DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Arms Control and Nonproliferation Policy; Proposed Subsequent Arrangement

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Subsequent Arrangement.

SUMMARY: This notice is being issued under the authority of Section 131 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2160). The Department is providing notice of a proposed "subsequent arrangement" under the Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy Between the Government of the United States of America and the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM).

This subsequent arrangement concerns the approval of RTD/RS(EU)-2 which involves the retransfer of U.S.-origin nuclear components including 632 pieces of stainless steel fuel guard, 649,690 meters of zircaloy fuel cladding tubes, 7,296 pieces of zircaloy spacers, and 1,480 kilograms of zircaloy end-plug from Germany to the Elektrostal Nuclear Fuel Fabrication Facility in Moscow, Russia for fabrication of fuel assemblies. Siemens AG will then sell the fuel assemblies to nuclear power plants in western Europe.

This request is the commercial phase of a three-part cooperation between Siemens AG and Elektrostal. DOE approved the qualification phase and test phase in January 1995 and April 1998, respectively. The Russian government has confirmed that the assurances it gave in 1994 for the transfer of zircaloy fuel cladding tubes, confirming no nuclear explosive or other military use and no retransfer except to Western European countries without prior U.S. consent, would apply equally to the transfer of fuel guards, spacers, and end-plugs.

In accordance with Section 131 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, we have determined that this subsequent arrangement will not be inimical to the common defense and security.

This subsequent arrangement will take effect no sooner than fifteen days after the date of publication of this notice.

Dated: March 9, 1999.

For the Department of Energy.

Terry Tyborowski,

Acting Director, International Policy and Analysis Division, Office of Arms Control and Nonproliferation.

[FR Doc. 99-6477 Filed 3-16-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

DOE Response to Recommendation 98-2 of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, Safety Management at the Pantex Plant

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board published Recommendation 98-2, concerning the safety management at the Pantex plant, on October 7, 1998 (63 FR 53884). Under section 315(e) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2286d(e), the Department of Energy must transmit an implementation plan on Recommendation 98-2 to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board by March 10, 1999, or submit a notification of extension for an additional 45 days. The Secretary's notification of extension for an additional 45 days follows.

ADDRESSES: Send comments, data, views, or arguments concerning the Secretary's notification to: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Gene Ives, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Application and Stockpile Management, Defense Programs, Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC, 20585.

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 11, 1999.

Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.,

Departmental Representative to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

March 10, 1999.

The Honorable John T. Conway,
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board 624 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20004.

Dear Mr. Chairman: This is to notify you, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2286d(e), that the Department of Energy will require an additional 45 days to transmit the implementation plan for addressing the issues raised in the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Recommendation 98-2, "Safety Management at the Pantex Plant." The additional time will be beneficial for both the Department and the DNFSB to assure the implementation plan represents a comprehensive approach to this complex issue.

Mr. Gene Ives, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Application and Stockpile Management, will further discuss the implementation plan with you on March 9, 1999. Together, we can then determine the appropriate commitments for incorporation into the implementation plan. The implementation plan will be provided to the DNFSB by April 23, 1999.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Richardson,

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS); Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of Intent (NOI).

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), DOE announces its intent to prepare a Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS) for the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant (Y-12), DOE's primary site for enriched uranium operations and storage related to the nation's nuclear weapons program. The SWEIS will analyze current levels of Y-12 operations and foreseeable new operations and facilities for approximately the next ten years. The alternatives to be analyzed in the SWEIS include: an extensive upgrade/retrofit of existing processes and facilities; construction of new facilities to replace existing processes and facilities; a combination of upgrades of existing processes and facilities and new construction; and the No Action alternative. The No Action alternative is to continue current facility operations throughout Y-12 in support of assigned missions. There is no preferred alternative at this time. The purpose of this notice is to invite public participation in the process and to encourage public dialogue on the alternatives that should be considered.

DATES: The DOE invites other federal agencies; state, local and tribal governments; and the general public to comment on the scope of this SWEIS. The public scoping period starts with the publication of this Notice in the **Federal Register** and will continue until May 17, 1999. DOE will consider all comments received or postmarked by that date in defining the scope of this SWEIS. Comments received or postmarked after that date will be considered to the extent practicable. Public scoping meetings will be held in the Oak Ridge area and their dates, times, and locations will be published in local newspapers and other appropriate media.

The DOE is requesting, by separate correspondence and this Notice, that federal and state government agencies desiring to be designated as cooperating