



Long-Term Management and Storage of Elemental Mercury Environmental Impact Statement (Mercury Storage EIS)



Proposed Action

DOE proposes to select one or more existing (including modification, as needed) or new facilities for long-term storage of elemental mercury.

Mercury Storage EIS Overview

As required by the Mercury Export Ban Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-414), DOE plans to designate a facility or facilities for the long-term management and storage of elemental mercury generated within the United States. To this end, the Department intends to prepare an EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), regulations of the President's Council on Environmental Quality, and DOE's implementing procedures. The Mercury Storage EIS will evaluate several alternative sites for long-term storage of mercury from sources in the United States, including the chlor-alkali industry, recycling and waste recovery activities, and gold mining. DOE already stores approximately 1,200 metric tons of elemental mercury at its Oak Ridge Reservation in Tennessee. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a cooperating agency on the Mercury Storage EIS, estimates that between 7,500 and 10,000 metric tons of elemental mercury will be eligible for DOE storage over the next 40 years.

How Will DOE Select A Mercury Storage Site?

To provide a framework for identifying candidate locations for analysis in the EIS, DOE developed the following preliminary criteria:

- Existing and/or future mission compatibility;
- Existing facility;
- Existing or potential compatibility with permitting requirements under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, including siting requirements;
- Supporting infrastructure;
- Implementation flexibility;
- Compatibility with local or regional land use plans;
- Accessibility to major transportation routes; and
- Availability of sufficient information to adequately characterize the site.

In March 2009, DOE published a Request for Expressions of Interest in the *Federal Register* and *Federal Business Opportunities* seeking interest from federal and private entities in hosting mercury storage facilities. Based on responses and the preliminary criteria, DOE intends to evaluate five DOE sites, one commercial site, and one Army site in the EIS. The candidate sites are:

- DOE Grand Junction Disposal Site, Grand Junction, CO
- DOE Hanford Site, Richland, WA
- DOE Idaho National Laboratory, Idaho Falls, ID
- DOE Kansas City Plant, Kansas City, MO
- DOE Savannah River Site, Aiken, SC
- Hawthorne Army Depot, Hawthorne, NV
- Waste Control Specialists, Andrews, TX

This list may be revised and other candidate sites may be added as a result of the scoping process.

As required by NEPA, the EIS will also evaluate a No Action Alternative to serve as a basis for comparison with the action alternatives. Under the No Action alternative, long-term management and storage of privately-owned elemental mercury would remain the responsibility of its owners, and government-owned elemental mercury would remain at existing facilities.

To Submit Comments or Request More Information

Mr. David Levenstein
EIS Document Manager
P.O. Box 2612
Germantown, MD 20874
toll free fax: 1-877-274-5462
<http://www.mercurystorageeis.com>



EM Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure



Long-Term Management and Storage of Elemental Mercury Environmental Impact Statement (Mercury Storage EIS)

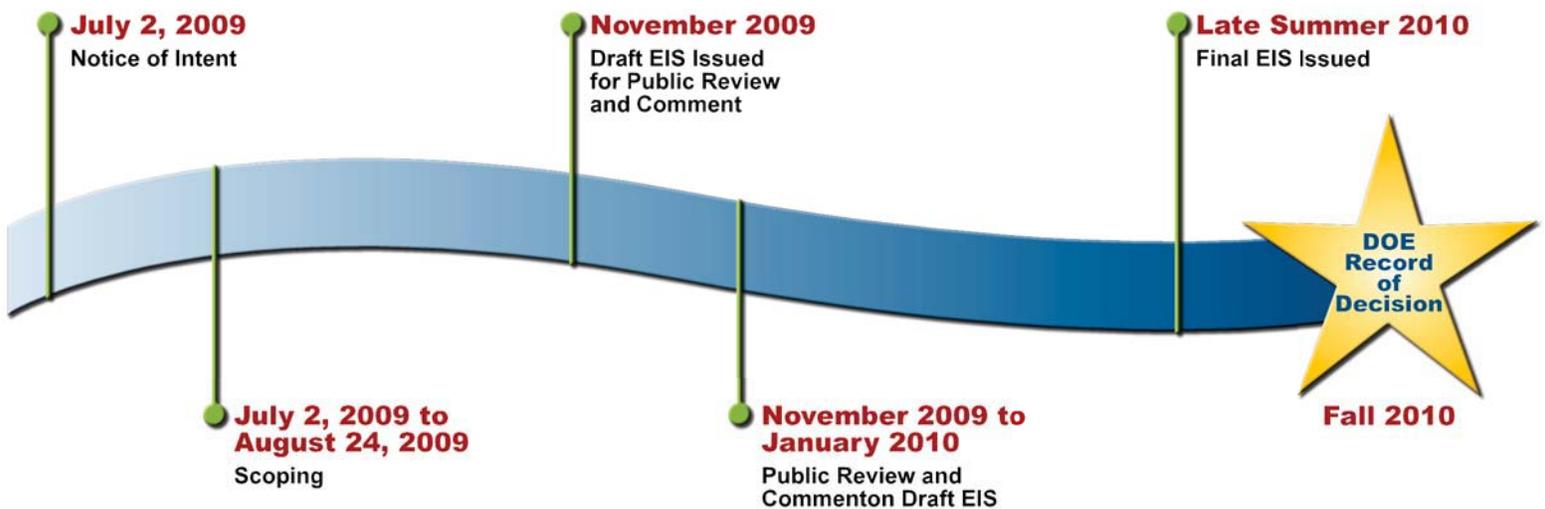


Environmental Issues To Be Analyzed In The Mercury Storage EIS

DOE proposes to address the following issues when considering the potential impacts of the proposed mercury management and storage alternatives in the EIS:

- Potential effects on the public health from exposure under routine operations and credible accident scenarios, including natural disasters such as: floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, and seismic events
- Impacts on surface and groundwater, floodplains and wetlands, and on water use and quality
- Impacts on air quality (including global climate change) and noise
- Impacts on plants and animals and their habitats, including species that are federal- or state-listed as threatened or endangered, or of special concern
- Impacts on geology and soil
- Impacts on cultural resources such as historic, archeological, and Native American culturally important sites
- Socioeconomic impacts on potentially affected communities
- Environmental Justice, particularly whether or not long-term elemental mercury management and storage activities would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on minority and low-income populations
- Potential impacts on land-use plans, policies and controls, and visual resources
- Pollution prevention and waste management practices and activities
- Unavoidable adverse impacts, and irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources
- Potential cumulative environmental effects of past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions
- Status of compliance with applicable federal, state and local statutes and regulations, international agreements, and required federal and state environmental permits, consultations and notifications
- Potential impacts of intentional destructive acts, including sabotage and terrorism.

This list may be revised and other issues may be added as a result of the scoping process.



EM Environmental Management

safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure