

## **DOE hosts public hearings in Idaho Falls and around the nation to gather comments on its Draft Global Nuclear Energy Partnership Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement**

To help supply consistent, large quantities of carbon-free nuclear power for the nation's energy future, the U.S. Department of Energy prefers to recycle nuclear fuel when generating commercial electricity with reactors, instead the current practice of using nuclear fuel only once.

For an opportunity to learn more about why the DOE prefers nuclear fuel recycling, and to hear about all of the recycling (closed fuel cycle) and non-recycling (open fuel cycle) alternatives that are under consideration, the public is invited to attend a hearing in Idaho Falls Thursday night Nov. 20 on the DOE's Draft Global Nuclear Energy Partnership Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement document. It's an opportunity for the public to make comments about how the DOE should further study the nation's nuclear fuel cycle options.

DOE will host the Nov. 20 Idaho Falls hearing at the Hilton Garden Inn hotel, 700 Lindsay Boulevard. The hearing will start at 6 p.m. with an Open House, and continue at 7 p.m. with a presentation from DOE Idaho Operations Office Deputy Manager Ray Furstenau summarizing the document and process. The evening will wrap up with a comment-gathering session.

DOE is conducting several hearings nationwide on the draft environmental impact statement document that is required under terms of the National Environmental Policy Act. When finalized, the document will provide future Administration and congressional decision-makers with an analysis of the potential environmental consequences of the following six domestic alternatives that are assessed:

- No Action Alternative—Existing Once-Through Uranium Fuel Cycle (an open fuel cycle);
- Fast Reactor Recycle Fuel Cycle Alternative (a closed fuel cycle);
- Thermal/Fast Reactor Recycle Fuel Cycle Alternative (a closed fuel cycle);
- Thermal Reactor Recycle Fuel Cycle Alternative (a closed fuel cycle);
- Once-Through Fuel Cycle Alternative using Thorium (an open fuel cycle); and
- Once-Through Fuel Cycle Alternative using Heavy Water Reactors or High Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactors (an open fuel cycle).

A copy of the Draft PEIS is available by calling 1-866-645-7803, or by going on the Web at: [www.gnep.energy.gov](http://www.gnep.energy.gov). DOE plans to accept public comments on the draft document through December 16, 2008. People are invited to send written comments to: Mr. Frank Schwartz U.S. Department of Energy Office of Nuclear Energy – NE-5 1000 Independence Ave, SW Washington, DC 20585

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