

The modification extends the expiration date of the Permit from December 31, 2003, to December 31, 2004, for takes of green (*Chelonia mydas*), loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) sea turtles. The permit allows the SEFSC to conduct sea turtle bycatch reduction research in the pelagic longline fishery of the western north Atlantic Ocean. The purpose of the research is to develop and test methods to reduce bycatch that occurs incidental to commercial, pelagic longline fishing.

Issuance of this amendment, as required by the ESA was based on a finding that such permit: (1) Was applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the threatened and endangered species which are the subject of this permit; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: November 26, 2003.

**Stephen L. Leathery,**

*Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 03-30138 Filed 12-2-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

#### Defense Business Practice Implementation Board; Notice of Advisory Committee Meeting

**AGENCY:** Department of Defense.

**ACTION:** Notice of advisory committee meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Defense Business Practice Implementation Board (DBB) met on Thursday, November 20, 2003, at the Pentagon, Washington, DC from 0815 until 0940. The mission of the DBB is to advise the Senior Executive Council (SEC) and the Secretary of Defense on effective strategies for implementation of best business practices of interest to the Department of Defense. At this meeting, the Board's Human Resources (Minority Representation in Senior DoD Ranks) and Acquisition (Fuel Hedging) task groups deliberated on their preliminary findings related to tasks assigned earlier this year.

**DATES:** Thursday, November 20, 2003, 0815 to 0940 hrs.

**ADDRESSES:** Pentagon, Washington, DC.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The DBB may be contacted at: Defense

Business Practice Implementation Board, 1100 Defense Pentagon, Room 2E314, Washington, DC 20301-1100, via E-mail at [DBB@osd.pentagon.mil](mailto:DBB@osd.pentagon.mil), or via phone at (703) 695-0499.

Dated: November 14, 2003.

**Patricia L. Toppings,**

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.*

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**BILLING CODE 5001-06-M**

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

#### Defense Science Board

**AGENCY:** Department of Defense.

**ACTION:** Notice of advisory committee meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Defense Science Board Task Force on Quarantining Guidance for the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) Epidemic will meet in open session January 14, 2004, from 0930-1200 and from 1300-1500. The Task Force will meet at SAIC, 4001 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 500, Arlington, VA. The Task Force will review the impact quarantining may have on DoD planning and operations by preventing the flow of personnel and material to areas of concern, eroding relationships with host countries, and impacting our forces through anxieties about family members.

The mission of the Defense Science Board is to advise the Secretary of Defense and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology & Logistics on scientific and technical matters as they affect the perceived needs of the Department of Defense. At this meeting, the Defense Science Board Task Force will review and evaluate the Department's ability to provide information to integrate public health needs, on behalf of national security. Specifically, the Task Force will review: Existing doctrine and processes by which quarantine policy is generated; required cooperation with non-DoD agencies and non-US Government entities, including other countries; the capacity of local commanders to rapidly survey disease status, and establish need, ways and means for quarantine in relation to their assigned mission; methods, technologies and doctrine to allow safe transport of personnel through quarantined areas, and restriction of movement where needed; sample scenarios; coordination and allocation of DoD and non DoD resources to combat SARS; identification and tracking of

individuals potentially exposed to SARS; and features of the SARS guidance which may be applicable to future infectious disease outbreaks.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** CDR David Waugh, USN, Defense Science Board, 3140 Defense Pentagon, Room 3D865, Washington, DC 20301-3140, via e-mail at [david.waugh@osd.mil](mailto:david.waugh@osd.mil), or via phone at (703) 695-4158.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Members of the public who wish to attend the meeting must contact CDR Waugh no later than January 5, 2004, for further information about admission as seating is limited. Additionally, those who wish to make oral comments or deliver written comments should also request to be scheduled, and submit a written text of the comments by January 5, 2004, to allow time for distribution to Task Force members prior to the meeting. Individual oral comments will be limited to five minutes, with the total oral comment period not exceeding 30 minutes.

Dated: November 21, 2003.

**Patricia L. Toppings,**

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.*

[FR Doc. 03-30034 Filed 12-2-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 5001-06-M**

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP04-62-000]

#### CenterPoint Energy—Mississippi River Transmission Corporation; Notice of Penalty Revenue Credit Report

November 25, 2003.

Take notice that on November 20, 2003, CenterPoint Energy—Mississippi River Transmission Corporation (MRT) tendered for filing a refund report showing penalty revenues that will be refunded, with interest, to the Customers upon approval by the Commission.

MRT states that copies of its filing have been served upon all of its customers and interested state commissions.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Sections 385.214 or 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests must be filed on or before the date as indicated below. Protests will be considered by the Commission in