SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In an interim rule effective and published in the **Federal Register** on October 17, 1994 (59 FR 52233–52235, Docket No. 94–093–1), we amended the regulations regarding payment of indemnity in 9 CFR part 51 to increase the amount of Federal indemnity for brucellosis reactor and brucellosisexposed cattle and bison destroyed during herd depopulation, and to increase the amount of Federal indemnity for cattle and bison destroyed after being sold or traded from a herd that is subsequently found to be affected with brucellosis.

Comments on the interim rule were required to be received on or before December 16, 1994. We did not receive any comments. The facts presented in the interim rule still provide a basis for the rule.

This action also affirms the information contained in the interim rule concerning Executive Order 12866 and the Regulatory Flexibility Act, Executive Orders 12372 and 12778, and the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Further, for this action, the Office of Management and Budget has waived the review process required by Executive Order 12866.

List of Subjects in 9 CFR Part 51

Animal diseases, Cattle, Hogs, Indemnity payments, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

PART 51—ANIMALS DESTROYED BECAUSE OF BRUCELLOSIS

Accordingly, we are adopting as a final rule, without change, the interim rule that amended 9 CFR part 51 and that was published at 59 FR 52233–52235 on October 17, 1994.

Authority: 21 U.S.C. 111–113, 114, 114a, 114a–1, 120, 121, 125, and 134b; 7 CFR 2.17, 2.51, and 371.2(d).

Done in Washington, DC, this 25th day of January 1995.

Terry L. Medley,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. [FR Doc. 95–2316 Filed 1–30–95; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Environment, Safety and Health

10 CFR Part 602

Epidemiology and Other Health Studies Financial Assistance Program

AGENCY: Office of Environment, Safety and Health, Department of Energy. **ACTION:** Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environment, Safety and Health (EH) is issuing a rule to implement an Epidemiology and Other Health Studies Financial Assistance Program. The rule will support EH use of financial assistance awards when they are the appropriate instruments for programmatic activities. The rule will also facilitate a fully open and competitive process for obtaining financial assistance awards. This action is taken to support EH's mission to protect the health of DOE workers, as well as other individuals associated with energy production, transmission, and use.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The final rule is effective March 2, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Heather Stockwell, Acting Director, Office of Epidemiology and Health Surveillance (EH–42), U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585; facsimile: 301–903–4677; telephone: 301–903–3721.

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I. Introduction

DOE is amending chapter II of title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) by adding a new part 602 for use of financial assistance awards to support the EH program of epidemiology and other health-related research. EH healthrelated financial assistance awards previously were made under provisions of the generally applicable DOE Financial Assistance Rules (10 CFR part 600). Part 600 provides basic DOE procedures for the award and

administration of financial instruments, but does not contain program-specific requirements for particular types of financial assistance awards. Part 602 builds on and supplements part 600 by describing the special needs and requirements of the EH Epidemiologic and Other Health Studies Financial Assistance Program. Because the rules work together, it is necessary to refer to both part 600 and this proposal to obtain a comprehensive picture of program procedures. The rule, in conjunction with part 600, provides a framework for an ongoing, comprehensive program for the receipt, review, and evaluation of award applications, and provides specific guidance for pre- and post-award administration. A discussion of the major provisions of the rule, organized by rule section, follows.

II. Discussion of Comments on Proposed Rule

DOE issued a proposed rule in the **Federal Register** on October 18, 1993, [58 FR 53671] to amend existing regulation 10 CFR part 600 to support EH use of financial assistance awards when they are the appropriate instruments for programmatic activities. The proposed rule was to also facilitate a fully open and competitive process for obtaining financial assistance awards. Comments were requested through November 17, 1993. DOE received written comments from two university research administration offices.

One commentator stated that the proposed rules appear reasonable and expressed willingness to work productively with DOE. The other commentator expressed concern about EH having a financial assistance rule separate from other DOE program offices. The correspondent noted that Federal agencies are now required to eliminate unnecessary internal management regulations and questioned the need for the proposed EH rule. The commentator urged DOE to withdraw the proposed rule and to administer the Epidemiology and Other Health Studies Financial Assistance Program under the existing Office of Energy Research Financial Assistance Rule (10 CFR part 605). Noting that the proposed rule is similar to 10 CFR part 605, the commentator suggested that EH issue annual program announcements under that existing rule.

DOE has decided not to withdraw the rule for three reasons. First, DOE needs program-specific financial assistance rules to address unique mission requirements. Section 602.5, for example, describes specific EH program areas. Focusing upon the health of the