

application process in terms of staff time, copying, and mailing or delivery. The use of e-Application technology reduces mailing and copying costs significantly.

The benefits of the CSR Quality Initiatives projects are in helping low-performing schools make AYP. These proposed priorities will generate new strategies for schools, districts, and States so that all students are able to meet challenging State academic content and student achievement standards.

#### Intergovernmental Review

This program is subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. One of the objectives of the Executive Order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism. The Executive Order relies on processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

This document provides early notification of our specific plans and actions for this program.

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(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 84.322B Comprehensive School Reform—Quality Initiatives)

**Program Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 6518.

Dated: November 26, 2004.

**Raymond Simon,**

Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education.

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BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Arbitration Panel Decision Under the Randolph-Sheppard Act

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of arbitration panel decision under the Randolph-Sheppard Act.

**SUMMARY:** The Department gives notice that on July 26, 2002, an arbitration panel rendered a decision in the matter of *Kentucky Department for the Blind v. U.S. Department of Defense, Department of the Army (Docket No. R-S/01-11)*. This panel was convened by the U.S. Department of Education, under 20 U.S.C. 107d-1(b), after the Department received a complaint filed by the petitioner, the Kentucky Department for the Blind.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** You may obtain a copy of the full text of the arbitration panel decision from Suzette E. Haynes, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 5022, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-2800. Telephone: (202) 245-7374. If you use a telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed in the preceding paragraph.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under section 6(c) of the Randolph-Sheppard Act (the Act), 20 U.S.C. 107d-2(c), the Secretary publishes in the **Federal Register** a synopsis of each arbitration panel decision affecting the administration of vending facilities on Federal and other property.

#### Background

This dispute concerns the alleged noncompliance with the Act by the U.S. Department of Defense, Department of the Army (the Army), regarding its cancellation of a food service contract at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, operated by the Kentucky Department for the Blind, the State licensing agency (SLA), in violation of the Act (20 U.S.C. 107 *et seq.*) and the implementing regulations in 34 CFR part 395.

A summary of the facts is as follows: On February 15, 1996, the SLA was awarded a contract to provide full food services in the military dining facilities at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky. Following the contract award, the SLA appointed a qualified Randolph-Sheppard vendor to perform the contract requirements.

Subsequently, the vendor entered into a joint venture contract agreement with First Choice Food Service to assume the contractual obligations.

On January 21, 2000, at the end of the third option period for the food service contract at Ft. Campbell, the SLA contacted the Army to request that both parties enter into negotiations for the continuation of the food service contract. The Army did not respond to this initial request. Then on August 9, 2000, both parties met to discuss continuation of the food service contract, but this meeting did not result in a negotiated contract.

Later in March 2001, the SLA alleged that, without explanation, the Army discontinued the SLA's contract effective April 1, 2001. The SLA further alleged that, despite repeated requests to negotiate the Ft. Campbell food service contract with the Army, there was no communication until June 20, 2001, when an Army contracting officer posted a solicitation announcement in Commerce Business Daily (CBD) for provision of the dining facility attendant services at Ft. Campbell. The procurement was limited to Small Business Administration (SBA) certified personnel.

On July 25, 2001, the Governor of Kentucky wrote to the Secretary of the Army requesting that the Army reconsider its decision to exclude the SLA from competing for the contract to provide dining facility attendant services at Ft. Campbell. The Army did not respond to the Governor's letter. On August 14, 2001, the Army amended its CBD announcement. On August 24, the Army issued a solicitation stating that the procurement was to be administered by an SBA 8(a) set-aside contractor.

The SLA alleged that, as the result of a recent court case, *NISH and Goodwill Services, Inc. v. Cohen*, 95 F. Supp.2d 497, 503-04 (E.D. Va. 2000), military dining facilities have been determined to come within the definition of cafeteria under the Act.

The SLA further maintained that neither the Act nor its implementing regulations differentiate between the performance of "full food services" or "dining facility attendant services" in military dining facilities. In fact, it was the SLA's position that dining facility attendant services and full food services constitute cafeteria operations under the Act.

Therefore, the SLA alleged that the Army's refusal to allow the SLA to renegotiate its food service contract at Ft. Campbell demonstrated the Army's unwillingness to comply with the Act and its implementing regulations.

As a result of this dispute, the SLA requested the Secretary of Education to convene a Federal arbitration panel to hear this complaint. A panel was convened, and a hearing on this matter was held on May 13, 2002.

