A–76. *American Fed'n of Gov't Employees, AFL–CIO et al.* v. *United States*, 258 F.3d 1294 (Fed. Cir. 2001).

Another revision to the Circular appears to affect the procedures GAO follows in handling protests of A–76 competitions. Under the predecessor Circular, parties affected by the cost comparison decision were able to challenge the results of the decision under an A–76 administrative appeal process. In light of the availability of this A–76 appeals process, GAO had a longstanding rule, based on comity and efficiency, that it would generally not hear a protest against the propriety of the cost comparison until the A–76 administrative appeals procedure provided by the agency had been exhausted. *See Intelcom Support Servs., Inc.,* B–234488, Feb. 17, 1989, 89–1 CPD ¶ 174; *Direct Delivery Sys.*, B–198361, May 16, 1980, 80–1 CPD ¶ 343. This is so, even though GAO has recognized that there is no statutory or regulatory requirement that an offeror exhaust available agency-level remedies before protesting to GAO. *See BAE Sys.*, B–287189, B–287189.2, May 14, 2001, 2001 CPD ¶ 86 at 17.

The revised Circular abolishes the administrative appeals process, and instead provides that a ''directly interested party'' may contest various aspects of a standard competition by filing an agency-level protest. Under GAO's Bid Protest Regulations, protesters are not required to file an agency-level protest before filing a protest at GAO. In light of the revised Circular's abolition of the special A–76 administrative appeal process, GAO solicits comments on whether it would be appropriate to continue to apply the exhaustion doctrine to A–76 protests or whether protesters should now be permitted to file their A–76 challenges directly with GAO.

Finally, the revised Circular states that ''no party may contest any aspect of a streamlined competition.'' Revised Circular at B–20. Under the revised Circular, a streamlined competition may entail issuance of a solicitation for proposals from the private sector, but that is not required. Revised Circular at B–4. GAO solicits comments on whether it would have a legal basis to consider a protest, from either the private or the public sector, regarding a streamlined competition.

Anthony H. Gamboa,

General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 03–14934 Filed 6–12–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 1610–02–P

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: General Services Administration (GSA); National Capital Region.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), GSA Order PBS P1095.1F (Environmental considerations in decisionmaking, dated October 19, 1999), and the GSA Public Buildings Service NEPA Desk Guide, GSA plans to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed campus expansion and new eastern access road to support the consolidation of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on the Federal Research Center at White Oak in Silver Spring, Maryland.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Harry Debes, Project Executive, General Services Administration, National Capital Region, at (202) 260–9583. Please also call this number if special assistance is needed to attend and participate in the scoping meeting.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of intent is as follows:

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Campus Expansion and New Eastern Access Road to Support the Consolidation of the Food and Drug Administration at the Federal Research Center at White Oak in Silver Spring, Maryland

The General Services Administration intends to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to analyze the potential impacts resulting from the proposed campus expansion and new eastern access road to support the FDA consolidation at the Federal Research Center (FRC) at White Oak in Silver Spring, Maryland.

This SEIS is an update and supplement to the analyses presented in the *U.S. Food and Drug Administration Consolidation, Montgomery County, Final Environmental Impact Statement*, April 1997 (*1997 Final EIS*).

Proposed Campus Expansion

In 1997, GSA completed an environmental impact statement that analyzed the impacts from the consolidation of 5,974 FDA employees at the FRC. In July 2002, new legislation was enacted that expanded FDA's mandate to support the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA) and the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act (MDUFMA). The new legislation and the growth of other programs will likely result in an increase of employees at the FRC from 5,947 (studied in the *1997 Final EIS*) to 7,720.

Eastern Access Road

In the environmental analysis performed in 1996–1997 for the *1997 Final EIS*, GSA considered traffic impacts and patterns into the FDA facility. It was determined in the Draft EIS, that a new access point was needed from Cherry Hill Road through the eastern portion of the FRC to relieve traffic on New Hampshire Avenue. In order to maintain this access and provide a secure site for the Air Force (located on the northern edge of the FRC), two optional road alignments were studied for the crossing of Paint Branch Creek within the FRC. The road alignment within the FRC was to be selected based on the structural integrity of the existing bridge on Dahlgren Road and on the costs associated with each of the alternatives.

After the release of the Draft EIS, the security requirements of the Air Force changed, and an initial structural investigation found the existing bridge to be sound pending some repair work. Therefore, the two alternative alignments were dropped from the *1997 Final EIS.* The *1997 Final EIS* still proposed a new entrance at Cherry Hill Road because the existing entrance at Dahlgren Road is too close to the Cherry Hill Road/Powder Mill Road intersection to operate safely and efficiently.

In February 2001, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA—Virginia office), as GSA's agent, prepared a bridge inspection report on Dahlgren Road crossing Paint Branch Creek. In its report, FHWA concluded that ''this structure is in poor condition overall, and should be replaced in the near future.''

Due to the deteriorating conditions of the existing bridge on Dahlgren Road and the increased traffic demands anticipated from the FDA consolidation, GSA has decided to reevaluate the construction of a new access point to and through the eastern portion of the FRC.

