President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology Meeting

AGENCY: Office of Science, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of partially-closed meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and summary agenda for a partially-closed meeting of the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST), and describes the functions of the Council. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the Federal Register.

DATES: March 25, 2016 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC in the Lecture Room.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Information regarding the meeting agenda, time, location, and how to register for the meeting is available on the PCAST Web site at: http://whitehouse.gov/ostp/pcast. A live video webcast and an archive of the webcast after the event are expected to be available at http://whitehouse.gov/ostp/pcast. The archived video will be available within one week of the meeting. Questions about the meeting should be directed to Ms. Jennifer Michael at jmichael@ostp.eop.gov, (202) 395–2121. Please note that public seating for this meeting is limited and is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) is an advisory group of the nation’s leading scientists and engineers, appointed by the President to augment the science and technology advice available to him from inside the White House, cabinet agencies, and other Federal departments. See the Executive Order at http://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/pcast. PCAST is consulted about and provides analyses and recommendations concerning a wide range of issues where understandings from the domains of science, technology, and innovation may bear on the policy choices before the President. PCAST is co-chaired by Dr. John P. Holdren, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology, and Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy, and Dr. Eric S. Lander, President, Broad Institute of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard.

Type of Meeting: Open and Closed.

Proposed Schedule and Agenda: The President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) is scheduled to meet in open session on March 25, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Open Portion of Meeting: During this open meeting, PCAST is scheduled to have presenters brief on the topic of One Health. They will also hear from speakers who will remark on National Science Foundation Science and Engineering Indicators and who will discuss cancer research frontiers. Additional information and the agenda, including any changes that arise, will be posted at the PCAST Web site at: http://whitehouse.gov/ostp/pcast.

Closed Portion of the Meeting: PCAST may hold a closed meeting of approximately one hour with the President on March 25, 2016, which must take place in the White House for the President’s scheduling convenience and to maintain Secret Service protection. This meeting will be closed to the public because such portion of the meeting is likely to disclose matters that are to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1).

Public Comments: It is the policy of the PCAST to accept written public comments of any length, and to accommodate oral public comments whenever possible. The PCAST expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted oral or written statements.

The public comment period for this meeting will take place on March 25, 2016 at a time specified in the meeting agenda posted on the PCAST Web site at http://whitehouse.gov/ostp/pcast. This public comment period is designed only for substantive commentary on PCAST’s work, not for business marketing purposes.

Oral Comments: To be considered for the public speaker list at the meeting, interested parties should register to speak at http://whitehouse.gov/ostp/pcast, no later than 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time on March 18, 2016. Phone or email reservations will not be accepted. To accommodate as many speakers as possible, the time for public comments will be limited to two (2) minutes per person, with a total public comment period of up to 15 minutes. If more speakers register than there is space available on the agenda, PCAST will randomly select speakers from among those who applied. Those not selected to present oral comments may always file written comments with the committee. Speakers are requested to bring at least 25 copies of their oral comments for distribution to the PCAST members.

Written Comments: Although written comments are accepted continuously, written comments should be submitted to PCAST no later than 12:00 p.m.
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Disposal of Greater-Than-Class C (GTCC) Low-Level Radioactive Waste and GTCC-Like Waste

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE or Department) announces the availability of its Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Disposal of Greater-Than-Class C (GTCC) Low-Level Radioactive Waste and GTCC-Like Waste (Final EIS) (DOE/EIS–0375), prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This Final EIS considered public comments, including a Comment Response Document that addresses all comments received on the Draft EIS. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is a cooperating agency in the preparation of this EIS. The Final EIS evaluates the potential human health and environmental impacts of a range of reasonable alternatives for disposing of an estimated 12,000 cubic meters (m3) of waste, containing approximately 160 million curies of radioactivity. This includes GTCC low-level radioactive waste (LLRW) as defined by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in 10 CFR 72.3, i.e., “low-level radioactive waste that exceeds the concentration limits of radionuclides established for Class C waste in 10 CFR 61.55,” as well as GTCC-like waste which is DOE owned or generated LLRW and non-defense-generated transuranic radioactive waste having characteristics similar to GTCC LLRW and for which there may be no path to disposal. This Final EIS also identifies DOE’s preferred alternative for the disposal of GTCC and GTCC-like waste at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) geologic repository in New Mexico and land disposal at generic commercial facilities.


ADDRESSES: This Final EIS is available on the DOE NEPA Web site at http://energy.gov/nepa and on the GTCC Web site at http://www.gtccis.anl.gov. Copies of the Final EIS are also available in the public reading rooms and libraries listed in SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION. A printed summary and compact disc (CD) of the complete Final EIS or a complete printed copy of the Final EIS (approximately 4,198 pages) may be requested by sending an email to: gtccis@anl.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information about this Final EIS, please contact Ms. Theresa J. Kliczewski, GTCC EIS Document Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Disposition Planning & Policy (EM–32), 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585 or by email at gtccis@anl.gov. For general information regarding the DOE NEPA process, please contact: Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (GC–54), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585, Telephone: (202) 586–4600, or leave a message at (800) 472–2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 3(b)(1)(D) of the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Amendments Act (LLRWPAAA) of 1985 (Pub. L. 99–240) makes the U.S. Federal Government responsible for the disposal of GTCC LLRW that results from NRC and Agreement State licenses. The LLRWPAAA also specified in Section 3(b)(2) that such waste be disposed of in a facility operated by NRC. DOE is the Federal Agency responsible for the disposal of GTCC LLRW. GTCC LLRW is LLRW that has radionuclide concentrations that exceed the limits for Class C LLRW provided in 10 CFR 61.55.

This Final EIS also addresses GTCC-like waste which is DOE owned or generated LLRW and non-defense-generated transuranic radioactive waste having characteristics similar to GTCC LLRW and for which there may be no path to disposal. The NRC LLRW waste classification system in 10 CFR 61.55 does not apply to radioactive waste generated or owned by DOE and disposed of in DOE facilities. DOE evaluates GTCC-like waste in the Final EIS because similar approaches may be used to dispose of both GTCC LLRW and GTCC-like waste. DOE’s proposed action is therefore to construct and operate a new facility or facilities, or use an existing facility or facilities, for the disposal of GTCC LLRW and GTCC-like waste. The Final EIS evaluates alternative methods for disposal of these wastes at various alternative locations, evaluates generic commercial disposal sites in four regions of the U.S., and a “No Action Alternative” as required under NEPA.

Types and Estimated Quantities of GTCC LLRW and GTCC-Like Wastes

The total inventory volume of GTCC LLRW and GTCC-like waste evaluated in the Final EIS is about 12,000 m3, and is estimated to contain approximately 160 million curies of radioactivity. Of this total, approximately 3,000 m3 and less than one million curies are estimated to be GTCC-like waste. Approximately ten percent of the total estimated inventory volume of GTCC LLRW and GTCC-like waste is currently in storage, while approximately 90 percent is expected to be generated in the future.

GTCC LLRW and GTCC-like waste, for purposes of the Final EIS, are categorized into three waste types: activated metals, sealed sources, and other waste. Activated metals are largely generated from the decommissioning of nuclear reactors. They include portions of the nuclear reactor vessel, such as the core shroud and core support plate. Activated metals wastes represent approximately 17 percent of the total inventory volume and approximately 98 percent of the radioactivity from GTCC LLRW and GTCC-like waste. Most of the activated metals will not be generated for several decades, when the majority of the currently operating reactors are scheduled to undergo decommissioning.

Sealed sources are widely used for medical purposes, such as in equipment to diagnose and treat illnesses (particularly cancer), sterilize medical