#### Arbitration Panel Decision

The arbitration panel heard the following issue: whether the Army's alleged failure to negotiate with the SLA in good faith for the full food services and dining facility attendant services contract at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, constituted a violation of the Act (20 U.S.C. 107 *et seq.*) and the implementing regulations in 34 CFR part 395.

After considering the evidence presented, the majority of the panel ruled that the Act clearly covers all types of food service operations including military troop dining facilities. The panel stated that the Army's provision of cooks for the dining facility at Ft. Campbell did not mandate the exclusion of the SLA from the opportunity to provide other services.

Further, the panel found that the Army's issuance of a new solicitation amounted to a limitation on the placement or operation of vending facility services on Federal property as provided by the Act. The panel also noted that the Act states that Federal agencies may give priority to SLAs through direct negotiation whenever a vending facility can be provided at a reasonable cost with food of a high quality, comparable to that currently provided.

Accordingly, the panel ruled that the Army failed to present any evidence that it complied with the requirements of the Act and the implementing regulations prior to excluding the SLA from its procurement for food services at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky.

Therefore, the panel ruled that the Army should engage in direct negotiations with the SLA for its dining facility attendant services requirement at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky.

One panel member dissented.

The views and opinions expressed by the panel do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the U.S. Department of Education.

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Dated: November 24, 2004.

**Troy R. Justesen,**

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Revision of the Record of Decision for a Nuclear Weapons Nonproliferation Policy Concerning Foreign Research Reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration.

**ACTION:** Revision of a record of decision.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), in consultation with the Department of State, has decided to revise its Record of Decision (ROD) for the Final Environmental Impact Statement on a Proposed Nuclear Weapons Nonproliferation Policy Concerning Foreign Research Reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel, issued on May 13, 1996 (61 FR 15902, May 17, 1996). That decision established the U. S. Nuclear Weapons Nonproliferation Policy Concerning Foreign Research Reactor (FRR) Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) (hereinafter referred to as the "Acceptance Policy"), which provides for DOE acceptance of SNF containing uranium enriched in the United States from research reactors located in 41 countries. Under the current Acceptance Policy, only material of U.S. origin that is irradiated and discharged from reactors before May 13, 2006, is eligible for acceptance. Eligible SNF can be accepted through May 12, 2009. DOE has decided to extend the Acceptance Program for an additional 10 years, until May 12, 2016, for irradiation of eligible fuel, and until May 12, 2019, for fuel acceptance. DOE will also accept a small number of SNF elements from a reactor in Australia scheduled to be commissioned after 2005 to replace a reactor currently eligible for the acceptance program, and analyzed in the FRR SNF Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

With less than 2 years remaining until the expiration date for irradiation of eligible fuel and less than 5 years remaining for fuel acceptance, DOE has received only about 35 percent of the material eligible for return as estimated in the Final Environmental Impact Statement on a Proposed Nuclear Weapons Nonproliferation Policy Concerning Foreign Research Reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel (FRR SNF EIS, DOE/EIS-0218, February 1996), on which the ROD was based. This is because some countries with eligible fuel have not used their fuel as rapidly as projected in 1996, some countries have made alternative spent fuel processing arrangements, and there have been technical delays in the development of new low-enriched uranium (LEU) fuels to enable research reactors to convert from high-enriched uranium (HEU), which can be used to create nuclear weapons.

DOE prepared a Supplement Analysis for the FRR SNF EIS, in accordance with DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementing regulations (10 CFR part 1021). This analysis evaluated the potential health and environmental impacts of extending the program for 5 and 10 years, and of including a small number of additional fuel elements from the Australian Replacement Research Reactor (ARRR). The analysis concluded that, although there could be very small increases in health impacts such as from SNF transportation over the extended period, these increases would not significantly change the results reported in the FRR SNF EIS. Accordingly, DOE has determined that a supplement to the FRR SNF EIS is not required.

**ADDRESSES:** For copies of the Supplement Analysis, or for further information about the FRR SNF Acceptance Program, contact: Catherine R. Mendelsohn, Acting Director, Office of Global Nuclear Material Threat Reduction, Office of Global Threat Reduction, National Nuclear Security Administration, U.S. Department of Energy, NA-21, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington DC 20585, (202) 586-0275, fax: (202) 586-6789, [kasia.mendelsohn@hq.doe.gov](mailto:kasia.mendelsohn@hq.doe.gov).

The Supplement Analysis and related information will be available on DOE's NEPA web site at <http://www.eh.doe.gov/nepa/> and in the DOE Public Reading Room as follows: U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 1E-190, Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-5955. The Public Reading Room is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday to Friday, except Federal holidays.