

Week of March 1, 2010—Tentative

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

9:30 a.m. Briefing on Uranium Recovery (Public Meeting).
(Contact: Dominick Orlando, 301-415-6749.)

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—<http://www.nrc.gov>.

Week of March 8, 2010—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the week of March 8, 2010.

Week of March 15, 2010—Tentative

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

1:30 p.m. Joint Meeting of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on Grid Reliability (Public Meeting). (Contact: Kenn Miller, (301) 415-3152.)

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—<http://www.nrc.gov>.

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* The schedule for Commission meetings is subject to change on short notice. To verify the status of meetings, call (recording)—(301) 415-1292. Contact person for more information: Rochelle Baval, (301) 415-1651.

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The NRC Commission Meeting Schedule can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/policy-making/schedule.html>.

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The NRC provides reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in these public meetings, or need this meeting notice or the transcript or other information from the public meetings in another format (e.g. braille, large print), please notify Angela Bolduc, Chief, Employee/Labor Relations and Work Life Branch, at 301-492-2230, TDD: 301-415-2100, or by e-mail at angela.bolduc@nrc.gov. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

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This notice is distributed electronically to subscribers. If you no longer wish to receive it, or would like to be added to the distribution, please contact the Office of the Secretary, Washington, DC 20555 (301-415-1969), or send an e-mail to darlene.wright@nrc.gov.

Dated: February 4, 2010.

Rochelle C. Baval,
Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2010-2964 Filed 2-5-10; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[License No. 05/75-0257]

Cardinal Growth, L.P.; Notice Seeking Exemption Under Section 312 of the Small Business Investment Act, Conflicts of Interest

Notice is hereby given that Cardinal Growth, L.P., 311 South Wacker Driver, Suite 5500, Chicago, IL 60606, a Federal Licensee under the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, as amended ("the Act"), in connection with the financing of a small concern, has sought an exemption under Section 312 of the Act and Section 107.730, Financials which Constitute Conflicts of Interest of the Small Business Administration ("SBA") Rules and Regulations (13 CFR 107.730). Cardinal Growth, L.P. provided financing to GreenRock Environmental Management, Inc., 1400 West Carroll Avenue, Chicago, IL 60607. The financing was used to purchase office and computer related equipment for the small business.

The financing is brought within the purview of § 107.730(a)(1) of the Regulations because the CEO of GreenRock Environmental Management, Inc. assumed financial responsibilities at Cardinal Growth, L.P. within 6 months of the financing. According to the definition of Associate in § 107.50, Section 10 if an Associate relationship exists at any time within 6 months before or after the date of a Financing, then the Associate relationship is considered to exist on the date of the Financing.

Therefore, this transaction is considered a financing of an Associate requiring an exemption. Notice is hereby given that any interested person may submit written comments on the transaction within fifteen days of the date of this publication to the Associate Administrator for Investment, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 Third Street, SW., Washington, DC 20416.

Dated: January 6, 2010.

Sean Greene,
Associate Administrator for Investment.

[FR Doc. 2010-2717 Filed 2-8-10; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY**Consumer Interface With the Smart Grid**

AGENCY: Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), Executive Office of the President.

ACTION: Notice; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: With this notice, the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) within the Executive Office of the President requests input from the public regarding the consumer interface with the modernized electric grid ("Smart Grid"), which is a vital component of the President's comprehensive energy plan. In particular, we seek comments on issues related to Smart Grid implementation options, including the ways in which each option would support open innovation in home energy services. This Request for Information (RFI) will be active from February 10, 2010 to February 19, 2010. Respondents are invited to respond online via the Smart Grid Forum at <http://blog.ostp.gov/category/smart-grid>, or may submit responses via electronic mail. Electronic mail responses will be re-posted on the online forum. Instructions are provided at <http://blog.ostp.gov/category/smart-grid>.

DATES: Comments must be received by 5 p.m. EST on February 19, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments by one of the following methods:

- *Smart Grid Forum:* <http://blog.ostp.gov/category/smart-grid>.
- *Via E-mail:* smartgrid@ostp.gov.
- *Mail:* Office of Science and Technology Policy, Attn: Open Government Recommendations, 725 17th Street, Washington, DC 20502.

