed in August 2001. A Record of Decision would be issued no sooner than 30 days after the Y-12 Final SWEIS is issued.

Issued in Washington, DC this 29th day of December, 2000.

Madelyn R. Creedon,

Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy.

[FR Doc. 01-443 Filed 1-5-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

PhA Environmental Restoration Corporation

AGENCY: Office of the General Counsel, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of intent to grant exclusive patent licenses.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of an intent to grant to PhA Environmental Restoration Corp., of Oak Hill, Virginia, exclusive licenses to practice the inventions described in U.S. Patent No. 5,324,661, entitled "Chemotactic Selection of Pollutant Degrading Bacteria" and U.S. Patent No. 5,326,703, entitled "Method of Degrading Pollutants in Soil." The inventions are owned by the United States of America, as represented by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

DATES: Written comments or nonexclusive license applications are to be received at the address listed below no later than March 9, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert J. Marchick, Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property, U.S. Department of Energy, Forrestal Building, Room 6F-067, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585; Telephone (202) 586-4792.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 35 U.S.C. 209 provides the Department with authority to grant exclusive licenses in Department-owned inventions, if, among other things, the agency finds that the public will be served by the granting of the license. The statute requires that no exclusive license may be granted unless public notice of the intent to grant the license has been provided, and the agency has considered all comments received, in response to that public notice, before the end of the comment period.

PhA Environmental Restoration Corporation, of Oak Hill, Virginia, has applied for exclusive license to practice

the inventions embodied in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,324,661 and 5,326,703, and has plans for commercialization of the inventions.

The exclusive licenses will each be subject to a license and other rights retained by the U.S. Government, and other terms and conditions to be negotiated. DOE intends to negotiate to grant the licenses, unless, within 60 days of this notice, the Assistant General Counsel for Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property, Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585, receives in writing any of the following, together with supporting documents:

(i) A statement from any person setting forth reasons why it would not be in the best interests of the United States to grant either of the proposed licenses; or

(ii) An application for a nonexclusive license to either invention, in which applicant states that he already has brought either invention to practical application or is likely to bring either invention to practical application expeditiously.

The Department will review all timely written responses to this notice, and will proceed with negotiating the licenses if, after consideration of written responses to this notice, a finding is made that the licenses are in the public interest.

Issued in Washington, DC, on January 2, 2001.

Paul A. Gottlieb,

Assistant General Counsel for Technology, Transfer and Intellectual Property.

[FR Doc. 01-441 Filed 1-5-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Bonneville Power Administration

Umatilla Generating Project

AGENCY: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Department of Energy (DOE).

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

SUMMARY: This notice announces BPA's intention to prepare an EIS, under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), on a proposed electrical interconnection requested by Umatilla Generating Company, L.P., to integrate electrical power from the Umatilla Generating Project into the Federal transmission grid. BPA proposes to execute an agreement with Umatilla Generating Company L.P., to provide them with an interconnection.

DATES: BPA has established a 45-day scoping period during which affected landowners, concerned citizens, special interest groups, local governments, and any other interested parties are invited to comment on the scope of the proposed EIS. Written comments are due to the address below no later than February 22, 2001. Comments may also be made at an EIS scoping open house meeting to be held on January 30, 2001.

ADDRESSES: To comment, telephone toll-free 1-800-622-4519; send an e-mail to the BPA Internet address comment@bpa.gov; or mail comments to Communications, Bonneville Power Administration—KC-7, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, Oregon, 97212. To be placed on the project mail list, call 1-800-622-4520.

An EIS open house will be held on January 30, 2001, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at Hermiston High School, 600 S. First Street, Hermiston, Oregon. At this informal scoping meeting, BPA staff will answer questions and accept oral and written comments, and representatives of BPA and the Umatilla Generating Company, L.P., will be available to discuss the proposed project and the topics to be addressed in the EIS. Information on the proposed project will be available for review.

Scoping will help BPA ensure that a full range of issues related to this proposal is addressed in the EIS, and also will identify significant or potentially significant impacts that may result from the proposed project. When completed, the Draft EIS will be circulated for review and comment, and BPA will hold a public comment meeting on the Draft EIS. BPA will consider and respond in the Final EIS to comments received on the Draft EIS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Thomas C. McKinney, Bonneville Power Administration—KEC-4, P.O. Box 3621, Portland, Oregon, 97208-3621; toll-free telephone 1-800-282-3713; direct telephone 503-230-4749; or e-mail tc McKinney@bpa.gov. Additional information can be found at BPA's web site: www.bpa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EIS will assess the environmental consequences of the agreement which BPA proposes with Umatilla Generating Company, L.P., and of any modifications to the transmission system needed to provide an electrical connection under the terms of the agreement. In addition to these Federal actions, the EIS will consider the environmental consequences of construction and operation of the Umatilla Generating Project.

The proposed project has several components. They include an electrical connection at BPA's McNary Substation for the Umatilla Generating Company, L.P.; a natural-gas-fired, combined-cycle combustion turbine; electric-power-generation plant (Umatilla Generating Project); a natural-gas pipeline; and new and modified electric-power-transmission lines. All proposed facilities would be located within Umatilla County, Oregon.

The Umatilla Generating Project is proposed by the Umatilla Generating Company, L.P., an independent power producer. They would build and operate the power plant, and would also pay for the construction of approximately three-quarters of a mile of new transmission lines and modification of approximately 11 miles of existing transmission lines owned by the Umatilla Electric Cooperative. The new transmission lines would be owned by the Umatilla Electric Cooperative. PG&E Gas Transmission-Northwest Corporation (GTN) or Cascade Natural Gas would build a natural-gas pipeline up to 5 miles in length to supply fuel to the power plant.

A. Proposed Action. The proposed Umatilla Generating Project would be a combustion turbine/combined-cycle electric power plant with a nominal generating capacity of 550 megawatts. The energy facility site would be located about 4 miles southwest of the city of Hermiston and about one-half mile west of the existing Hermiston Generating Plant.

The proposed Umatilla Generating Project would consist of two essentially identical combustion turbine generators, two heat-recovery steam generators (HRSG) and one steam turbine. The proposed generating project would be fueled by natural gas from the existing GTN pipeline that passes approximately 5 miles south of the energy facility site. Natural gas would be burned in the combustion turbines. Expanding gases from combustion would turn rotors within the turbines that are connected to electric generators. The hot gases exhausted from the combustion turbines would be used to raise steam in the HRSGs. Steam from the HRSGs would be expanded through a steam turbine that drives its own electric generator.

Water would be needed at the facility to generate steam and cool the steam process. Water would be supplied from the Port of Umatilla's regional water supply pipeline that currently extends to the Hermiston Generating Plant. A recirculating cooling system employing mechanically induced draft evaporative cooling towers would be used to minimize water use. Water would be