

for the Revised Draft Hanford Site Solid (Radioactive and Hazardous) Waste Program Environmental Impact Statement, Richland, Washington, the U.S. Department of Energy has extended the public comment period by 15 days. The comment period began April 11, 2003, and will now run until June 11, 2003 instead of May 27, 2003.

The Revised Draft EIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with ongoing activities of the Hanford Site Solid Waste Program, disposal of immobilized low-activity wastes from Hanford tank waste processing, and reasonably foreseeable treatment, storage and disposal facilities and activities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request information about the revised draft EIS or to be placed on the EIS distribution list, contact: Mr. Michael S. Collins, HSW EIS Document Manager, Richland Operations Office, U.S. Department of Energy, A6-38, Post Office Box 550, Richland, Washington, 99352-0550. Telephone and voice mail: (800) 426-4914. Fax: (509) 372-1926. Electronic mail: hsweis@rl.doe.gov.

For general information about the DOE NEPA process, contact: Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (EH-42), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-0119. Fax: (202) 586-7031. Telephone: (202) 586-4600. Voice mail: (800) 472-2756.

Issued in Richland, Washington, on this 19th day of May 2003.

Keith A. Klein,

Manager, Richland Operations Office.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Payments in Lieu of Taxes Under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954; Guidelines

AGENCY: Office of Management, Budget and Evaluation/Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: DOE publishes policy guidelines it uses to guide decisions with regard to applications by State or local jurisdictions for discretionary payments in lieu of taxes with regard to eligible real property that is not subject to State and local taxation because it is owned by the United States, is under the custody and control of DOE, and is used to carry out activities authorized by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The guidelines in this Notice are effective May 27, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: You may contact Mary L. Rosicky, ME-11, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585, telephone (202) 586-9354, e-mail, marylou.rosicky@hq.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (AEA), DOE carries out a variety of national defense and energy research and development activities at sites that are located in various States and are owned by the United States Government. Section 168 of the AEA (42 U.S.C. 2208) authorizes DOE to provide discretionary payments to State or local government authorities where AEA sites are located. These payments are in lieu of real property taxes that State and local jurisdictions may not collect because they are precluded by the United States Constitution from taxing real property owned by the Federal Government. These discretionary financial assistance payments in lieu of taxes, which are subject to the availability of funds, are commonly referred to as "PILT payments".

In the past, DOE has decided, on a case-by-case basis, whether an application for PILT assistance should be approved and, if so, how much the annual PILT payments should be. In making such decisions, DOE has employed a policy consisting largely of internal procedures, application content criteria, evaluation criteria, and standard provisions for assistance agreements. The application content and evaluation criteria have either implemented requirements of section 168 or have been the result of case-by-case decisions.

The purpose of this notice is to state publicly, and without significant change, the policies regarding PILT payments that DOE has been applying to PILT applicants and recipients, and intends to continue to apply, on a case-by-case basis.

The Secretary of Energy has approved issuance of this notice.

Issued in Washington, DC on May 8, 2003.

James T. Campbell,

Acting Director, Office of Management, Budget and Evaluation/Acting Chief Financial Officer.

Guidelines for Payments in Lieu of Taxes Under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954

I. Purpose and Scope

These guidelines set forth policies that DOE intends to apply when making

case-by-case determinations on applications for payments in lieu of taxes (PILT) under section 168 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2208). PILT is discretionary financial assistance that DOE may provide subject to the availability of funds. PILT is not an entitlement.

II. Authority

These guidelines are authorized by sections 161 and 168 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2201, 2208).

III. Applicability

A. These guidelines apply to any DOE facility (including facilities of the National Nuclear Security Administration) located on real property owned by the United States, under the custody and control of DOE, and at which activities authorized or required under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 are carried on, if the real property was subject to State and local taxation immediately prior to acquisition by the United States.

B. These guidelines do not affect existing agreements between DOE and State or local governments that preclude PILT on all or part of real property under custody and control of DOE.

C. These guidelines apply to an initial application for PILT that is submitted to DOE, and to an application or request to change the basis for or amount of a PILT payment under an existing agreement between DOE and a State or local government. DOE will treat any application or request to change the basis for or amount of a PILT payment under an existing agreement as an initial application under these guidelines.

IV. Definitions

As used in these guidelines:

A. "Condition In Which It Was Acquired" means the physical description, definition, and real property classification used to determine the assessed valuation of the real property in the last year that such property was on the State or local tax rolls prior to acquisition by the Federal Government.

B. "Revised PILT Payment" means a change in PILT payment that is based on a reclassification of the property to a new tax classification or category, an increase or decrease in the amount of land used to calculate the PILT payment, or other significant change in the method of calculating the PILT payment. "Revised PILT Payment" does not mean a PILT payment that is changed solely because of Taxing Authority jurisdiction-wide adjustments to tax assessments or to tax rates.