Comments submitted in response to this notice may be made available to the public online or by alternative means. For this reason, *please do not include in your comments information of a confidential nature, such as sensitive personal information or proprietary information.* If you submit an e-mail comment, your e-mail address will be captured automatically and included as part of the comment that is placed in the public docket and made available on the Internet.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Kevin Hurst, Assistant Director for Energy Technology, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President, Attn: Open Government, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20502, 202-456-7116.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Background**

Modernization of the Nation's electric grid is a vital component of the President's comprehensive energy plan, which aims to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil, create jobs, and help U.S. industry compete successfully in global markets for clean energy technology.

Seventy-two percent of the Nation's electricity is consumed in buildings, and nearly half of that is in homes. Optimizing building energy consumption, especially during peak load periods, can improve the reliability, security, and efficiency of the electric grid while reducing energy costs to consumers. The "Smart Grid"—a modernized electricity transmission and distribution system involving the increased use of digital information and controls technology—can help to realize these benefits. Demand-side Smart Grid technologies include "smart meters" (which provide two-way, near-real-time data communications between the utility and consumer premises), "smart appliances" (which provide data communications and control options), and "smart interfaces" that can integrate distributed energy resources, demand response resources, or other energy loads and storage devices such as plug-in electric and hybrid electric vehicles.

The Smart Grid will help to provide consumers with the information, automation, and tools they need to control and optimize energy use. This control and optimization requires interoperability and information exchange between the grid and a wide variety of energy-using devices and controllers, such as thermostats, water heaters, appliances, consumer electronics, and energy management systems. The Department of Energy (DOE) Smart Grid Investment Grant program, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, is accelerating deployment of smart meters and other components of an advanced electric grid.

In many instances, smart meters will have the capability to communicate near-real-time measurements of electricity usage to the utility and the consumer. In some implementations, data can be provided to the consumer directly from the smart meter (or another monitoring device) through an in-home display or energy management system via a local communications interface. In other implementations, consumers or their authorized agents can obtain their usage data via the internet from an information system at the utility.

One of the goals of the Smart Grid is to enable innovation and competition in new products and services that can help consumers minimize both peak and overall energy usage and save money. To be most effective, the Smart Grid will need to provide not only usage data but also information such as electricity price data and demand response signals to the consumer and energy-using devices in the home. This information

could be provided to the consumer's home devices either through the smart meter's local communication interface or through a separate gateway, provided either by the utility or a third-party service provider. In order to clarify the various implementation options, we seek comments on issues related to the demand-side Smart Grid architecture, including potential costs, benefits, implementation hurdles, and the ways in which each option would support open innovation in home energy services.

A robust, secure, and flexible architecture based on open standards is needed for information exchange between the home and the Smart Grid. Section 1305 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 advises that the Smart Grid interoperability framework be designed to " * * * consider the use of voluntary uniform standards for certain classes of mass-produced electric appliances and equipment for homes and businesses that enable customers, at their election and consistent with applicable State and Federal laws, and are manufactured with the ability to respond to electric grid emergencies and demand response signals" * * *. The diversity of communications technologies and standards used by devices in the home presents a significant challenge to achieving interoperability. A balance must be struck between maximizing innovation and customer choice, while ensuring reliability and a sufficiently standardized environment so that manufacturers can produce cost-effective Smart Grid-enabled appliances that work anywhere in the Nation. That balance must also include the need for cost-effective Smart Grid infrastructure. In addition, ensuring cyber security in the home-to-grid interface is a critical consideration.

The Smart Grid must provide benefits to a wide variety of consumers. Some consumers who have many energy-using appliances and devices may wish to have the grid interoperate with an existing home area network and a sophisticated home energy management system. Other consumers with simpler circumstances may not have the desire, skill, or means to configure a home area network and may simply wish to plug in a new, Smart-Grid-enabled appliance and have it automatically communicate with the grid in order to realize energy-saving benefits. The diversity of consumer needs must be considered in the design and deployment of Smart Grid infrastructure and devices.

The Executive Branch is considering ways to ensure that the consumer interface to the Smart Grid achieves the

desired goal of providing all consumers with the information they need to control and optimize their energy use in a manner that ensures ease of use, widespread adoption, and innovation. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), pursuant to the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, recently published the first release of an interoperability framework for the Smart Grid (NIST Special Publication 1108, available at http://www.nist.gov/public_affairs/releases/smartgrid_interoperability_final.pdf), which includes discussion of these issues and identifies the need for further work to provide solutions.

II. Invitation To Comment

Input is welcome on issues related to the architecture of the consumer interface with the Smart Grid as well as consumer ownership of Smart Grid data. Questions that individuals may wish to address include, but are not limited to the following. As part of your submission, please indicate the question to which your answer responds.

