As required by the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act, HHS will establish the National Biodefense Science Board (NBSB) to provide expert advice and guidance to the HHS Secretary on scientific, technical, and other matters of special interest to HHS regarding current and future CBRN agents, whether naturally occurring, accidental, or deliberate. The membership of the NBSB will be comprised of the Nation's preeminent scientific, public health, and medical experts; Federal officials as the Secretary may determine are necessary to support the functions of the Board; individuals representing the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and device industries; individuals representing academia; and other members as determined appropriate by the Secretary, including a practicing healthcare professional and a representative from a healthcare consumer organization.

With diligent respect for confidentiality concerns and Federal regulations, HHS will increase the transparency and public visibility of processes by which it selects and acquires medical countermeasures. Acknowledging industry's risky investments of time, energy, and resources, HHS will foster medical countermeasure development by removing or lowering obstacles whenever appropriate, including through the application of liability protections under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) [20] and, as appropriate and necessary, more flexible contracting procedures. In addition to granting the HHS Secretary limited antitrust exemption authorities regarding medical countermeasure research and development, the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act allows the Secretary to make milestone-based awards and payments to biotechnology companies and pharmaceutical manufacturers.

Goal 4. Develop, Recruit, and Support a World-Class Workforce

A successful PHEMCE relies on a highly qualified and accomplished workforce with appropriate technical training, scientific skills, and business management experience—both within the public and the private sectors. HHS is committed, as is each of its Federal partners in this endeavor, to continued staffing of the PHEMCE with outstanding professionals and to maintaining a work environment conducive to high performance. The Department will continue to recruit outstanding professionals from both the public and private sectors to build a model program for advanced product development, procurement, and delivery that will provide needed products as efficiently and effectively as possible. HHS will recruit Federal employees (civil service and the U.S. Public Health Service) for their experience, skills, and expertise in research, development, and the regulatory aspects of product development programs, as well as management of such government programs. Highly qualified researchers, clinicians, and managers from academia and private industry will complement their expertise. HHS will facilitate the appointment of these individuals through existing general and senior service programs.

HHS also will develop programs to train professionals at all career stages in the foundations of the PHEMCE, utilizing mechanisms such as fellowships, sabbaticals, internships, and exchange programs. This effort will allow private sector individuals to bring new skills and fresh ideas to the program from the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. The Department also will create appropriate career paths to provide PHEMCE staff with opportunities to continue to grow professionally, to retain outstanding staff, and to ensure that excellence remains a PHEMCE hallmark.

HHS will use all available Federal hiring practices and all Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act authorities to offer compensation that attracts the best human capital to meet its mission and challenges. HHS also will identify qualified individuals with special expertise who are willing to serve on advisory boards or committees that the Secretary determines would contribute to the overall program.

Conclusion

This *HHS PHEMCE Strategy* reflects the new HHS approach to the development, acquisition, and use of medical countermeasures against CBRN threats. It provides strategic direction to the Department, signals the Department's intents and priorities to its Governmental and private partners, and guides the development of the *HHS PHEMCE Implementation Plan.* Consistent with its stated commitment to transparency, predictability, and wide-ranging solicitation of expertise, the Department will continue to engage stakeholders as it develops specific strategic initiatives to meet its goals and objectives for the advanced development, procurement, and delivery of medical countermeasures. The *HHS PHEMCE Strategy* underscores the commitment by the top leadership of HHS to achieve the vision articulated in the President's *National Strategy for Medical Countermeasures against Weapons of Mass Destruction.* It seeks to craft and execute a robust, integrated, and end-to-end Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasure Enterprise that provides the Nation with an ''all hazards'' capability to protect against, respond to, and enable recovery from chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear attacks upon the public health.

Dated: March 15, 2007.

Gerald Parker,

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Department of Health and Human Services.

[FR Doc. E7–5066 Filed 3–19–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4150–37–P

[20] On December 30, 2005, President George W. Bush signed into law the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) as part of the 2006 Defense Appropriations Act.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; Notice of Public Input Opportunity

AGENCY: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

SUMMARY: The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) announces the following availability of opportunity for the public to provide input regarding the draft document, ''Long-Term Field Evaluation (LTFE) Program Concept.''

NIOSH is the Federal agency responsible for conducting research and making recommendations for the approval for self-contained, self-rescuer (SCSR) closed circuit escape respirators, Title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 84.

The LTFE program for self-contained self-rescuers (SCSRs) for miners was initiated more than 20 years ago by the U.S. Bureau of Mines. The objective for the LTFE program is to obtain data to determine the expected performance characteristics of SCSRs used in the mining industry. LTFE program results based on scientific principles can provide useful information to monitor expected SCSR performance and assess possible degradation due to the physical stresses of in-mine use. Of utmost concern is the successful performance of any SCSR that passes its inspection

criteria specified by the manufacturer. It is such apparatus that must be relied upon in an emergency.

