

working groups and to discuss initiatives for FY 2004.

Date of Meeting: September 24, 2003.

Place: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters Auditorium, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD, 20852.

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Inquiries and notice of intent to attend the meeting may be addressed to Dr. Mark S. Dortch, ISCMEM Chair, Environmental Laboratory, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, 3909 Halls Ferry Road, Vicksburg, MS 39180-6199, or phone 601-634-3517.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: On July 5, 2001, six Federal agencies entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on research and development of multimedia environmental modeling (for a copy of the MOU with addendums, and details of the activities please see <http://www.ISCMEM.Org>). In 2002 and 2003, two additional Federal Agencies joined the interagency cooperative project. The MOU establishes a framework for facilitating cooperation and coordination among the following agencies (the specific research organization within the agency is in parenthesis): U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Engineer Research and Development Center); U.S. Department of Agriculture (Agricultural Research Service); U.S. Department of Agriculture (Natural Resources Conservation Service); U.S. Department of Energy (Office of Research and Development); U.S. Geological Survey; U.S. National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration; and U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research). These agencies are cooperating and coordinating in research and development (R&D) of multimedia environmental models, software and related databases, including development, enhancements, applications and assessments of site-specific, generic, and process-oriented multimedia environmental models as they pertain to human and environmental health risk assessment. Specifically, the MOU supports collaboration and the exchange of technical information in support of multimedia environmental modeling focusing on environmental risk assessments, including development/enhancements of models and model frameworks or infrastructure and advancement of related technical activities, such as considering

uncertainty and model application procedures.

Purpose of the Public Meeting: The annual public meeting provides an opportunity for the scientific community, other Federal and State agencies, and the public to be briefed on the progress of the MOU working groups and their initiatives for the upcoming year, and to discuss technological advancements in multimedia environmental modeling.

Proposed Agenda: The ISCMEM Chair will report on new participating Federal agencies. The four MOU working groups, Software System Design and Implementation, Uncertainty and Parameter Estimation, Modeling Reactive Transport, and Watershed Modeling, will report on their progress during the year. A series of technical presentations will focus on: progress on the Geospatial Library for Environmental Modeling (GEOLEM) project as related to integration of modeling frameworks and GIS; results of the *International Workshop on Uncertainty, Sensitivity and Parameter*; and activities towards conceptualized model development for subsurface reactive transport modeling of inorganic contaminants, radionuclides, and nutrients. Participation with this MOU of similar coordinating groups and consortia outside the U.S. will be discussed. A detailed agenda with presentation titles and speakers will be posted on the MOU public Web site: <http://www.ISCMEM.Org>.

Meeting Access: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Headquarters Auditorium is located in Two White Flint North Building at 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. To access the NRC Auditorium, please use the Two White Flint North building entrance to proceed through security. The most convenient transportation to the meeting venue is via Metro. Please take Metro to the White Flint Metro stop on the Red Line. NRC is directly across the street from the White Flint Metro exit on Marinelli Road. Please inform the security personnel that you are attending the public meeting on multimedia environmental modeling in the NRC Auditorium.

Mark S. Dortch,

Chair, Federal Interagency Steering Committee on Multimedia Environmental Modeling.

[FR Doc. 03-20909 Filed 8-14-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-61-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before October 14, 2003.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: August 12, 2003.

Angela C. Arrington,

Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of Postsecondary Education

Type of Review: Revision.

Title: Comprehensive Program Annual Performance Report.

Frequency: One time.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 140.

Burden Hours: 2,800.

