

Time Scales, 2005–2008. Given the United States Arctic Program's mission to support polar research, the proposed action is expected to result in substantial benefits to science. The draft Environmental Assessment was available for public review for a 30-day period; several comments were received.

**DATES:** Comments on the FONSI must be submitted on or before July 27, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be submitted to Dr. Polly A. Penhale, National Science Foundation, Office of Polar Programs, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Suite 755, Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 292–8033. Copies of the Finding of No Significant Impact and the Environmental Assessment are available upon request from Dr. Penhale.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The National Science Foundation has prepared a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) based on this EA, in accordance with CEQ regulations § 1500–1508 and 45 CFR Part 640. It was determined that the proposed activity would not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. Therefore, a FONSI was issued, and no environmental impact statement is required.

Copies of the FONSI and the Environmental Assessment titled, Biocomplexity Study of the Response of Tundra Carbon Balance to Warming and Drying Across Multiple Time Scales, 2005–2008, are available upon request from: Dr. Polly A. Penhale, National Science Foundation, Office of Polar Programs, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Suite 755, Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 292–8033 or at the agency's Web site at: [http://www.nsf.gov/od/opp/arctic/arc\\_envir/tundra\\_ea.pdf](http://www.nsf.gov/od/opp/arctic/arc_envir/tundra_ea.pdf) and [http://www.nsf.gov/od/opp/arctic/arc\\_envir/tundra\\_fonsi.pdf](http://www.nsf.gov/od/opp/arctic/arc_envir/tundra_fonsi.pdf). The National Science Foundation invites interested members of the public to provide written comments on this FONSI.

**Polly A. Penhale,**

*Environmental Officer, Office of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation.*

[FR Doc. 05–12666 Filed 6–24–05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7555–01–M**

## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Notice of Availability of a Record of Decision Following a Final Comprehensive Environmental Evaluation for Antarctic Activities

**AGENCY:** National Science Foundation.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of a Record of Decision following a Final Environmental Impact Statement/Comprehensive Environmental Evaluation (FEIS/FCEE) for activities proposed to be undertaken in Antarctica.

**SUMMARY:** The National Science Foundation gives notice of the availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement/Comprehensive Environmental Evaluation (FEIS/FCEE) for activities proposed to be undertaken in Antarctica.

The Office of Polar Programs (OPP) has decided to proceed with the development and implementation of surface traverse capabilities in Antarctica. Given the United States Antarctica Program's (USAP) mission to support polar research, the proposed action is expected to result in reduced reliance on aircraft resources, increased opportunities for sciences at USAP facilities, and resources savings. In reaching this decision, the Director of the Office of Polar Programs has considered the potential environmental impacts addressed in the Development and Implementation of Surface Traverse Capabilities in Antarctica EIS/CEE. The Director has also considered input from Antarctic Treaty nations and the public pertaining to the EIS/CEE for Development and Implementation of Surface Traverse Capabilities in Antarctica.

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 2403a, the National Science Foundation has prepared this Record of Decision following the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Comprehensive Environmental Evaluation for Development and Implementation of Surface Traverse Capabilities in Antarctica, Amundsen-Scott Station, South Pole, Antarctica.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the Record of Decision are available upon request from: Dr. Polly A. Penhale, National Science Foundation, Office of Polar Programs, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Suite 755, Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 292–8033.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** A Notice of Availability of the draft EIS/CEE was published in the **Federal Register**. Via a Web site link, the draft Development and Implementation of Surface Traverse Capabilities in Antarctica EIS/CEE was made available for review to all interested parties including Antarctic Treaty nations, international and U.S. Federal agencies, research institutions, private organizations, and individuals. Comments were received and considered as described in Appendix D of the environmental document, and

include comments from the Australian Antarctic Division, German Federal Environmental Agency, Antarctica New Zealand, The Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition, and Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM)/Council on Environmental Protection (CEP). The National Science Foundation has made the Final EIS/CEE and Record of Decision for the Development and Implementation of Surface Traverse Capabilities in Antarctica available on the internet at: <http://www.nsf.gov/od/opp/antarct/treaty/cees.htm>.

**Polly A. Penhale,**

*Environmental Officer, Office of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation.*

[FR Doc. 05–12664 Filed 6–24–05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7555–01–M**

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 40–08838]

### Notice of Consideration of Amendment Request for an Alternate Decommissioning Schedule for the Department of the Army, U.S. Army Garrison, Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island, IL, and Opportunity To Request a Hearing

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of license amendment, opportunity to request a hearing, and solicitation of public comments.

**DATES:** A request for a hearing must be filed by August 26, 2005.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tom McLaughlin, Project Manager, Decommissioning Directorate, Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001; Telephone: (301) 415–5869; fax number: (301) 415–5398; e-mail: [tgm@nrc.gov](mailto:tgm@nrc.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Introduction

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of a license amendment to the Department of the Army (Army as the licensee) to amend its License No. SUB–1435 to authorize an alternate decommissioning schedule pursuant to 10 CFR 40.42(g)(2) for its facility at Jefferson Proving Ground, Madison, Indiana.

