

has withdrawn its involvement from the EIS process. In order to advance this project, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission has decided to continue project development without federal funding and FHWA oversight. Since this project will require a Section 404 permit from the Corps, the Corps will become the lead federal agency.

The proposed highway is considered necessary to improve the movement of people and goods from the Mon Valley to Interstate 79 in the area south of Pittsburgh. Preliminary studies and public and agency input have indicated that the project needs cannot be met by Transportation System Management (TSM) activities, upgrading existing roadways or mass transit improvements. Several new tolled expressway alternatives are under consideration. The No Build Alternative is also under consideration. Descriptions of these alternatives, the results of the engineering, traffic, and environmental studies, and the environmental impacts of the alternatives will be presented in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

A scoping meeting was held on this project on August 18 and 19, 1993 in Washington, Pennsylvania. Federal, state, regional, county, and municipal agency representatives attended and participated in this scoping meeting. In addition, an active public participation program was implemented on this project, including Special Agency Coordination Meetings, special purpose meetings with locally elected officials, Executive Committee Meetings, maintenance of a project website, and implementation of a toll-free phone number. A series of public meetings have also been held to ensure public input and participation. The Draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to a public hearing. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the hearing.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are identified and addressed, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the Corps at the address provided above.

**Scott A. Hans,**

*Acting Chief, Regulatory Branch, Pittsburgh District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.*

[FR Doc. E7-20812 Filed 10-22-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3710-85-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Contractor Employee Pension and Medical Benefits

**AGENCY:** Office of Management, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Management is announcing the availability of a summary of the public comments it received in response to a request for public comments on the challenge the Department of Energy (Department) confronts with respect to the costs and liabilities associated with contractor employee pension and medical benefits. The Department's request for comments was published in the **Federal Register** on March 27, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** The summary of public comments is available on the Internet at <http://management.energy.gov/>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Stephanie Weakley, Office of Procurement and Assistance Management, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC, 20585, 202-287-1645.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background

On April 26, 2006, the Department issued Department of Energy Notice 351.1, Contractor Employee Pension and Medical Benefits Policy, which updated and revised the Department's policy concerning reimbursement of Management and Operating (M&O) and other site management contractor pension and medical benefit costs. On June 19, 2006, the Secretary of Energy suspended implementation of the revised policy to permit consultation with stakeholders about the purpose of the Notice.

On March 27, 2007, the Department published a **Federal Register** notice (72 FR 14266) seeking public comments and/or recommendations on how the Department should address the challenge it faces due to the increasing costs and financial liabilities associated with the reimbursement of contractor employee pension and medical benefit costs. The Office of Management established a Web site for the public to submit their comments and/or recommendations on how the Department should address this financial challenge.

The Office of Management received approximately 475 comments in response to the March 27, 2007, request for public comments. The overwhelming majority of comments were from current and retired

Department employees who did not support the new policy in the suspended DOE Notice 351.1. The remainder of the comments were submitted by private citizens, labor unions, and actuarial firms. As a result of its stakeholder outreach and consideration of public comments, the Department decided not to reissue DOE N 351.1 after it expired by its terms on April 27, 2007. The Department is not contemplating further action with regard to contractor employee pension and medical benefits at this time.

Issued in Washington, DC, on October 15, 2007.

**Ingrid Kolb,**

*Director of Management, U.S. Department of Energy.*

[FR Doc. E7-20801 Filed 10-22-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management; Safe Transportation and Emergency Response Training; Technical Assistance and Funding

**AGENCY:** Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice extending comment period.

**SUMMARY:** On Monday, July 23, 2007, the Department of Energy (DOE) published a notice of revised proposed policy (72 FR 140) setting forth its revised plans for implementing Section 180(c) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (the NWPA).

The notice requested comments on the provision of technical assistance and financial assistance for training of public safety officials to States and Indian Tribes through whose jurisdictions the DOE plans to transport spent nuclear fuel or high-level radioactive waste to a facility authorized under Subtitle A or C of the NWPA. The training is to cover safe, routine transport procedures and emergency response procedures as directed in the NWPA. The comment period for this notice of revised proposed policy was scheduled to close on October 22, 2007.

Today's notice announces a 90-day extension of the comment period on the revised proposed policy. The Department is taking this action in order to allow additional time for all interested parties to comment on the revised proposed policy.

**DATES:** Written comments should be mailed and electronic comments submitted to the Department and must