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Science Notes - Nickel-Cadmium Rechargeable Dry Cells May Be Dangerous

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SCIENCE NOTES

Summer Research Opportunities at Department of Energy National Laboratories and Technology Centers

Iowa science teachers have the opportunity to spend their summer doing research at one of the Department of Energy's 21 national laboratories or energy technology centers located throughout the country.

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) offers research appointments to approximately 200 mathematics and science teachers each year. Selected participants receive stipends of \$550 per week for eight weeks, a housing allowance up to \$1000 and a travel allowance. In some cases, graduate credit is available and up to \$200 of the costs associated with the acquisition of credit is covered by the DOE.

Applicants to the program must be currently teaching in grades 7-12 and have the teaching of math or science as their primary teaching responsibility. To obtain application materials, contact DOE TRAC, Associated Western Universities, 4190 South Highland Drive, Suite 211, Salt Lake City, UT 84124. The application deadline is the fourth Friday in October. For more information, contact John Ortman, ph. (202) 586-1634, or Linda Cain, ph. (202) 586-8949.

—S.A.A.

Nickel-Cadmium Rechargeable Dry Cells May Be Dangerous

The North Carolina Northwest Technical Assistance Center has issued a warning against using nickel-cadmium rechargeable batteries when constructing "dead circuits." The wires almost instantaneously become hot enough to burn students' fingers, melt holes in plastic or ignite magnesium.

If a "dead circuit" is used to explore magnetic fields, teachers could either use non-rechargeable dry cells or check the rechargeable cell with a volt-amp meter to determine its output before use.

—J.M.H.

Careers-in-Geoscience Pamphlet Offered

The American Geological Institute is offering a full-color pamphlet titled "Careers in the Geosciences" free to educators. The publication describes the types of work geoscientists do, provides information about the training required of those wishing to enter this field and includes a section about the future availability of jobs in the geosciences.

Send requests to AGI Publications, P.O. Box 2010, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701.

—J.M.H.