

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers intends to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Jacksonville Harbor Navigation Channel Improvements Project. This action is a cooperative effort between the Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Jacksonville Port Authority.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth Dugger, 904-232-1686, Environmental Branch, Planning Division, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Jacksonville Port Authority has requested that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study the feasibility of deepening the Port of Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida. The purpose of the proposed action is to provide increased safety, efficiency and lower costs for navigation interests, while protecting the environment. Existing port facilities are not easily accessible to some larger ships because of depth limitations in some parts of the channel, and other large ships that can only use the channel if they are "light-loaded", also because of depth limitations. Local interests have requested that the harbor channels be deepened to provide for projected movement of general cargo at greater drafts, thereby reducing transportation costs. In addition, local interests and harbor pilots have requested channel widenings at key locations where turning and/or passing is required to improve vessel handling and maneuvering and to ensure safety of navigation while using the harbor. The Jacksonville Harbor Deepening Study was authorized by a resolution from the Committee on Public Works and Transportation, U.S. House of Representatives, dated February 5, 1992, which states: "Resolved by the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the United States House of Representatives, that the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on Jacksonville Harbor, Florida, published as House Document 214, Eighty-ninth Congress, First Session, and other pertinent reports, to determine whether modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time, in the interest of navigation or other purposes."

Alternatives: To decide what alternatives would be considered for navigation improvements, terminals within the port area were located and identified according to type of activity. Based on these determinations, an array

of alternatives, including varying depths and widths, methods of excavation and disposal alternatives we evaluated.

Depths of 40 to 45 feet plus 2 feet allowable overdepth were evaluated, as were channel widths up to at least 575 feet. Construction methods evaluated include the use of hopper and/or cutterhead dredges. A circulation improvement channel 6 feet deep and 80 feet wide is also proposed to improve flows through Mill Cove. A number of disposal alternatives have been evaluated. In addition to placement of beach quality material on the beach south of the mouth of the river, and possible use of the Jacksonville Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS), about 75 upland sites throughout the Jacksonville Harbor area were initially considered. This number was reduced to about 25 sites and subsequently to 11 sites.

Issues: The EIS will consider impacts on the river channel, upland disposal areas, areas of cultural or historic significance, water quality, protected species, fish and wildlife resources, shore protection, navigational safety, energy conservation, socio-economic resources, possible effects of blasting, and any other possible issues identified through scoping, public involvement and interagency coordination.

Scoping: A scoping letter was sent to all known interested parties on August 24, 1993. All parties were invited to participate in the scoping process by identifying additional concerns or problems, studies needed, additional alternatives, and other matters related to the proposed action. A public meeting is also planned.

Coordination: The proposed action was coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act on October 19, 1993, for the Reconnaissance Phase of the study and again beginning on April 15, 1996, for the Feasibility Phase of the study. The proposed action was also coordinated with the FWS and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under the Endangered Species Act on August 24, 1993, and April 23, 1996, respectively. The proposed action is being coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

Other Environmental Review and Consultation: The proposed action would involve evaluation for compliance with guidelines pursuant to Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act; application to the State of Florida for Water Quality Certification pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act;

certification of state lands, easements and rights-of-way; and determination of Coastal Zone Management Act consistency.

Agency Role: As the local sponsor and leading local expert, the Jacksonville Port Authority will provide extensive information and assistance on resources to be impacted, mitigation measures and alternatives.

DEIS Preparation: It is estimated that the DEIS will be available to the public on or about August 29, 1997.

Dated: April 14, 1997.

Hanley K. Smith,

Acting Chief, Planning Division.

[FR Doc. 97-11565 Filed 5-2-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-AJ-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Disposal and Reuse of the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, New London, CT

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508) implementing procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Department of the Navy announces its intention to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed disposal and reuse of the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC), New London, Connecticut.

In 1995, the Congressional Commission on Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) recommended the closure of NUWC New London and its subsequent relocation to the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Newport, RI. This recommendation was approved by President Clinton and accepted by the One Hundred Fourth Congress in 1995. The BRAC legislation also identified the requirements for compliance with NEPA, stating that the provisions of NEPA shall apply during the process of property disposal. Accordingly, with this notice, the Navy has initiated the process to prepare an EIS to evaluate the environmental effects of the disposal and likely reuse of this property.

The proposed action to be considered and evaluated in the EIS is the disposal and reuse of the NUWC New London property determined surplus to the needs of the federal government. The Center, situated in New London county, consists of about 26 acres in the City of New London. A portion of the Center, including a pier and the Navy's Magnetic Silencing Facility, will be

transferred to the U.S. Coast Guard. The Navy will continue to operate the Magnetic Silencing Facility as a tenant of the Coast Guard. The historic Fort Trumbull, and a portion of the land around it, is expected to be transferred to the State of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation under a public benefit conveyance for use as an historic state park.