1. Should the smart meter serve as the primary gateway for residential energy usage data, price data, and demand response signals? What are the most important factors in making this assessment, and how might those factors change over time?

2. Should a data gateway other than the smart meter be used for all or a subset of the data described in question 1?

3. If the smart meter, via the utility network, is the primary gateway for the data described in question 1, will consumers and their authorized third-party service providers be able to access the data easily and in real time?

4. Who owns the home energy usage data? Should individual consumers and their authorized third-party service providers have the right to access energy usage data directly from the meter?

5. How are low-income consumers best served by home-to-grid technology?

6. What alternative architectures involving real-time (or near-real-time) electricity usage and price data are there that could support open innovation in home energy services?

Please note that several important Smart Grid topics—including Federal and State policy hurdles, appliance interoperability standards, cyber security, and business case challenges—are beyond the scope of this request, except insofar as they bear on the primary topics identified above. One or more future requests for comment may be organized to obtain input on these additional issues. Discussions of all of the above topics are also ongoing in

several forums, including the Smart Grid Interoperability Panel established by NIST and the GridWise Architecture Council established by DOE. Relevant input received through this request will be shared with NIST, DOE, and other interested Federal agencies.

M. David Hodge,
Operations Manager.

[FR Doc. 2010-2813 Filed 2-8-10; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Investor Education and Advocacy, Washington, DC 20549-0213.

Extension:

Form F-7; OMB Control No. 3235-0383; SEC File No. 270-331.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget this request for extension of the previously approved collection of information discussed below.

Form F-7 (17 CFR 239.37) is a registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77a *et seq.*) used to register securities that are offered for cash upon the exercise of rights that are granted to a registrant's existing security holders to purchase or subscribe such securities. The information collected is intended to ensure that the information required to be filed by the Commission permits verification of compliance with securities law requirements and assures the public availability of such information. The information provided is mandatory and all information is made available to the public upon request. Form F-7 takes approximately 4 hours per response to prepare and is filed by approximately 5 respondents. We estimate that 25% of 4 hours per response (one hour) is prepared by the company for a total annual reporting burden of 5 hours (one hour per response × 5 responses).

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

Written comments regarding the above information should be directed to

the following persons: (i) Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10102, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or send an e-mail to: Shagufta_Ahmed@omb.eop.gov; and (ii) Charles Boucher, Director/CIO, Securities and Exchange Commission, C/O Shirley Martinson, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, Virginia 22312; or send an e-mail to PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: February 1, 2010.

Florence E. Harmon,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2010-2735 Filed 2-8-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Investor Education and Advocacy, Washington, DC 20549-0213.

Extension:

Form 18-K; OMB Control No. 3235-0120; SEC File No. 270-108.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget this request for extension of the previously approved collection of information discussed below.

Form 18-K (17 CFR 249.318) is an annual report form used by foreign governments and political subdivisions that have securities listed on a U.S. securities exchange. The information to be collected is intended to ensure the adequacy of information available to investors in the registration of securities and assures public availability. The information provided is mandatory. Form 18-K is a public document. Form 18-K takes approximately 8 hours to prepare and is filed by approximately 143 respondents for a total annual reporting burden of 1,144 hours.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

Written comments regarding the above information should be directed to

the following persons: (i) Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10102, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or send an e-mail to: Shagufta_Ahmed@omb.eop.gov; and (ii) Charles Boucher, Director/CIO, Securities and Exchange Commission, C/O Shirley Martinson, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, VA 22312, or send an e-mail to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: February 1, 2010.

Florence E. Harmon,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2010-2736 Filed 2-8-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon Written Request; Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Investor Education and Advocacy, Washington, DC 20549-0213.

Extensions:

Rule 12d1-3; OMB Control No. 3235-0109; SEC File No. 270-116.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget this request for extension of the previously approved collection of information discussed below.

Exchange Act Rule 12d1-3 (17 CFR 240.12d1-3) requires a certification that a security has been approved by an exchange for listing and registration pursuant to Section 12(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78l(d)) to be filed with the Commission. The information required under Rule 12d1-3 must be filed with the Commission and is publicly available. We estimate that it takes approximately one-half hour to provide the information required under Rule 12d1-3 and that the information is filed by approximately 688 respondents annually for a total annual reporting burden of 344 burden hours (.5 hours per response × 688 responses).

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information