

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-5481-9]

Environmental Impact Statements and Regulations; Availability of EPA Comments

Availability of EPA comments prepared June 09, 1997 through June 13, 1997 pursuant to the Environmental Review Process (ERP), under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act as amended. Requests for copies of EPA comments can be directed to the Office of Federal Activities at (202) 564-7167.

An explanation of the ratings assigned to draft environmental impact statements (EISs) was published in FR dated April 04, 1997 (62 FR 16154).

Draft EISs

ERP No. D-AFS-J65261-MT Rating EC2, Beaverhead Forest Plan Riparian Amendment, Implementation, Beaverhead—Deerlodge National Forest, Beaverhead, Madison, Silver Bow, Deer Lodge and Gallatin Counties, MT.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns regarding the rate of restoration of existing degraded water quality and fisheries in the project area, and believed additional information is needed to describe alternatives and fully assess and mitigate all potential impacts of the proposed project (e.g., description of the new alternative suggested in the Forest Supervisor's letter dated November 25, 1996).

ERP No. D-AFS-J65264-UT Rating EC2, Sheepherder Hill Sanitation Salvage Sale, Management of Selected Vegetation Stands, Implementation, Uinta National Forest, Spanish Fork District, Nebo Management Area, Utah County, UT.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns about potential adverse impacts to water quality and wetlands. EPA requested clarification and additional information concerning possible use of riparian buffers and sediment control measures in the final EIS.

ERP No. D-AFS-J65265-WY Rating EC2, Tie Camp Timber Sale, Harvesting Timber and Road Construction, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, Brush Creek/Hayden Ranger District, Carbon County, WY and Jackson County, CO.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns and requested clarification and additional information on the use of best management practices (BMPs) for sediment control.

ERP No. D-AFS-K65197-CA Rating EC2, Canyons Analysis Area, Implementation, Tahoe National Forest, Truckee Ranger District, Sierra and Nevada Counties, CA.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns about potential adverse effects to water quality from the construction of a new road/trail solely for OHV recreation. EPA also proposed that additional road obliterations be identified and implemented in the final EIS.

ERP No. D-AFS-L65278-ID Rating EC2, Middle Fork Analysis Area Management Plan, Implementation, Nez Perce National Forest, Selway Ranger District, Idaho County, ID.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns about water and air quality and that implementation of best management practices and associated mitigation measures may not ensure protection of beneficial uses downstream of the project area. Additional information is needed on how proposed BMPs and mitigation measures will offset the proposed timber harvest activities.

ERP No. D-AFS-L65285-AK Rating EC2, Chasina Timber Sale, Harvesting Timber and Road Construction, Tongass National Forest, Craig Ranger District, Ketchikan Administrative Area, AK.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns related to the purpose and need for the project, potential impacts of water quality and the marine environment, and the commitment to implement necessary and appropriate mitigation measures.

ERP No. D-BLM-J67024-MT Rating LO, Cooke City Area Mineral Withdrawal, Implementation, Gallatin and Custer National Forests, Cooke City, Park County, MT.

Summary: EPA expressed lack of objections but suggested that the Final EIS include specific guidance from the Department of Interior's latest updates on national water management and acid rock drainage policies and how these will be integrated into the proposed action.

ERP No. D-BLM-K60105-CA Rating EC2, U.S. Army National Training Center, and Acquisition, Implementation, Fort Irwin, San Bernardino County, CA.

Summary: EPA had environmental concerns that the draft EIS did not discuss compliance with the Clean Water Act and the Water Quality Control Plan; did not discuss opportunities to reduce the amount of hazardous materials and hazardous waste; did not provide for solid waste and hazardous materials mitigation; stated that Army environmental

mitigation commitments are subject to funding availability; and did not discuss consistency with an Executive Order on Indian sacred sites. Lastly, the draft EIS does not provide rationale for obtaining more acreage than is indicated for the mission objective.

ERP No. D-BLM-K67042-CA Rating EC2, Castle Mountain Mine Open Pit Heap Leach Gold Mine Expansion Project, Plan of Operations Modification and Mine and Reclamation Plans Amendment, Approvals, San Bernardino County, CA.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns regarding acid generation potential, cumulative impacts to the Lanfair Valley aquifer, and rock competence following the cessation of mining.

Final EISs

ERP No. F-AFS-J65215-MT Elk Creek Land Exchange and Granting an Easement to Plum Creek, Implementation, Flathead National Forest, Swan Lake Ranger District, MT.

Summary: EPA expressed concerns about adverse environmental impacts to water quality, fish and wildlife habitat. EPA noted that Squeezer and Goat Creeks were included on the State's listing of impaired surface waters, and EPA expressed concern that additional roading and timber harvesting in these watersheds by Plum Creek Timber Company could aggravate existing water quality problems. EPA also expressed concerns about the potential for future mining or oil and gas development on the acquired Elk Creek lands to degrade bull trout spawning habitat.

ERP No. F-AFS-J65243-MT Castle Mountains Allotment Management Plan, Implementation, Lewis and Clark National Forest, Musselshell and King Hill Ranger Districts, White Sulphur Springs, Meagher County, MT.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns about the selection of a new preferred alternative in the Final EIS and Record of Decision (Alternative 10). EPA believed Alternative 4A provided a more appropriate balance among resource trade-offs, and represents management that would allow greater and more rapid recovery of degraded streams, and thus, be more protective of the public resource.

ERP No. F-AFS-K65193-NV Griffon Mining Project, Implementation, Plan of Operations Approval, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests, