

## SURPLUS PLUTONIUM DISPOSITION CHRONOLOGY

May 4 – December 14, 1994 – DOE holds 15 public meetings and workshops to get input on alternatives for disposition of surplus weapons-usable highly enriched uranium (HEU) and plutonium (Pu). Locations were: Washington, DC; N. Augusta, SC; Chicago, IL; Westminster, CO; Richland, WA; Amarillo, TX; Boston, MA; Las Vegas, NV; Idaho Falls, ID; Livermore, CA; Oak Ridge, TN; Los Alamos, NM; Alexandria, VA; and Herndon, VA.

April 5, 1995 – DOE published a *Federal Register* (FR) notice that it would prepare a separate HEU EIS. That Final EIS (DOE/EIS-0240) was issued on June 28, 1996. The Record of Decision (ROD) was published in the FR on August 5, 1996 (61 FR 40619-40629). The decision was to gradually blend down up to 200 metric tons of HEU to be used in commercial nuclear power plants. Storage of surplus HEU would be at the Y-12 Plant at Oak Ridge, TN.

March 8 – June 7, 1996 – Comment period on *Draft Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE/EIS-0229). Public meetings were held in Denver, CO; Las Vegas, NV; Oak Ridge, TN; Richland, WA; Idaho Falls, ID; Washington, DC; Amarillo, TX; and N. Augusta, SC. The Final EIS was issued in December 1996. The ROD was published on January 21, 1997 (62 FR 3014-3030). The decision was to consolidate surplus Pu storage of up to 89 metric tons at Pantex (TX) and SRS (SC), including Pu from Rocky Flats (CO), Hanford (WA), Idaho National Lab (INL), and Los Alamos (LANL). Disposition of up to 50 metric tons was to be done by immobilization in glass or ceramic for disposal in a Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) repository and burning of some Pu in mixed oxide fuel (MOX) with the waste disposed in a repository. On August 13, 1998, an Amended PEIS ROD was issued. 63 FR 43386. To accelerate Rocky Flats closure, its Pu would be shipped to SRS beginning in 2000. On September 11, 2007, an Amended PEIS ROD was issued. 72 FR 51807-51811. Approximately 2,511 additional 3013 packages of non-pit Pu would be transferred to SRS from Hanford (WA), Lawrence Livermore (CA), and LANL (NM).

July 17, 1998 – September 16, 1998 - Comment period on *Draft Surplus Plutonium Disposition Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE/EIS-0283). Public hearings were held in Richland, WA; Amarillo, TX; N. Augusta, SC; Portland, OR; and Idaho Falls, ID.

May 14 – June 28, 1999 – Comment period of *Supplement* to the DEIS regarding using six specific reactors for MOX fuel. A public hearing was held in Washington, DC.

January 11, 2000 – ROD on the *Surplus Plutonium Disposition FEIS* that was issued in December 1999. 65 FR 1608-1620. The decision was to immobilize up to 17 metric tons of surplus plutonium for disposal in an NWPA repository and use up to 33 metric tons in MOX fuel at the Catawba (SC), McGuire (NC), North Anna (VA) commercial reactors. The Pit Disassembly and Conversion Facility (PDCF), immobilization facility, and MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility would all be at SRS. LANL would be used to fabricate MOX lead assemblies at a to-be-determined facility.

April 19, 2002 – Amended ROD issued. 67 FR 19432-19435. The amended decision cancelled the immobilization program “due to budgetary constraints.” It also consolidated long-term storage of SRS and Rocky Flats Pu at SRS and cancelled a new storage facility at Pantex.

April 24, 2003 – Amended ROD issued. 68 FR 20134-20137. DOE reaffirms the MOX-only approach for 34 metric tons, including approximately 6.5 metric tons that was to be immobilized to “implement the U.S-Russia Agreement.”

November 14, 2003 – Amended ROD issued. 68 FR 64611-64614. LANL will not do the test assemblies; they will be done in France on a one-time basis and irradiated at Catawba to meet the MOX fuel fabrication schedule.

March 28 – May 29, 2007 – Comment period on the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a Supplement to the *Surplus Plutonium Disposition FEIS*. 72 FR 14543-14546. The Supplement would “evaluate potential environmental impacts” of immobilization technologies at SRS for the remaining about 13 metric tons [of the 50 metric tons] that would not go to MOX. The resulting waste would be suitable for geologic repository disposal. Scoping meetings were held in April 2007 in Aiken and Columbia, SC. “DOE plans to issue the Draft SEIS by January 2008” and a Final SEIS by July 2008.

July 19 – September 17, 2010 – Comment period on the Amended NOI to revise the scope of the Supplemental EIS. 75 FR 41850-41853. The PDCF would not be built, up to five Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) reactors could be used for MOX at the Sequoyah (TN) and Browns Ferry (AL) commercial reactors, and the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in NM could be the disposal site for some surplus non-pit Pu. Scoping meetings were held in August in Tanner, AL; Chattanooga, TN; N. Augusta, SC; Carlsbad, NM; and Santa Fe, NM.

January 12 – March 12, 2012 – Comment period on the Second Amended NOI to revise the scope of the Supplemental EIS. 77 FR 1920-1923. Additional pit disassembly alternatives at LANL, H-Canyon/HB-Line at SRS, K-Area at SRS, and MOX Plant at SRS. A scoping meeting was held in February in Pojoaque, NM.