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DOE

DOE SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON PLUTONIUM DISPOSITION PLAN

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) workshops and a public hearing in Richland on April 11 will focus on the storage and disposition of the nation's stockpiles of weapons-usable plutonium. This is an important step in the Administration's commitment to reducing global nuclear danger and increasing national security in a post cold war world.

Afternoon and evening sessions will be at the Hanford House Red Lion Inn, 802 George Washington Way.

DOE will solicit and collect public comments on a draft programmatic environmental impact statement. The document examines the potential impacts of alternate ways to deal with U.S. plutonium stores. Hanford is identified as a candidate site for future plutonium disposition activities.

As required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) the draft environmental impact statement also examines a "no action" alternative. By that approach, DOE would continue to use current strategies for plutonium storage and disposition.

A general meeting followed by a session will comprise each of the two Richland sessions. The afternoon session will be from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The evening session will be from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Written and oral comments will be received and recorded at both sessions. DOE response to comments will be addressed in the final Storage and Disposition environmental impact statement.

DOE Headquarters spokespersons will conduct the series of national workshops and hearings with local support by the Richland Operations Office.

Individuals wishing to pre-register to make verbal comments may call (800) 820-5134. Registration will also be taken at the door. Written comments may be sent no later than May 6, 1996, to:

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Office of Fissile Materials Disposition
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