Abstract: The Comprehensive Program is a discretionary grant program that makes competitive awards to support reform and innovations through projects that improve educational practice at the postsecondary level. Grantees annually submit a performance report to demonstrate that substantial progress is being made toward meeting the objectives of their projects. Reporting requirements are currently based on broad criteria from the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR). This request is to use a reporting format that elicits needed information on program-specific outcomes within the annual report without posing additional burden to the grantee.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 2319. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651 or to the e-mail address vivian_reese@ed.gov. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the Internet address OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov or faxed to 202-708-9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Joseph Schubart at his e-mail address Joe.Schubart@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

[FR Doc. 03-20913 Filed 8-14-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Colorado Springs Utilities Next-Generation CFB Coal Generating Unit, Fountain, CO

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] parts 1500-1508), and the DOE NEPA regulations (10 CFR part 1021) to assess the potential environmental impacts of a project proposed by Colorado Springs Utilities to design, construct, and operate a Next-Generation Circulating Fluidized Bed (CFB) Coal Generating Unit demonstration plant near Fountain, El Paso County, Colorado. The plant is proposed for a site adjacent to the existing 227 megawatt (MW) Ray D. Nixon Power Plant on the Clear Springs Ranch, a 5,000-acre Colorado Springs Utilities-owned property located approximately 17 miles south of Colorado Springs.

The proposed project, selected under the Clean Coal Power Initiative solicitation, would demonstrate advanced technologies to produce electricity using a variety of fuels, including subbituminous coal from the Powder River Basin (PRB) in Wyoming, which would provide the primary fuel for long-term operation of the plant, bituminous coals from Illinois and Pennsylvania, and blends of PRB coal with waste coal and wood waste. Colorado Springs Utilities would also consider combusting several other fuels, including waste tires and processed municipal solid waste sludge, in blends with the PRB coal. Technologies to be integrated into the proposed plant would include a circulating fluid-bed combustion system to achieve low emissions of sulfur oxides, an advanced staged-combustion process to achieve low nitrogen oxide levels, an advanced selective non-catalytic reduction system to further reduce nitrogen oxide emissions, and a low-cost, integrated trace metal control system having potential to remove virtually all acid gases and up to 90% of mercury from the combustion gas. Upon completing a successful demonstration of the advanced technologies, the new CFB unit would be operated as a commercial power plant to supply approximately

150 MW of electricity to the Colorado Springs Utilities power grid.

The EIS will help DOE decide whether to provide 10% (approximately \$30 million in financial assistance) of the total estimated cost of \$301 million for the proposed project. The purpose of this Notice of Intent is to inform the public about the proposed project; invite public participation in the EIS process; announce the plans for a public scoping meeting and explain the EIS scoping process; and solicit public comments for consideration in establishing the proposed scope and content of the EIS.

DATES: To ensure that all of the issues related to this proposal are addressed, DOE invites comments on the proposed scope and content of the EIS from all interested parties. Comments must be received by September 19, 2003, to ensure consideration. Late comments will be considered to the extent practicable. In addition to receiving comments in writing and by telephone, (See **ADDRESSES** below), DOE will conduct a public scoping meeting in which agencies, organizations, and the general public are invited to present oral comments or suggestions with regard to the range of actions, alternatives, analysis methods, and environmental issues to be considered in the EIS. The scoping meeting will be held at the Fountain Middle School, 515 North Santa Fe Avenue, Fountain, CO, on September 3, 2003, beginning at 7 pm (See "Public Scoping Process"). The public is invited to an informal session at this location beginning at 5 pm to learn more about the proposed action.

Displays and other forms of information about the proposed agency action and the demonstration plant will be available, and DOE personnel will be present at the informal session to discuss the proposed project and the EIS process.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the proposed EIS scope and requests to participate in the public scoping meeting should be addressed to the NEPA Document Manager for the CFB Generating Unit project (hereafter termed the "Project"): Mr. Lloyd Lorenzi, National Energy Technology Laboratory, U.S. Department of Energy, P.O. Box 10940, Pittsburgh, PA 15236-0940.

Individuals who would like to otherwise participate in the public scoping process should contact Mr. Lloyd Lorenzi directly by telephone: 412-386-6159; toll free number for recording messages: 1-800-276-9851; fax: 412-386-4604; or electronic mail: lorenzi@netl.doe.gov.