

**National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board; Meeting**

**AGENCY:** National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board; Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board. This notice also describes the functions of the Board. Notice of this meeting is required under Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. This document is intended to notify the public of their opportunity to attend.

**DATE:** March 21, 1997.

**TIME:** 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Room 100, 80 F St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20208-7564.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thelma Leenhouts, Designated Federal Official, National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board, 80 F St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20208-7564. Telephone: (202) 219-2065; fax: (202) 219-1528; e-mail: Thelma\_Leenhouts@ed.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board is authorized by Section 921 of the Educational Research, Development, Dissemination, and Improvement Act of 1994. The Board works collaboratively with the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Educational Research and Improvement to forge a national consensus with respect to a long-term agenda for educational research, development, and dissemination, and to provide advice and assistance to the Assistant Secretary in administering the duties of the Office.

The agenda for March 21 will cover the adoption of proposed by-laws and a proposed workplan; election of officers for 1997-99; the approval of standards for the conduct and evaluation of research, and for assessing performance on contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements, as well as standards for reviewing and designating exemplary and promising programs. A final agenda will be available from the Board's office on March 14.

Records are kept of all Board proceedings and are available for public inspection at the office of the National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board, 555 New Jersey Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20208-7564.

Dated: February 20, 1997.

Eve M. Bither,

*Executive Director.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Record of Decision for the Tank Waste Remediation System, Hanford Site, Richland, WA**

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Record of decision.

**SUMMARY:** This Record of Decision addresses actions by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to manage and dispose of radioactive, hazardous, and mixed waste within the Tank Waste Remediation System (TWRS) program at the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington State. DOE, in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), issued a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) entitled "Tank Waste Remediation System, Hanford Site, Richland, Washington, Final Environmental Impact Statement" (TWRS EIS) (DOE/EIS-0189, August 1996). The Final EIS evaluates alternatives for the management and disposal of mixed, radioactive, and hazardous waste currently stored or projected to be stored in 177 underground storage tanks and approximately 60 active and inactive miscellaneous underground storage tanks associated with the Hanford Site's tank farm operations, as well as the management and disposal of approximately 1,930 cesium and strontium capsules currently stored at the Hanford Site.

Based on the environmental impact analysis of the Final EIS and after evaluating costs, regulatory compliance requirements, technical uncertainties, worker and public health and safety, and public, agency, National Research Council, and Tribal Nation comments, DOE has decided to implement the preferred alternative identified in the Final EIS for retrieval, treatment, and disposal of tank waste the, "Phased Implementation alternative" and to defer the decision on disposition of cesium and strontium capsules.

The Phased Implementation alternative was selected because it provides a balance among short- and long-term environmental impacts, meets all regulatory requirements, addresses the technical uncertainties associated with remediation, and provides the flexibility necessary to accommodate future changes in the remediation plans in response to new information and technology development.

While carrying out this decision, DOE will continually evaluate new information relative to the tank waste remediation program. DOE will also conduct periodic independent scientific and technical expert reviews, which

DOE believes are essential to the success of the TWRS program. Further, DOE intends to conduct formal evaluations of new information relevant to the tank waste remediation program at three key points over the next eight years under its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations (10 CFR 1021.314), with an appropriate level of public involvement, to ensure that DOE stays on a correct course for managing and remediating the tank waste. Various informal reviews also will be conducted during this period.

DOE has decided to defer action on the cesium and strontium capsules to further evaluate potential beneficial uses of the capsules and study potential long-term environmental impacts. The capsules will continue to be managed in the Hanford Site Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility. DOE will complete an evaluation for potential future uses of the capsules within two years and will issue a Cesium and Strontium Management Plan that will address alternatives for beneficial uses. If no future uses are found and DOE determines that the capsules should be disposed of, DOE will select an alternative for disposal of the capsules and supplement this Record of Decision.

**ADDRESSES:** Addresses of DOE Public Reading Rooms and Information Repositories where the Final EIS, Record of Decision, and other relevant information are available for public review are listed at the end of this Record of Decision. The Final EIS and Record of Decision are also available for review on the Internet at [www.hanford.gov/eis/twrseis.htm](http://www.hanford.gov/eis/twrseis.htm) and on the DOE NEPA Web page (<http://tis-nt.eh.doe.gov/nepa>).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Requests for copies of the Record of Decision or further information on the Final EIS or Record of Decision should be directed to Carolyn Haass, DOE Tank Waste Remediation System EIS NEPA Document Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, P.O. Box 1249, Richland, WA 99352. Ms. Haass may be contacted by telephone at (509) 372-2731. Information on the DOE NEPA process may be requested from Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance (EH-42), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585. Ms. Borgstrom may be contacted by telephone at (202) 586-4600, or by leaving a message at (800) 472-2756.