

vitrification would produce a form of material least likely to be used in manufacturing a nuclear weapon. However, a proliferator could recover the plutonium from the vitrified (glass) matrix if the necessary resources and proper technology were available. The processing to metal alternative would result in a form of plutonium that closely resembles materials used in weapons production. DOE does not believe that processing these solutions to metal and storing the metal in vaults in protected areas of the SRS, adding appreciably less than one percent to the U.S. inventory of many metric tons, would constitute a proliferation risk. DOE has committed to not using plutonium-239 and weapons-usable highly enriched uranium separated or stabilized during the phaseout, shutdown, and cleanout of weapons complex facilities for nuclear explosive purposes. This prohibition would apply to the plutonium metal produced as a result of the decision to process the F-Canyon plutonium solutions to metal. DOE believes that the processing to metal alternative is fully consistent with the Presidential Nonproliferation and Export Control Policy, under which the United States “* * * will seek to eliminate where possible the accumulation of stockpiles of highly-enriched uranium or plutonium, and to ensure that where these materials already exist they are subject to the highest standards of safety, security, and international accountability.” Furthermore, in accordance with the provision in this Policy to submit U.S. fissile material surplus to national security requirements to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Department intends to offer this material along with other material at the SRS for IAEA inspection when the material is in a form and consolidated in a storage facility suitable for safe and effective monitoring by the IAEA.

V. Environmentally Preferable Alternative

As shown in the Final F-Canyon Plutonium Solutions EIS, the potential environmental impacts of implementing any of the alternatives are generally small and within the same range. DOE believes that any of the action alternatives would be preferable to the no action alternative because the inherent risk of storing plutonium in liquid form would be eliminated. DOE considers the processing to metal alternative the environmentally preferable alternative because it would eliminate the inherent risk of maintaining plutonium in solution in

the shortest period of time. While the plutonium remains in solution, there is a risk of releases and subsequent radiation exposure to workers, the public, and the environment from accidental criticality incidents, leaks, and disruptions to engineered systems from earthquakes.

VI. Decision

DOE has decided to implement the preferred alternative, processing the F-Canyon plutonium solutions to metal, as discussed in the Final F-Canyon Plutonium Solutions EIS. Concurrent with the processing, packaging and storage of the metal, which is expected to take about 20 months, DOE will undertake activities to modify part of the FB-Line facility to provide the capability to repackage the plutonium metal into a configuration that meets the DOE standard for long-term storage of plutonium. The plutonium metal resulting from this action will not be used for nuclear explosive purposes.

VII. Mitigation

The F-Canyon and FB-Line facilities that will be used to process the plutonium solutions to metal incorporate engineered features to limit the potential impacts of facility operations to workers, the public and the environment. All of the engineered systems and administrative controls are subject to the startup requirements of DOE Order 5480.31, which will assure, prior to startup, the safe operation of the facilities. No other mitigation measures have been identified; therefore, DOE need not prepare a Mitigation Action Plan.

VIII. Conclusion

DOE has determined that the F-Canyon and FB-Line facilities should be operated to process to metal approximately 303,000 liters (80,000) gallons of plutonium solutions currently stored in F-Canyon. In reaching this decision, DOE considered the analysis of the potential environmental impacts of alternatives for stabilizing this material in the Final F-Canyon Plutonium Solutions EIS. This action will produce a solid form of plutonium that will be safer and easier to store than a liquid solution. It will take less time than other alternatives and will therefore eliminate more quickly the risk inherent in storing plutonium in liquid form. The plutonium metal resulting from this action will be stored at the Savannah River Site pending decisions on its disposition and will not be used for nuclear explosive purposes.

Issued at Washington, DC, February 1, 1995.

Thomas P. Grumbly,

Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Golden Field Office; Notice of Federal Assistance Award to WalMart Stores, Incorporated

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of Financial Assistance Award in Response to an Unsolicited Financial Assistance Application; DE-FG36-95G010057.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), pursuant to the DOE Financial Assistance Rules, 10 CFR 600.14, is announcing its intention to grant funding to WalMart Stores, Incorporated to implement photovoltaics in the City of Industry Environmental Demonstration Store's vestibule to power battery-operated shopping carts, store equipment and an electric demonstration vehicle.

ADDRESSES: Questions regarding this announcement may be addressed to the U.S. Department of Energy, Golden Field Office, 1617 Cole Blvd., Golden, Colorado 80401, Attention: John P. Motz, Contract Specialist. The telephone number is 303-275-4737. The Contracting Officer for this action is John W. Meeker.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DOE has evaluated, in accordance with the DOE Federal Assistance Regulations, 10 CFR section 600.14, the unsolicited proposal entitled “Building Integrated Photovoltaic System” and recommends that the unsolicited proposal be accepted for support without further competition in accordance with section 600.14 of the Federal Assistance Regulations.

The proposed WalMart Store for City of Industry, California, has been selected by WalMart as one of the “Environmental Demonstration Stores”. WalMart's Environmental Demonstration Store program was established to investigate the feasibility of various environmentally sensitive options for building design and development. The City of Industry store has been designated to test energy efficiency concepts such as the proposed implementation of photovoltaics.

The proposed photovoltaic system will be used as roofing of the entrance vestibule canopy. The energy produced