(34 CFR Part 538) published on January 14, 1981 (46 FR 3378).

(2) Regulations governing the Refugee Resettlement Program (45 CFR Part 400) published on September 9, 1980 (45 FR 59818).

(3) Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) (34 CFR Parts 74, 76, 77, 78, and 79), except as otherwise provided in 34 CFR Part 538.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, contact the Application Coordinator for the Transition Program for Refugee Children in the Division of State and Local Programs, Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs, U.S. Department of Education (Room 421, Reporters Building), 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20202. Telephone (202) 245-2922.

(8 U.S.C. 1522(d))

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 84.146, Transition Program for Refugee Children)

Dated: February 27, 1984.

T. H. Bell,

Secretary of Education.

[FR Doc. 84-5740 Filed 3-1-84; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of the Secretary

Compliance With the National Environmental Policy Act; Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Conduct a Public Scoping Meeting on Long-Term Management of Existing Radioactive Materials in the Vicinity of Weldon Spring, Missouri

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the long-term management of existing radioactive materials at two DOE sites in the vicinity of Weldon Spring, Missouri: (1) The Weldon Spring Raffinate Pits, and (2) the Weldon Spring Quarry.

SUMMARY: Two DOE sites in the vicinity of Weldon Spring, Missouri, contain radioactive materials as a result of activities conducted in support of Federal programs. The DOE, through its Surplus Facilities Management Program, is currently evaluating long-term management alternatives for the radioactive materials at these sites: the Weldon Spring Raffinate Pits and the Weldon Spring Quarry. In addition to engineering and cost considerations, DOE will factor consideration of potential environmental impacts into its decisions by preparing an EIS on long-term management of the radioactive materials now at the Raffinate Pits and Quarry sites.

The DOE invites interested agencies, organizations, and members of the general public to submit comments or suggestions to assist DOE in identifying significant environmental issues and determining the appropriate scope of the EIS. Comments may be submitted by mail or presented at a scoping meeting to be held at the following location:

Gymnasium of the Francis Howell High School (located on State Route 94) in St. Charles, Missouri, on March 20, 1984, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Upon completion of the Draft EIS, its availability will be announced in the **Federal Register** and local news media, and comments will be solicited. Comments on the Draft EIS will be considered in preparing the Final EIS.

ADDRESS: Written comments or suggestions on the scope of the EIS and requests to speak at the scoping meeting may be submitted to: Mr. L. F. Campbell, Deputy Director, Technical Services Division, Oak Ridge Operations Office, U.S. Department of Energy, P.O. Box E, Oak Ridge, TN 37830, (615) 576-1052.

Envelopes should be marked "Scoping for Weldon Spring Project."

General information on the process followed by DOE in preparing environmental impact statements may be obtained from: Office of Environmental Compliance, PE-25, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Safety, and Environment, U.S. Department of Energy, ATTN: Mr. Steven R. Woodbury, Washington, DC 20585, (202) 252-4610

DATES: Written comments postmarked by March 30, 1984, will be considered in preparation of the Draft EIS. Comments postmarked after that date will be considered to the maximum extent practicable. A scoping meeting will be held at the location and time given previously. Requests to speak at this meeting should be received by Mr. L. F. Campbell at the above address by March 16, 1984. Requests to speak may also be made during registration for the meeting.

Background

The radioactive materials under consideration are located at two sites near Weldon Spring, Missouri. The Weldon Spring Raffinate Pits site is located in St. Charles County about 23 km (14 mi) southwest of St. Charles and 48 km (30 mi) west of St. Louis. The site is situated near State Route 94, about 3 km (2 mi) southwest of the junction of State Route 94 and U.S. Route 40. The Weldon Spring Quarry site is located about 7 km (4 mi) southwest of the Raffinate Pits site. The Quarry site is situated between State Route 94 and Femme Osage Creek, about 1.6 km (1 mi) from the Missouri River.

Weldon Spring Raffinate Pits. The Weldon Spring Raffinate Pits site is located at the eastern end of the former Weldon Spring Ordnance Works (WSOW), which was operated by the Department of Army from 1941 to 1944. In the mid-1950s, use of and responsibility for 89 ha (220 acres) of WSOW were transferred to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), which constructed and operated a uranium and thorium processing facility at the Weldon Spring Chemical Plant, from 1957 to 1966. The radioactive residue (raffinates) generated by processing uranium and thorium concentrates were transferred to four onsite pits (the Raffinate Pits) for storage. After closure by AEC, the Weldon Spring Chemical Plant was acquired by the Army in 1967 for herbicide production, but the project was cancelled prior to becoming operational. The 21-ha (52-acre) portion of the site that contains the four raffinate pits was transferred back to AEC in 1971. As successor to AEC, DOE now has responsibility for maintenance of the Raffinate Pits site. The site is fenced with a 2-m (7-ft) chain link fence topped with barbed wire and is closed to the public. Site security is maintained through arangements with the Army, and access to the site is limited to roads and gates controlled by the Army or DOE. Operations at the site are currently restricted to site caretaking and management of the stored radioactive materials.

