

pertaining to agenda items should contact Gerri Flemming's office at the address or telephone listed above. Requests must be received five days prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation in the agenda. The Designated Federal Officer is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct business. Each individual wishing to make public comment will be provided equal time to present their comments.

Minutes: The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC, 20585 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Minutes will also be available by writing to Gerri Flemming, Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office, P.O. Box A, Aiken, SC, 29802, or by calling her at (803) 952-7886.

Issued at Washington, DC on August 11, 2004.

Rachel Samuel,

Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-18668 Filed 8-13-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Rocky Flats

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Rocky Flats. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notices of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Thursday, September 9, 2004; 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

ADDRESSES: College Hill Library, Room L268, Front Range Community College, 3705 West 112th Avenue, Westminster, CO.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ken Korkia, Board/Staff Coordinator, Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board, 10808 Highway 93, Unit B, Building 60, Room 107B, Golden, CO, 80403; telephone (303) 966-7855; fax (303) 966-7856.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Purpose of the Board:* The purpose of the Board is to make recommendations to DOE in the areas of environmental restoration,

waste management, and related activities.

Tentative Agenda:

1. Presentation on Original Landfill Remediation Proposal
2. Educational Presentation on Comprehensive Risk Assessment Methodology
3. Other Board business may be conducted as necessary

Public Participation: The meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Board either before or after the meeting. Individuals who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact Ken Korkia at the address or telephone number listed above. Requests must be received at least five days prior to the meeting and reasonable provisions will be made to include the presentation in the agenda. The Deputy Designated Federal Officer is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Each individual wishing to make public comment will be provided a maximum of five minutes to present their comments.

Minutes: The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying at the office of the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board, 10808 Highway 93, Unit B, Building 60, Room 107B, Golden, CO 80403; telephone (303) 966-7855. Hours of operations are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Minutes will also be made available by writing or calling Ken Korkia at the address or telephone number listed above. Board meeting minutes are posted on RFCAB's Web site within one month following each meeting at: <http://www.rfcab.org/Minutes.HTML>.

Issued at Washington, DC on August 11, 2004.

Rachel M. Samuel,

Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Fossil Energy; Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee. Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires notice of these

meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Tuesday, September 21, 2004, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday, September 22, 2004, 8 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Sea Lodge, 8110 Camino del Oro, La Jolla, California 92037.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Edith Allison, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Oil and Natural Gas, Washington, DC 20585. Phone: (202) 586-1023.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of the Committee: The purpose of the Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee is to provide advice on potential applications of methane hydrate to the Secretary of Energy; assist in developing recommendations and priorities for the Department of Energy methane hydrate research and development program; and submit to Congress a report on the anticipated impact on global climate change from methane hydrate formation, methane hydrate degassing, and consumption of natural gas produced from methane hydrates.

Tentative Agenda:

Tuesday, September 21

Morning

- Welcome and Introductions—James Slutz, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Oil and Natural Gas
- Appointment of Committee Chairman
- Briefings on Methane Hydrate Research Accomplishments—Alaska, Gulf of Mexico, and International, and Laboratory and Global Climate Change Studies.

Afternoon

- Presentation and Discussion—National Research Council Report: "Review of Activities Authorized Under the Methane Hydrate Research and Development"
- Report of Hedberg Conference Session on R&D Issues and Needs
- Discussion of Future Research Directions.

Ten minutes will be allowed for questions and public comment at the end of each presentation.

Wednesday, September 22

Morning

- Discussion of Draft Strategic Plan.

Afternoon

- Discussion of additional recommendations to Department of Energy and to Congress regarding the reauthorization of Methane Hydrate R&D Act of 2000

• Adjourn at 3 p.m. followed by optional tour of Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Public Participation: The meeting is open to the public. The Chairman of the Committee will conduct the meeting to facilitate the orderly conduct of business. If you would like to file a written statement with the Committee, you may do so either before or after the meeting. If you would like to make oral statements regarding any of the items on the agenda, you should contact Edith Allison at the address or telephone number listed above. You must make your request for an oral statement at least five business days prior to the meeting, and reasonable provisions will be made to include the presentation on the agenda. Public comment will follow the 10 minute rule.