License No. SUB–1435 authorizes the licensee to possess depleted uranium in the “impact area” of Jefferson Proving Ground. The license amendment request

for an alternate decommissioning schedule was submitted by the licensee on May 25, 2005. An NRC administrative review, documented in a letter to the U.S. Army Garrison at Rock Island Arsenal on June 15, 2005, found the license amendment request acceptable to begin a technical review.

If the NRC approves the license amendment request, the authorization for an alternate decommissioning schedule will be documented in an amendment to NRC License No. SUB-1435. However, before approving the proposed amendment, the NRC will need to make the findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and NRC's regulations. These findings will be documented in a Safety Evaluation Report and an Environmental Assessment.

## II. Opportunity To Request a Hearing

The NRC hereby provides notice that this is a proceeding on an application for a license amendment to License No. SUB-1435 to request an alternate decommissioning schedule. In accordance with the general requirements in Subpart C of 10 CFR Part 2, as amended on January 14, 2004 (69 FR 2182), any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who desires to participate as a party must file a written request for a hearing and a specification of the contentions which the person seeks to have litigated in the hearing.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.302 (a), a request for a hearing must be filed with the Commission either by:

1. First class mail addressed to: Office of the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications;

2. Courier, express mail, and expedited delivery services: Office of the Secretary, Sixteenth Floor, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, between 7:45 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., Federal work days;

3. E-mail addressed to the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, [HEARINGDOCKET@NRC.GOV](mailto:HEARINGDOCKET@NRC.GOV); or

4. By facsimile transmission addressed to the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, at (301) 415-1101; verification number is (301) 415-1966.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.302 (b), all documents offered for filing must be accompanied by proof of service on all parties to the proceeding or their

attorneys of record as required by law or by rule or order of the Commission, including:

1. The applicant, U.S. Army Garrison, 1 Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island Illinois, 61299, Attention: Alan G. Wilson, Garrison Manager; and

2. The NRC staff, by delivery to the Office of the General Counsel, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852, or by mail addressed to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Hearing requests should also be transmitted to the Office of the General Counsel, either by means of facsimile transmission to (301) 415-3725, or by email to [ogcmailcenter@nrc.gov](mailto:ogcmailcenter@nrc.gov).

The formal requirements for documents contained in 10 CFR 2.304 (b), (c), (d), and (e), must be met. In accordance with 10 CFR 2.304 (f), a document filed by electronic mail or facsimile transmission need not comply with the formal requirements of 10 CFR 2.304 (b), (c), and (d), as long as an original and two (2) copies otherwise complying with all of the requirements of 10 CFR 2.304 (b), (c), and (d) are mailed within two (2) days thereafter to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.309 (b), a request for a hearing must be filed by August 26, 2005.

In addition to meeting other applicable requirements of 10 CFR 2.309, the general requirements involving a request for a hearing filed by a person other than an applicant must state:

1. The name, address, and telephone number of the requester;

2. The nature of the requester's right under the Act to be made a party to the proceeding;

3. The nature and extent of the requester's property, financial or other interest in the proceeding;

4. The possible effect of any decision or order that may be issued in the proceeding on the requester's interest; and

5. The circumstances establishing that the request for a hearing is timely in accordance with 10 CFR 2.309 (b).

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.309 (f)(1), a request for hearing or petitions for leave to intervene must set forth with particularity the contentions sought to be raised. For each contention, the request or petition must:

1. Provide a specific statement of the issue of law or fact to be raised or controverted;

2. Provide a brief explanation of the basis for the contention;

3. Demonstrate that the issue raised in the contention is within the scope of the proceeding;

4. Demonstrate that the issue raised in the contention is material to the findings that the NRC must make to support the action that is involved in the proceeding;

5. Provide a concise statement of the alleged facts or expert opinions which support the requester's/petitioner's position on the issue and on which the requester/petitioner intends to rely to support its position on the issue; and

6. Provide sufficient information to show that a genuine dispute exists with the applicant on a material issue of law or fact. This information must include references to specific portions of the application (including the applicant's environmental report and safety report) that the requester/petitioner disputes and the supporting reasons for each dispute, or, if the requester/petitioner believes the application fails to contain information on a relevant matter as required by law, the identification of each failure and the supporting reasons for the requester's/petitioner's belief.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.309 (g), a request for hearing and/or petition for leave to intervene may also address the selection of the hearing procedures, taking into account the provisions of 10 CFR 2.310.

## III. Opportunity To Provide Comments

In accordance with 10 CFR 20.1405, the NRC is providing notice to individuals in the vicinity of the site that the NRC has received a license amendment request from the Army. The NRC will accept comments concerning this amendment request. Comments with respect to this action should be provided in writing within 30 days of this notice and addressed to Mr. Tom McLaughlin, U.S. NRC, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Comments received after 30 days will be considered if practicable to do so, but only those comments received on or before the due date can be assured consideration.