The four raffinate pits occupy about one-half of the 21-ha (52-acre) Raffinate Pits site and have a total capacity of approximately 500,000 m^3 (650,000 yd^3). The pits were constructed by excavating into the existing clay formation and using the removed clay for construction of the levees surrounding the pits. Raffinate Pits 1 and 2 were constructed in 1958, side by side, on nearly level terrain; each pit covers an area of about 0.5 ha (1.2 acres) with a depth of about 2.9 m (9.6 ft). The levees of these two pits are approximately 1 m (3 ft) above the surrounding grade. Pits 1 and 2 each have a design volume of approximately 14,000 m^3 (19,000 yd^3) and contain about 13,000 m^3 (17,000 yd^3) of radioactive residues from past uranium refining and metal production operations at the Weldon Spring Chemical Plant.

Pit 3 was constructed in 1959 with a design volume of approximately 13,000 m^3 (170,000 yd^3), a surface area of approximately 3.4 ha (8.4 acres), and a depth of about 3.7 m (12 ft). The natural terrain slopes downward toward the west boundary so that the levees around Raffinate Pits 3 and 4, although effectively at the same elevation as those around Pits 1 and 2 are, in fact, much higher with respect to the original grade. A portion of the levee in the northeast corner of Pit 3 was constructed on existing terrain so that the levee is about 7 m (23 ft) above original grade in that area. Pit 3 contains approximately 99,000 m^3 (130,000 yd^3) of radioactive residues from past uranium refining and metal production operations at the Weldon Spring Chemical Plant.

Pit 4 was constructed in 1964 with a design volume of approximately 340,000 m^3 (440,000 yd^3), a surface area of aobut 6 ha (15 acres), and a depth of about 5.6 m (18 ft). The east levee of Pit 4 is common to the west levee of Pit 3. The elevations of the tops of the levees of Pits 3 and 4 are the same. The west levee of Pit 4 extends about 11 m (35 ft) above the existing grade at its maximum elevation. Approximately 43,000 m^3 (56,000 yd^3) of radioactive materials are stored in Pit 4, and the residue fill is irregular. Overflow from Pit 3 is designed to flow into Pit 4 through a connecting pipe 2 m (7 ft) below the top of the common levee.

The residues contained in Pits 1, 2, and 3 consist mainly of neutralized raffinates from uranium refining operations and washed slag residues from uranium metal production operations. Pit 4 contains some of the same residues that are present in Pits 1, 2, and 3 plus raffinate solids from the processing of thorium recycle materials. Pit 4 also contains drums and rubble dumped during partial decontamination of the Weldon Spring Chemical Plant by the Army. All pit drains have been sealed, and the residues are covered with water for most of the year. In the hot, dry summer months, the surface water in Pits 1 and 2 may evaporate, leaving the residues exposed. The level of water in Pits 3 and 4 also varies, but historically there has always been some suface water present.

Based on aerial radiological surveys, some properties in the vicinity of the Raffinate Pits and Chemical Plant appear to be slightly contaminated with radioactivity. These properties include drainage areas, an Army easement area, access roads, and rail spurs that were used to transport radioactive materials to the site. Detailed radiological surveys of these properties will be conducted in the summer and fall of 1984. Decontamination of contaminated properties and disposal of radioactive materials are included in the proposed action.

DOE has also reviewed an additional potential action: making available the Raffinate Pits site for disposal of radiactive materials resulting from decontamination and demolition of facilities at the Weldon Spring Chemical Plant, if the Army decides to undertake such an action, and if the Raffinate Pits site proves suitable for long-term management. However, the Army believes that DOE should assume responsibility for the Weldon Spring Chemical Plant, and has requested the Office of Management and Budget to decide which agency shall have responsibility for the Chemical Plant. Until this issue is resolved, the Army has declined to participate as a cooperating agency to examine disposal of the Chemical Plant wastes at the Raffinate Pits; therefore, this potential action is not included within the proposed scope of the EIS.

