

ACTION: Information update and reopening of scoping period.

SUMMARY: On October 7, 1998, NASA published in the **Federal Register** a notice of intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for NASA's Pluto-Kuiper Express Mission. The notice was issued in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and Council on Environmental Quality and NASA's implementing regulations. Since publication of the NOI, NASA prepared further evaluations of the mission design, including the alternatives indicated in the NOI. These evaluations have resulted in refinement of NASA's original concept for the mission, specifically with respect to details such as specific launch dates, launch vehicle options, and the use of an advanced radioisotope power source (RPS) for onboard power. The renamed Pluto-Kuiper Belt mission is now proposed for launch in January 2006 on an expendable launch vehicle from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station (CCAFS), Florida, with an arrival at Pluto not later than 2020. NASA's original concept has also been modified to utilize a conventional radioisotope thermoelectric generator (RTG) instead of an advanced RPS originally envisioned. It is not anticipated that any radioisotope heater units (RHU) would be needed.

The draft EIS will address the environmental impacts associated with launching and operating the mission, the No Action alternative, and other alternatives. This notice informs the public of the revised proposal, reopens the scoping period, and solicits new public comment.

DATES: Interested parties are invited to submit comments on environmental concerns in writing on or before July 25, 2002, to assure full consideration during the extended scoping process.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to Mr. Kurt Lindstrom, NASA Headquarters, Code SE, Washington, DC 20546-0001. Comments may also be sent by electronic mail to: osspluto@hq.nasa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Kurt Lindstrom, Code SE, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC 20546-0001; 202-358-1588; electronic mail: osspluto@hq.nasa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The October 7, 1998, NOI described the purpose and structure of the EIS for the proposed Pluto-Kuiper Express mission.

At that time NASA's original concept was to launch the Pluto-Kuiper Express spacecraft in November 2003 or in December 2004 on either the Space Shuttle from Kennedy Space Center, Florida, or an expendable launch vehicle from CCAFS, Florida. Both proposed trajectories would have involved a Jupiter gravity assist maneuver, allowing the spacecraft to arrive at Pluto in time to take advantage of its close orbital position relative to the Sun. The original concept for the Pluto-Kuiper Express mission included the potential use of a new advanced RPS under study for deep-space exploration, and approximately 80 RHUs. NASA anticipated that an RPS, due to improved power conversion system efficiency, would require less radioactive material (plutonium dioxide) than a conventional RTG.

Since publication of the 1998 NOI, NASA has revised its original concept for the Pluto-Kuiper Express mission, renamed the Pluto-Kuiper Belt mission. As a result of more detailed mission design studies and programmatic evaluations, NASA has determined that launch of the Pluto-Kuiper Belt spacecraft is not feasible before January 2006, and therefore has eliminated the November 2003 and December 2004 launch opportunities from further consideration. The January 2006 launch opportunity is now the launch opportunity for the proposed mission. The proposed mission would still require a Jupiter gravity assist trajectory. The flight time to Pluto with the new opportunity would be 10 to 12 years, with the spacecraft arriving at Pluto before 2020. After 2006, Jupiter will not be in the proper alignment to provide a gravity assist toward Pluto until 2015. Arrival by 2020 gives the best opportunity to study Pluto near its closest approach to the sun, which will provide the best conditions for scientific observations. A backup launch opportunity may exist in 2007 using a direct trajectory to Pluto. While direct trajectories to Pluto are available approximately every 13 months, after 2007 the flight times are projected to be too long to provide timely return of scientific data.

The proposed 2006 launch date for the mission also affects potential use of the Space Shuttle, which was proposed in the original NOI as the primary launch vehicle. For programmatic and technical reasons, the Space Shuttle is not proposed for this mission. As proposed, the Pluto-Kuiper Belt mission would be launched on an expendable launch vehicle.

Use of an RPS on the proposed mission would be dependent upon full-

scale development of a new power conversion system and qualification testing of the RPS to assure its suitability for long-duration space missions. The development and testing processes would not result in an RPS that would be fully qualified by 2006 for use on the proposed mission. Thus, the mission concept has been revised to include a conventional RTG to provide electrical power for the Pluto-Kuiper Belt spacecraft. Because a conventional RTG would generate a greater amount of heat, RHUs would no longer be needed to provide auxiliary heat for spacecraft thermal control.

In preparing the Pluto-Kuiper Belt mission draft EIS, NASA will consider comments from the scoping process initiated by publication of the original 1998 NOI, and any new comments received in response to this notice.

Jeffrey E. Sutton,

Assistant Administrator for Management Systems.

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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice 02-073]

NASA Advisory Council, Biological and Physical Research Advisory Committee Commercial Advisory Subcommittee; Meeting

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, as amended, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration announces a meeting of the NASA Advisory Council, Biological and Physical Research Advisory Committee, Commercial Advisory Subcommittee.