A copy of the draft document can be found at *http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/review/public/NPPTL-LTFE/*.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted to the NIOSH Docket Office, Robert A. Taft Laboratories, 4676 Columbia Parkway. M/S C–34, Cincinnati, OH 45226, telephone 513/533–8450, fax 513/533–8285.

Comments may also be submitted directly through the Web site *http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/review/public/NPPTL-LTFE/*.

This document will remain available for comment until April 5, 2007. Comments should reference docket number NIOSH–101 in the subject heading.

All information received in response to this notice will be available for public examination and copying at the NIOSH Docket Office, Room 111, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226.

CONTACT PERSON FOR TECHNICAL INFORMATION: Les Boord, NIOSH Director for National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory, 626 Cochrans Mill Road, P.O. Box 18070, Pittsburgh, PA 15236.

There will also be a public meeting held on March 22, 2007 at the DoubleTree Pittsburgh Airport Hotel, 8402 University Blvd, Moon Township, PA 15108 regarding this topic.

Dated: March 14, 2007.

John Howard,

Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

[FR Doc. 07–1341 Filed 3–19–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163–19–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

[ATSDR–229]

Public Health Assessments and Health Consultations Completed October 2006–December 2006

AGENCY: Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces those sites for which ATSDR has completed public health assessments and health consultations during the period from October 1, 2006, through December 31, 2006. This list includes sites that are on or proposed for inclusion on the National Priorities List (NPL) and includes sites for which assessments or consultations were prepared in response to requests from the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William Cibulas, Jr., PhD, Director, Division of Health Assessment and Consultation, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, 1600 Clifton Road, NE., Mailstop E–32, Atlanta, Georgia 30333, telephone (404) 498–0007.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The most recent list of completed public **Federal Register** on December 14, 2006 [71 FR 75254]. This announcement is the responsibility of ATSDR under the regulation ''Public Health Assessments and Health Effects Studies of Hazardous Substances Releases and Facilities'' [42 CFR Part 90]. This rule sets forth ATSDR's procedures for the conduct of public health assessments under section 104(i) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) [42 U.S.C. 9604(i)].

Availability

The completed public health assessments and health consultations are available for public inspection at the ATSDR Records Center, 1825 Century Boulevard, Atlanta, Georgia (not a mailing address), between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday except legal holidays. Public health assessments and health consultations are often available for public review at local repositories such as libraries in corresponding areas. Many public health assessments and health consultations are available through ATSDR's Web site at *http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/PHA/*.

In addition, the completed public health assessments are available by mail through the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161, or by telephone at (800) 553–6847. NTIS charges for copies of public health assessments. The NTIS order numbers are listed in parentheses following the site names.

Public Health Assessments Completed or Issued

Between October 1, 2006, and December 31, 2006, public health assessments were issued for the sites listed below:

NPL and Proposed NPL Sites

Alaska

Elmendorf Air Force Base—(PB2007–104845); December 21, 2006.

Virginia

Naval Support Facility (NSF) Dahlgren (a/k/a Naval Surface Warfare Center—Dahlgren)—(PB2007–100956); October 11, 2006.

Non-NPL Petitioned Sites

South Carolina

Admiral Homes Appliances—(PB2007–102021); November 13, 2006.

Health Consultations Completed or Issued

Between October 1, 2006, and December 31, 2006, health consultations were issued for the sites listed below:

Alabama

Anniston PCB Site—Updated Assessment of PCB Exposures in Anniston, AL; October 16, 2006.

Arizona

Aero Dyne Corporation (Aero Dyne)—District 4 Lone Butte Memorial Area; November 16, 2006.

Arkansas

Remediation of U.S. Forgecraft Corporation Site—95 South 3rd Street; November 27, 2006.

California

Zeneca/Campus Bay—Results of Exposure Investigation of Dust Sampling in Building 240; December 15, 2006.

Colorado

Blood Lead Levels in Children in the Lincoln Park Neighborhood; November 16, 2006.

Blood Levels in the Canon City Vicinity—Exposure Investigation Report; November 16, 2006.

Captain Jack Mill—Evaluation of Exposure of Mine Contaminants through the Surface Soil and Groundwater Pathways; December 12, 2006.

Lead in Dust in Homes in the Lincoln Park Neighborhood; November 16, 2006.

Lead in Indoor Dust, Outdoor Soil, and Blood of Lincoln Park Neighborhood Residents—Exposure Investigation Report; November 16, 2006.

Schlage Lock Company—Evaluation of Tetrachloroethylene Vapor Intrusion into Buildings Located Above a Contaminated Aquifer; November 30, 2006.

Standard Mine NPL Site—Evaluation of Potential Public Health Impact of