Weldon Spring Quarry. The Weldon Spring Quarry site occupies about 3.6 ha (9 acres) and currently contains radioactive materials from previous disposal activities. The Quarry hole was created as a result of quarrying the limestone outcrop, and the upper elevations of the Quarry hole are well above the surrounding terrain. The main Quarry hole covers an area of about 0.8 ha (2 acres); the deepest 0.2 ha (0.5 acres) of this area is currently filled with water.

Prior to its acquistion by AEC, the Weldon Spring Quarry was used by the Army for disposal of rubble contaminated with trinitrotoluen (TNT). The Quarry was acquired by AEC in 1958 for the purpose of developing it into a disposal site for low-level radioactive materials. In 1959, the AEC used the Quarry to dispose of about 140m^3 (190 yd^3) of drummed 3.8% thorium residues; the drums were placed at an elevation that is below the current Quarry water level. In 1963 and 1964, the Mallinckrodt Chemical Works uranium-processing plant—which has been used as a production facility for uranium trioxide (UO_3), uranium tetrafluoride (UF_4), and uranium metal—was demolished and, as a result, about 38,000 m^3 (50,000 yd^3) of uranium- and radium-contaminated building rubble, process equipment, and soil materials were disposed in the Quarry. This buried rubble covers about 0.4 ha (1 acre) of the Quarry floor to a depth of about 9 m (30 ft).

In 1966, about 420 m^3 (560 yd^3) of drummed 3% thorium residues resulting from the decontamination of process equipment at the Weldon Spring Chemical Plant were disposed in the Quarry. During the same year, the Army covered the thorium residues with TNT-contaminated stone and soil materials. Finally, in 1968–1969, the Army placed the last materials in the Quarry. These materials were uranium- and thorium-contaminated process equipment and building rubble that resulted from the Army's decontamination of portions of the Weldon Spring Chemical Plant. The volume of materials resulting form this decontamination effort was about 4,200 m^3 (5,600 yd^3).

Current activities at the Weldon Spring Quarry are limited to site caretaking and management of the stored materials. The Site is fenced and access to the site is controlled by DOE. For the most part, the radioactive materials in the Quarry are covered and the area backfilled. However, there are two areas in which people could pick up loose materials contaminated with alpha-emitting radionuclides on boots, shoes, or pantlegs if they intrude onto the Quarry site. These areas are the result of previous storage at the Quarry site of loose surficial piles of processed uranium residues, which were transported via rainwater runoff along the surface of the site. Since 1969, no chemical or radioactive materials have been placed in the Quarry. The total volume of radioactive materials currentl in the Quarry is about 43,000 m^3 (56,000 yd^3). The total volume of materials resulting from decontamination of the Quarry is estimated to be about 99,000 m^3 (130,000 yd^3).

Based on aerial radiological surveys, some properties in the vicinity of the Quarry site appear to be slightly contaminated with radioactivity. These properties include drainage areas and access roads and rail spurs that were used to transport radioactive materials to the site. Detailed radiological surveys of these properties will be conducted in the summer and fall of 1984. Decontamination of contaminated properties and disposal of radioactive materials are included in the proposed action.

Preliminary Definition of Alternatives To Be Considered in the EIS

DOE is currently considering several alternatives for disposition of the radioactive materials currently located at the Raffinate Pits and Quarry sites as well as contaminated vicinity properties.

Alternative 1: No Action—Continue to store the radioactive materials now at the Raffinate Pits and Quarry sites and take no action for the contaminated vicinity properties. Continue surveillance, monitoring, and periodic maintenance of the sites as required.

Alternative 2: Improved Containment—Move the radioactive materials from the Quarry site and vicinity properties to the Raffinate Pits site and improve containment to reduce potential for offsite contamination. This could involve modifying the form of the radioactive materials now at the Raffinate Pits and Quarry sites. The Raffinate Pits site would continue to be maintained and monitored by DOE as required. This is DOE's preferred alternative.

Alternative 3: Long-Term Management at Another Site—Remove all radioactive materials from the Raffinate Pits and Quarry sites and vicinity properties and transport them to another site for long-term management. Following removal of the radioactive materials, the sites would be restored as appropriate.

3a: *Long-Term Management at Another DOE-Owned Site*—Remove the radioactive materials from the Raffinate Pits and Quarry sites and vicinity properties and transport them to an existing DOE-owned site. The Hanford site in the state of Washington is being considered for this alternative, using long-term management by near-surface burial. The Hanford site would continue to be maintained and monitored by DOE as required.