Alternatives Under Consideration

GSA will analyze the proposed action and no action alternatives for the proposed expansion of the FDA headquarters to include PDUFA and

MDUFMA and other expanded programs. GSA will also analyze a range of alternatives for the eastern road access to and through the site including the no action alternative.

As part of the SEIS, GSA will study the impacts of each alternative on the human environment.

Scoping Process

In accordance with NEPA, a scoping process will be conducted to aid in determining the alternatives to be considered and the scope of issues to be addressed, as well as for identifying the significant issues related to the proposed expansion and new road construction to and through the FRC. Scoping will be accomplished through a public scoping meeting, direct mail correspondence to potentially interested persons, agencies, and organizations, and meetings with agencies having an interest in the FRC. It is important that Federal, regional, State, and local agencies, and interested individuals and groups take this opportunity to identify environmental concerns that should be addressed during the preparation of the Draft SEIS.

Public Scoping Meeting

The public scoping meeting will be held on Thursday, June 26, 2003, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the CHI Center (Multipurpose Room) located at 10501 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland. The meeting will be an informal open house, where visitors may come, receive information, and give comments. GSA will publish notices in the Washington Post and local newspapers announcing this meeting approximately two weeks prior to the meeting. GSA will prepare a scoping report, available to the public, that will summarize the comments received and facilitate their incorporation into the SEIS process.

Written Comments: Agencies and the public are encouraged to provide written comments on the scoping issues in addition to or in lieu of giving their comments at the public scoping meeting. Written comments regarding the environmental analysis for the proposed expansion and construction of a new eastern access road to and through the FRC must be postmarked no later than July 28, 2003, and sent to the following address: General Services Administration, Attention: Harry Debes, Project Executive, 7th and D Streets, SW., Room 2120, Washington, DC 20407. (202) 708–4730 Fax. *Harry.Debes@gsa.gov.*

Dated: June 6, 2003.

Thomas E. James,

Director, Portfolio Management Division.

[FR Doc. 03–15078 Filed 6–12–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820–23–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics: Meeting

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announces the following advisory committee meeting.

Name: National committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS).

Time and date: June 24, 2003, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.; June 25, 2003, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Place: Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue SW., Room 705A, Washington, DC 20201.

Status: Open.

Purpose: At this meeting the Committee will hear presentations and hold discussions on several health data policy topics. On the morning of the first day the full Committee will hear updates and status reports from the Department on several topics including an update on HHS Data Council activities, the implementation of the Administrative Simplification provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) as well as on implementation of the HIPAA Privacy Rule. A report on the Consolidated Health Informatics Initiative is also planned. In the afternoon there will be reports from Subcommittees on selected activities. Subcommittee breakout sessions are scheduled for late in the afternoon of the first day and prior to the full Committee meeting on the second day. Agendas for these breakout sessions will be posted on the NCVHS Web site (URL below) when available. On the second day the Committee will hear presentations on the HHS Gateway to Data and Statistics on the web, and on results of a Gallup Survey on Federal Advisory Committee, followed by reports from Subcommittees. Finally, the agendas for future NCVHS meetings will be discussed.

For Further Information Contact: Substantive program information as well as summaries of meetings and a roster of committee members may be obtained from Marjorie S. Greenberg, Executive Secretary, NCVHS, National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 3311 Toledo Road, Room 2402, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782, telephone (301) 458–4245. Information also is available on the NCVHS home page of the HHS Web site: *http://www.ncvhs.hhs.gov/,* where further information including an agenda will be posted when available.

Dated: June 6, 2003.

James Scanlon,

Acting Director, Office of Science and Data Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

[FR Doc. 03–14943 Filed 6–12–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4151–05–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Solicitation of Public Review and Comment on Research Protocol: Characterization of Mucus and Mucins in Bronchoalveolar Lavage Fluids From Infants With Cystic Fibrosis

AGENCY: Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary, Office of Public Health and Science, Office for Human Research Protections.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP), Office of Public Health and Science, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is soliciting public review and comment on a proposed research protocol entitled ''Characterization of Mucus and Mucins in Bronchoalveolar Lavage Fluids from Infants with Cystic Fibrosis.'' The proposed research would be supported by a grant awarded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health. Public review and comment are solicited regarding the proposed research protocol pursuant to the requirements of HHS regulations at 45 CFR 46.407.

DATES: To be considered, written or electronic comments on the proposed research must be received on or before 4:30 p.m. July 28, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to: Ms. Kelley Booher, Division of Policy, Planning, and Special Projects, Office for Human Research Protections, 1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 200, The Tower Building, Rockville, MD 20852, telephone number (301) 402–5942 (not a toll-free number). Comments also may be sent via facsimile at (301) 402–0527 or by email to: *407panel02@osophs.dhhs.gov.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Leslie K. Ball, Office for Human Research Protections, The Tower Building, 1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 200, Rockville, MD 20852; telephone (301) 496–7005; fax (301) 402–0527; email *LBall@osophs.dhhs.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: All studies conducted or supported by HHS which are not otherwise exempt and which propose to involve children as subjects require institutional review