DATES: Wednesday, June 19, 2002, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Room 3P44, 300 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20546.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Candace Livingston, Code UM, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, DC 20546, 202-358-0697.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting will be open to the public to the seating capacity of the room. Advance notice of attendance to the Executive Secretary is requested. The agenda for the meeting will include the following topics:

—Report of the REMAP Task Force Team

- Status of the entire NASA Commercial Program
- Status of the Non-Government Organization
- Committee Concerns
- Staffing the Division
- Public Information on Commercial Accomplishments
- Role of the CAS and Its Membership

It is imperative that the meeting be held on this date to accommodate the scheduling priorities of the key participants. Visitors will be requested to sign a visitor's register.

Dated: May 31, 2002.

Sylvia K. Kraemer,

*Advisory Committee Management Officer,
National Aeronautics and Space
Administration.*

[FR Doc. 02-14408 Filed 6-7-02; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting Notice

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

DATES: Weeks of June 10, 17, 24, July 1, 8, 15, 2002.

PLACE: Commissioners' Conference Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

STATUS: Public and Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Week of June 10, 2002

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of June 10, 2002.

Week of June 17, 2002—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of June 17, 2002.

Week of June 24, 2002—Tentative

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

- 1:55 p.m.—Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (If needed)
- 2 p.m.—Discussion of intragovernmental Issues (Closed—Ex. 1)

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

- 10:30 a.m.—All Employees Meeting (Public Meeting)
- 1:30 p.m.—All Employees Meeting (Public Meeting)

Week of July 1, 2002—Tentative

Monday, July 1, 2002

- 2 p.m.—Discussion of International Safeguards Issues (Closed—Ex. 9)

Week of July 8, 2002—Tentative

Wednesday, July 10, 2002

- 9:25 a.m.—Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (If needed)
- 9:30 a.m.—Briefing on License Renewal Program and Power Uprate Review Activities (Public Meeting) (Contacts: Noel Dudley, 301-415-1154, for license renewal program; Mohammed Shuaibi, 301-415-2859, for power uprate review activities)

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—www.nrc.gov

- 2 p.m.—Meeting with Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) (Public Meeting) (Contact: John Larkins, 301-415-7360)

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—www.nrc.gov

Week of July 15, 2002—Tentative

Thursday, July 18, 2002

- 1:55 p.m.—Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (if needed)
- 2 p.m.—Briefing on Special Review Group Response to Differing Professional Opinion/Differing Professional View (DPO/DPV) Review (Public Meeting) (Contact: John Craig, 301-415-1703)

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—www.nrc.gov

* The schedule for Commission meetings is subject to change on short notice. To verify the status of meetings call (recording)—(301) 415-1292. Contact person for more information: David Louis Gamberoni (301) 415-1651.

The NRC Commission Meeting Schedule can be found on the Internet at: www.nrc.gov/what-we-do/policy-making/schedule.html.

This notice is distributed by mail to several hundred subscribers; if you no longer wish to receive it, or would like to be added to the distribution, please contact the Office of the Secretary, Washington, DC 20555 (301-415-1969). In addition, distribution of this meeting notice over the internet system is available. If you are interested in receiving this Commission meeting schedule electronically, please send an electronic message to dkw@nrc.gov.

Dated: June 6, 2002.

David Louis Gamberoni,

Technical Coordinator, Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-14616 Filed 6-6-02; 11:57 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Solicitation of Public Comments on Agency Guidelines for Ensuring Information Quality: Reopening of Comment Period

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

ACTION: Reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: On May 3, 2002, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) published in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 22463) its draft Information Quality (IQ) Guidelines for public comment. The comment period expired on May 30, 2002. During this comment period, the NRC received requests to extend the comment period. In view of the importance of the IQ Guidelines, the NRC is reopening the comment period until 5:00 p.m. on June 26, 2002.

DATES: The comment period has been reopened and now expires at 5:00 p.m. on June 26, 2002. Comments received after this date and time will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the Commission is able to ensure consideration only for comments received before this date and time.

ADDRESSES: The NRC recommends that comment be submitted by e-mail, web site, or fax due to the strict time schedule indicated, but mail and delivery are acceptable if received before the date and time noted. Submit comments to Information Quality, c/o Vicki Yanez, Web, Publishing, and Distribution Services Division, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Mail Stop: T6-E7, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, e-mail to infoquality@nrc.gov, or faxed to 301-415-5272. Comments may also be submitted at the NRC web site information quality comment form that is accessible from NRC's "Contact Us" Web page (<http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/doc-comment/info-quality/feedback-form.html>). Comments may be delivered to Vicki Yanez, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. on Federal workdays and until 5 p.m. on June 26, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Vicki Yanez, Office of the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; telephone 301-415-6844 or by Internet electronic mail at infoquality@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 4th day of June 2002.