3b: *Long-Term Management at a New Site in Missouri*—Remove the radioactive materials from the Raffinate Pits and Quarry sites and vicinity properties and transport them to a new site (not yet identified) for long-term management. For purposes of analysis, the new site is assumed to be established in the state of Missouri approximately 160 km (100 mi) from Weldon Spring. Analysis of impacts at this stage will be based on the use of available regional data. If this alternative is selected, DOE would look to the state of Missouri for identification of a disposal site that would then be developed and managed by DOE.

In addition to the alternatives being considered for the Raffinate Pits and Quarry sites and vicinity properties, DOE is proposing to analyze various options for implementing these alternatives including: (a) Use of an above-ground engineered disposal facility for long-term management, and (b) subsidized processing of these radioactive materials to extract uranium and thorium.

DOE believes that the above alternatives encompass the range of reasonable alternatives to be considered by the DOE decision-maker for management of the radioactive materials at the two DOE sites. Comments on the scope and definition of these alternatives, as well as suggestions of other reasonable alternatives that the DOE decision-maker should consider, are invited via the scoping process described below.

Preliminary List of Potential Issues

There are a number of potential issues associated with the abovementioned alternatives. Some of these issues deal with potential environmental impacts, whereas others are factors that may influence or be influenced by implementation of one or more of the alternatives. Following is a list of major issues that may require analysis in the EIS:

1. *Potential radiological impacts:*
- On people, including workers and the general public individuals and the total population, present and future generations;
- In terms of both radiation doses and resulting health risks;
- Near the DOE sites, along transportation routes, and near other sites included in the alternatives;
- Associated with routine operations, accidents, and severe natural phenomena (e.g., earthquakes, floods, tornadoes);
- Assoicated with various pathways to man—including soil, surface waters, and groundwaters; gases, dust, and particulates; and the food chain;
- Due to natural forces such as erosion; and
- Associated with human instrusion into the contaminated materials.

2. *Potential socioeconomic impacts:*
- Associated with land uses and the value and marketability of properties near the sites and along transportation routes to long-term management sites; and
- On local transportation systems.

3. *Potential chemical impacts:*
- Associated with contamination of land, surface waters, and groundwaters by heavy metals, organic contaminants, and other pollutants.

4. *Potential engineering and technical issues:*
- Most reasonable engineering options for each of the DOE sites, e.g., removal and treatment of water from the Raffinate Pits, decontamination procedures for the Quarry;
- Probable duration of isolation of the radioactive materials; rates and magnitude of loss of containment;
- Site-specific geological and hydrological conditions, e.g., depth of overburden above bedrock at the Raffinate Pits site, permeability and depth of clay beneath the Raffinate Pits site;
- Site-specific meteorological conditions; and
- Site characterization and additional research and development prior to a decision or before actual implementation of an alternative.

5. *Potential institutional issues:*
- Project-specific criteria for decontamination, effluents, environmental concentrations, and release of a site for unresticted or restricted uses;
- Future institutional controls (monitoring and maintenance); and
- Institutional issues that need to be resolved before an alternative can be implemented.

6. *Potential issues relative to mitigative measures and monitoring:*
- Measures to control dispersion to the environment;
- Long-term monitoring and maintenance needs; and
- Measures that could be taken to reduce impacts under each of the alternatives.

This preliminary list is based on DOE experience with major issues that have been raised relative to other DOE proposals of this nature. Interested parties are invited to participate in the scoping process discussed below and to help refine this list to arrive at the significant issues to be anlayzed in-depth in the EIS and to eliminate from detailed study the issues that are not significant.

Scoping

The scoping process will involve all interested agencies (Federal, state, and local), groups, and members of the public. Comments are invited on both the alternatives and the issues to be considered in the EIS. A public scoping meeting will be held at the following location: Gymnasium of the Francis Howell High School (located on State Route 94) in St. Charles, Missouri, on March 20, 1984, starting at 7:30 p.m.

This will be an informal meeting with a presiding officer, and DOE will establish procedures governing the conduct of the meeting. The meeting will not be conducted as an evidentiary hearing, and those who choose to make statements may not be cross-examined by other speakers. To ensure that everyone who wishes to speak has a chance to do so, five minutes will be allotted to each speaker. Depending on the number of persons requesting to be

heard, DOE may allow longer times for representatives of organizations; persons wishing to speak on behalf of an organization should identify the organization in their request. Persons who have not submitted a request to speak in advance may register to speak at the scoping meeting; they will be called on to present their comments if time permits. Both oral and written comments will be considered and will be given equal weight.