The NUWC New London Reuse Committee, acting as the Local Reuse Authority (LRA), has prepared a reuse plan for the remainder of the Center property. The property contains primarily laboratory and office space, with very little open space. The property also contains base operating support facilities, including training, some housing, shop and emergency services space. The reuse plan represents a mixed-use redevelopment scenario based on proposed zoning for the site. The NUWC LRA has indicated to the Navy that it does not intend to acquire the available surplus property and, therefore, the property will be made available for development through public sale. The EIS will evaluate environmental impacts of the reuse plan, as well as other redevelopment scenarios identified through the EIS process. These alternatives include a marina/specialty center and a conference center. Navy will also evaluate the no action alternative, defined as the retention of NUWC New London in a caretaker status. Based on a preliminary evaluation conducted by the State Historic Preservation Officer, several of the Center's facilities, including Fort Trumbull are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Further evaluation of the Center's buildings and structures will be conducted as part of the EIS process.

ADDRESSES: The Navy will hold a public scoping meeting to further identify issues to be addressed in the EIS. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 1997, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, at the Corner of Governor Winthrop Boulevard and Union Street, New London, Connecticut. Navy representatives will make a brief presentations, then members of the public will be asked to provide comments on potential reuses and the EIS process. Agencies and the public are encouraged to provide written comments in addition to, or in lieu of, oral comments at the scoping meeting. To be most helpful, comments should clearly describe specific issues or topics which the EIS should address. Written comments must be postmarked

by June 15, 1997, and should be mailed to Commanding Officer, Northern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Attn: Ms. Tina Deininger (Code 202/TD), 10 Industrial Highway, MS 82, Lester, PA 19113. All statements, both oral and written, will become part of the public record on this action and will be given equal consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Additional information concerning this notice may be obtained by contacting Ms. Deininger at (610) 595-0761, facsimile (610) 595-0778.

Dated: April 30, 1997.

D.E. Koenig,

LCDR, JAGC, USN, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-11651 Filed 5-2-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810-FF-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Naval Research Advisory Committee; Closed Meeting

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 2), notice is hereby given that the Naval Research Advisory Committee Panel on CVX Flexibility will meet on May 14-16, 1997. The meeting will be held at the Office of Naval Research, 800 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia, and the Naval Sea Systems Command Headquarters, 2531 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. The meeting will commence at 8:30 a.m. and terminate at 4 p.m. on May 14 and May 15; and commence at 8:30 a.m. and terminate at 12:30 p.m. on May 16, 1997. All sessions of the meeting will be closed to the public.

The purpose of the meeting is to identify for the Department of the Navy the science and technology opportunities that have the potential for major impact on operational flexibility over the lifetime of new Navy ship classes now under consideration. The agenda will include briefings and discussions related to the requirements and concepts for CVX roles, missions, capabilities and configurations; potential technical limitations to CVX operational flexibility over the lifetime of the class; specific science and technology initiatives, such as integrated electric power and electric drive, to address such limitations; and the applicability of such initiatives to other current and new Navy ship classes. These briefings and

demonstrations will contain classified and proprietary information that is specifically authorized under criteria established by Executive Order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense and are in fact properly classified pursuant to such Executive Order. The classified and non-classified matters to be discussed are so inextricably intertwined as to preclude opening any portion of the meeting.

Accordingly, the Under Secretary of the Navy has determined in writing that the public interest requires that all sessions of the meeting be closed to the public because they will be concerned with matters listed in section 552b(c) (1) and (4) of title 5, United States Code.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS MEETING CONTACT:

Ms. Diane Mason-Muir, Office of Naval Research, Naval Research Advisory Committee, 800 North Quincy Street, Arlington, VA 22217-5660, Telephone Number: (703) 696-6769.

Dated: April 28, 1997.

Donald E. Koenig, Jr.,

LCDR, JAGC, USN, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-11597 Filed 5-2-97; 8:45 am]

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UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING:

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

TIME AND DATE: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., May 16, 1997.

PLACE: Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Board of Regents Conference Room (D3001) 4301 Jones Bridge Road, Bethesda, MD 20814-4799.

STATUS: Open—under "Government in the Sunshine Act" (5 U.S.C. 552b(e)(3)).

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

- 8:30 a.m. Meeting—Board of Regents
- (1) Approval of Minutes—January 21-22, 1997
 - (2) Faculty Matters
 - (3) Granting of Degrees
 - (4) Departmental Reports
 - (5) Financial Report
 - (6) Report—President, USUHS
 - (7) Report—Dean, School of Medicine
 - (8) Report—Dean, Graduate School of Nursing
 - (9) Comments—Chairman, Board of Regents
 - (10) New Business

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Mr. Bobby D. Anderson, Executive Secretary of the Board of Regents, (301) 295-3116.