## IV. Further Information

Documents related to this action, including the application for amendment and supporting documentation, are available electronically at the NRC's Electronic Reading Room at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. From this site, you can access the NRC's Agency wide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS), which provides text and image files of NRC's public documents. The ADAMS accession

number for the document related to this notice is ML051520319. If you do not have access to ADAMS or if there are problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, contact the NRC Public Document Room PDR Reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to [pdr@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr@nrc.gov).

These documents may also be viewed electronically on the public computers located at the NRC's PDR, located in O-1 F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852. The PDR reproduction contractor will copy documents for a fee.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 15th day of June, 2005.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Daniel M. Gillen,**

*Deputy Director, Division of Waste Management and Environment, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.*

[FR Doc. E5-3319 Filed 6-24-05; 8:45 am]

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 030-36574]

### Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for License Amendment for the Department of the Army's Facility at Fort Belvoir, VA

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tom McLaughlin, Project Manager, Decommissioning Directorate, Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; Telephone: (301) 415-5869; fax number: (301) 415-5398; e-mail: [tgm@nrc.gov](mailto:tgm@nrc.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### I. Introduction

The NRC is considering issuance of a license amendment to the Department of the Army (Army or licensee) for License No. 19-10306-02, to authorize decommissioning for its facility at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. NRC has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) in support of this action in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR part 51. Based on the EA, the NRC has concluded that a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is appropriate.

#### II. EA Summary

The purpose of this proposed amendment to License No. 19-10306-02 is to authorize the decommissioning of the licensee's Building 7304 at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, for unrestricted use to allow for license termination. The Army was authorized by the NRC on March 31, 1989, to use radioactive materials for research purposes at the site. On May 17, 2004, the Army requested that NRC approve the decommissioning plan for the facility which when completed would permit the site to be released for unrestricted use. Final approval for release of the site for unrestricted use and license termination would be contingent upon NRC staff's approval of the licensee's final status survey report and making the findings required by the Commission's regulations following completion of the licensee's decommissioning activities. The Army's request for the proposed amendment was previously noticed in the **Federal Register** on December 28, 2004 (69 FR 77779), with a notice of an opportunity to request a hearing. No comments or request for a hearing were received.

Following a Characterization Survey, the Army found that there are elevated levels of radioactivity on the floor of Building 7304, in the soil beneath the floor, in the wall storage vaults, and in the floor vaults. These elevated levels indicate the need for the removal of the Building 7304 structure and any soil that is above the soil screening criteria, then transport of the contaminated waste to an authorized disposal facility. The NRC staff determined that all steps in the proposed decommissioning could be accomplished in compliance with the NRC public and occupational dose limits, effluent release limits, and residual radioactive material limits. In addition, the staff concluded that approval of the decommissioning of Building 7304 at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, in accordance with the commitments in NRC License No. 19-10306-02 and the final decommissioning plan, would not result in a significant adverse impact on the environment.

If the NRC approves the license amendment, the authorization will be documented in an amendment to NRC License No. 19-10306-02. However, before approving the proposed amendment, the NRC will need to make the findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and NRC's regulations. These findings will be documented in a Safety Evaluation Report in addition to the EA.

#### III. Finding of No Significant Impact

The staff has prepared the EA (summarized above) in support of the Army's proposed decommissioning. The NRC staff has concluded that there will be no adverse environmental impacts associated with approving the Army's license amendment request for decommissioning Building 7304. The radiological environmental impacts from the proposed amendment are bounded by the impacts evaluated by NUREG-1496, Volumes 1-3, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement in Support of Rulemaking on Radiological Criteria for License Termination of NRC-Licensed Facilities" (ML042310492, ML042320379, and ML042330385). The staff has also found that the non-radiological impacts are not significant. On the basis of the EA, the NRC has concluded that the environmental impacts from the action are expected to be insignificant and has determined that an environmental impact statement does not need to be prepared for the action.

#### IV. Further Information

Documents related to this action, including the application for amendment and supporting documentation, are available electronically at the NRC's Electronic Reading Room at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. From this site, you can access the NRC's Agency-wide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS), which provides text and image files of NRC's public documents. The ADAMS accession number for the documents related to this notice are: The Army's package to NRC dated May 17, 2004, ML041490071; EA prepared for this action, ML050810012; and **Federal Register** Notice for Amendment No. 2, ML050960044. If you do not have access to ADAMS or if there are problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, contact the NRC Public Document Room (PDR) Reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to [pdr@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr@nrc.gov).

Any questions should be referred to Thomas McLaughlin, Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington DC 20555, Mailstop T-7E18, telephone (301) 415-5869, fax (301) 415-5397.

Dated in Rockville, Maryland, this 21st day of June, 2005.