A transcript of the public scoping meeting will be retained by DOE and made available for inspection at the Freedom of Information Reading Room, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20585, during business hours, Monday through Friday. Additional copies of the public scoping meeting transcript and other NEPA documents and major references used in the preparation of the EIS will also be made available during normal business hours at the following location and at other locations as appropriate: St. Charles City/County Library, Spencer Road Branch, 425 Spencer Road, P.O. Box 529, St. Peters, Missouri 63376.

A notice of locations where these documents will be available will be published in the **Federal Register** at the time of announcement of availability of the Draft EIS. In addition, copies of the public scoping meeting transcript will be made available for purchase.

Those interested parties who do not wish to submit comments or suggestions at this time but who would like to receive a copy of the Draft EIS should notify Mr. L. F. Campbell at the address given in the Address section of this Notice.

Dated at Washington, DC, this 22nd day of February, 1984, for the United States Department of Energy.

Jan W. Mares,

Assistant Secretary for Policy, Safety, and Environment.

[FR Doc. 84-5664 Filed 3-1-84; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-M

National Petroleum Council, Proposed Coordinating Subcommittee of the Committee on the Strategic Petroleum Reserve; Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Proposed Coordinating Subcommittee of the Committee on the Strategic Petroleum Reserve will meet in March 1984. The National Petroleum Council was established to provide advice, information, and recommendations to the Secretary of Energy on matters relating to oil and natural gas or the oil and natural gas industries. The Committee on the Strategic Petroleum Reserve will address various aspects of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and the long-term availability and movement patterns of tankers worldwide. Its analysis and findings will be based on information and data to be gathered by the various task groups. The time, location, and agenda of the Proposed Coordinating Subcommittee meeting follows:

The Proposed Coordinating Subcommittee will hold a meeting on Tuesday, March 6, 1984, starting at 10:00 a.m., in the Mt. Vernon Room of the Sheraton-Carlton, 16th and K Streets, Washington, D.C.

The tentative agenda for the Proposed Coordinating Subcommittee meeting follows:

1. Discuss the scope of the study to be conducted in response to the Secretary of Energy's request addressing various aspects of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and the long-term availability and movement patterns of tankers worldwide.

2. Discuss an organizational structure for the study.

3. Discuss a timetable for completion of the study.

4. Discuss any other matters pertinent to the overall assignment from the Secretary of Energy.

The meeting is open to the public. The Chairman of the Proposed Coordinating Subcommittee is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will, in his judgment, facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Any member of the public who wishes to file a written statement with the Proposed Coordinating Subcommittee will be permitted to do so, either before or after the meeting. Members of the public who wish to make oral statements should inform Gerald J. Parker, Office of Oil, Gas and Shale Technology, Fossil Energy, 301/353-3032, prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made for their appearance on the agenda.

Summary minutes of the meeting will be available for public review at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, Room 1E-190, DOE Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Issued at Washington, D.C., on February 24, 1984.

Donald L. Bauer,

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy.

[FR Doc. 84-5665 Filed 3-1-84; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-M

Economic Regulatory Administration

[Docket No. ERA-FC-83-012; FC Case No. 67004-9032-20-24]

Corporation Order Granting to United States Borax & Chemical Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978

AGENCY: Economic Regulatory Administration, Energy.

ACTION: Order Granting to United States Borax & Chemical Corporation an Exemption from the Prohibitions of the Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978.

SUMMARY: The Economic Regulatory Administration (ERA) of the Department of Energy (DOE) hereby gives notice that it has granted a permanent cogeneration exemption for an electric powerplant from the prohibitions of Title II of the Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 8301 *et seq.*) (FUA or "the Act") to United States Borax & Chemical Corporation (Borax). The cogeneration exemption permits the use of natural gas and/or No. 2 fuel oil as the primary energy source in a proposed 45 megawatt (MW) combined cycle cogeneration facility at Borax's plant located in Boron, California. The final exemption order and detailed information on the proceeding is provided in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below.

DATES: The order shall take effect on May 1, 1984 section 702(a), FUA).

The public file containing a copy of the order, other documents and supporting materials on this proceeding is available for inspection upon request at: Department of Energy Freedom of Information Reading Room, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 1E-190, Washington, D.C. 20585, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

William H. Freeman, Office of Fuels Programs, Economic Regulatory Administration, Forrestal Building, Room GA-033, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, D.C. 20585, Phone (202) 252-2993.

Marya Rowan, Office of General Counsel, Department of Energy, Forrestal Building, Room 6A-141, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, D.C. 20585, Phone (202) 252-6739.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 2, 1983, Borax petitioned ERA under section 212(c) of FUA and 10 CFR 503.37 for a permanent cogeneration exemption to permit the use of natural gas and/or No. 2 fuel oil as the primary energy