Minutes: The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying within 60 days at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Transcripts will be available by request.

Issued in Washington, DC on August 11, 2004.

Rachel M. Samuel,

Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs Enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964—Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Persons With Limited English Proficiency (LEP); Policy Guidance

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of Interim Policy Guidance and request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) publishes this Interim Policy Guidance on Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs, Enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964—Prohibition Against National Discrimination Affecting Persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP). This Policy Guidance applies to all Departmental offices, including the National Nuclear Security Administration.

DATES: The Policy Guidance is effective immediately. Comments must be submitted on or before September 15,

2004. DOE's Office of Civil Rights and Diversity will review all comments and make modifications it deems necessary.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted to Sharon P. Wyatt, Office of Civil Rights and Diversity, Rm 5B-168, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharon P. Wyatt, Room 5B-168, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585, or telephone (202) 586-2256; TDD (202) 586-5329, or e-mail at sharon.wyatt@hq.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: To ensure compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d *et seq.*, and its prohibition of discrimination on the basis of national origin, and with Executive Order 13166, the Department of Energy issues the following Policy Guidance regarding the Title VI prohibition against national origin discrimination affecting persons with limited English proficiency (LEP). This Guidance is intended to clarify standards consistent with case law and well established legal principles. It was prepared by the Department of Energy's Office of Civil Rights and Diversity and is based on policy guidance from the Department of Justice.

Issued in Washington, DC, on August 2, 2004.

Kyle McSlarrow,

Deputy Secretary, Department of Energy.

Policy Guidance: Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs, Enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964—Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Persons With Limited English Proficiency (LEP).

I. Introduction

This Policy Guidance clarifies how recipients of financial assistance from the Department of Energy (including the National Nuclear Security Administration) can meet their obligation to ensure that persons with limited English proficiency have meaningful and timely access to their programs and activities.

Most individuals living in the United States read, write, speak and understand English. There are many individuals, however, for whom English is not their primary language. If these individuals have limited ability to read, write, speak or understand English, they are limited English proficient, or "LEP." Language for LEP individuals can be a barrier to accessing important benefits or services, understanding and exercising important rights, complying with applicable responsibilities, or understanding other

information provided by federally funded programs and activities. The Federal Government funds an array of services that can be made accessible to otherwise eligible LEP persons. The Federal Government is committed to improving the accessibility of these programs and activities to eligible LEP persons, a goal that reinforces its equally important commitment to promoting programs and activities designed to help individuals learn English. Recipients of Federal financial assistance should not overlook the long-term positive impacts of incorporating or offering English as a Second Language (ESL) programs in parallel with language assistance services. ESL courses can serve as an important adjunct to a proper LEP plan. However, the fact that ESL classes are made available does not obviate the statutory and regulatory requirement of meaningful access for LEP individuals. Recipients of Federal financial assistance have an obligation to reduce language barriers that can preclude meaningful access by LEP persons to important government assisted programs and activities.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d *et seq.*, as amended, provides that "no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." Department of Energy (DOE) regulations implementing Title VI are codified at 10 CFR part 1040. The regulations specifically prohibit a recipient under any program, directly or through contractual or other arrangements from, among other things, utilizing criteria or methods of administration which have the effect of subjecting individuals to discrimination because of their race, color, or national origin. 10 CFR 1040.13(c). In certain circumstances, failure to ensure that LEP persons can effectively participate in or benefit from Federally assisted programs and activities may violate the prohibition in Title VI and Title VI regulations against national origin discrimination.

This guidance is issued pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI regulations, and Executive Order 13166, titled, "Improving Access to Services by Persons with Limited English Proficiency." 65 FR 50121 (August 16, 2000). Executive Order 13166 requires that agencies that provide Federal financial assistance develop, if they have not already done so, guidance for their recipients on the