Law 96–517, the Department is statutorily obligated to take title to inventions conceived or first actually reduced to practice in the performance of the contracts. Here, as in all other circumstances in which the Department takes title to inventions by statute, the contractors may request a waiver at the time of contracting for a class of inventions or during contract performance for identified inventions. DOE includes the considerations at 42 U.S.C. 5908 in its determination as to whether to approve the request.

(c) While no contractor that manages and operates a DOE research and development or production facility is a small business, several have historically been nonprofit organizations. As such, they are the beneficiaries of the Bayh-Dole Act (35 U.S.C. 200 et seq., as amended) and, therefore, receive the right to retain title to inventions conceived or first actually reduced to practice in the performance of their contracts with the Department, except in areas of technology covered by Exceptional Circumstances Determinations made by DOE or of nuclear weapons and naval nuclear propulsion. In these latter two areas, the contractor may request that the Department waive its title and, therefore, subject to the exceptions identified below, may be granted title to inventions conceived or first actually reduced to practice in the performance of its contract with the Department.

(d) DOE has exercised statutory authority granted under 35 U.S.Č. 202(a)(ii) and 202(a)(iv). In accordance with 35 U.S.C. 202(a)(ii), DOE has issued several Exceptional Circumstances Determinations pursuant to which DOE nonprofit management and operating contractors have no right to elect title to inventions conceived or first actually reduced to practice in the course of or under their contracts within covered areas of technology. However, those contractors may be given some lesser property right in an invention within limits set by DOE in a particular **Exceptional Circumstances** Determination so that the contractor can effectively assist with a mission of DOE, such as technology transfer. As new technologies evolve, DOE may issue additional Exceptional Circumstances Determinations, as appropriate.

(e) In accordance with 35 U.S.C. 202(a)(iv), the Department of Energy has exempted its weapons related and naval nuclear propulsion programs from the broad Bayh-Dole right of its nonprofit management and operating contractors to elect title to inventions conceived or first actually reduced to practice in the course of or under their contracts. The effect of this exemption is that, if the contractors want to acquire title, they must request title to covered inventions. DOE may then grant the request subject to a case-by-case determination that the contractor has met all procedural requirements unilaterally set by DOE to insure that all national security concerns of DOE relating to the contractor's use of an invention in either of these two areas for commercialization have been met.

15. Section 970.2703 is added to read as follows:

970.2703 Technology transfer.

The National Competitiveness Technology Transfer Act of 1989 (NCTTA) (Pub. L. 101-189) established technology transfer as a mission for Government-owned, contractor-operated laboratories, including weapons production facilities, and authorizes those laboratories to negotiate and award cooperative research and development agreements with public and private entities for purposes of conducting research and development and transferring technology to the private sector. In implementing the NCTTA, DOE has negotiated technology transfer clauses with the contractors managing and operating its laboratories. Those technology transfer clauses must be read in concert with the patent rights clause required by this subpart. Thus, each management and operating contractor holds title to subject inventions for the benefit of the laboratory or facility being managed and operated by that contractor.

16. Section 970.2704 is added to read as follows:

970.2704 Patent clauses.

(a) Contracting officers shall insert the clause at 970.5204–71 in all management and operating contracts with nonprofit organizations.

(b) Contracting officers shall insert the clause at 970.5204–72 in all management and operating contracts with profit-making entities.

17. Add section 970.2705, and section 970.2706, as follows:

970.2705 Rights in technical data—general.

(a) A management and operating contractor's obligations for protection of information and data received from DOE and other contractors or subcontractors, and for the contractor's private use of contract data first produced in the performance of the contract, are set forth in paragraph (b)(2) of each Rights in Technical Data clause in 952.227. That subparagraph provides that the contractor may, subject to patent,

security, or other provisions of the contract, use for its private purposes, contract data it first produces in the performance of the contract, provided that the contractor has met its data requirements (e.g., delivery of data in the form of progress or status reports specified to be delivered) as of the date of private use of such data. It is not necessary that a "Final Report" be submitted in order to privately use data if all required progress and interim reports and other technical data then due have been delivered. Paragraph (b)(2) of each Rights in Technical Data clause in 952.227 further provides that technical or other data received by the contractor in the performance of the contract must be held in confidence by the contractor in accordance with restrictions accompanying the data.

(b) Contractors should be aware that technical information which is reported to DOE by DOE contractors may be disseminated by DOE to others, subject to the restrictions included in the "Rights to Technical Data" clause.

(c) Employees of contractors operating DOE facilities may not be used to assist in the preparation of a proposal or bid for the performance of private commercial services similar or related to those being performed under the DOE contract unless such employee has been separated, with DOE approval, from performance of work under the DOE contract for such period as the Head of the Contracting Activity or designee shall direct consistent with the purpose of this section.

(d) Contractors operating DOE facilities and performing services as a part of their contract work for other Government agencies or private organizations should not be permitted to utilize information which is furnished by such customers for their own private activities unless it is generally available to others, or unless the customer authorizes such use.

970.2706 Rights in technical data procedures.

(a) *General*. It is essential that DOE maintain continuity in its programs which are implemented by contracts for the operation of Government-owned facilities. Contract data first produced or specifically used in the performance of such contracts must be considered as integral to and remaining with the facility or plant after termination of such contracts and thus available to DOE and its future contractors for the continued use of the facility or plant. However, it is recognized that these contracts by their nature cannot always be subject to one set of prescribed contract provisions which will always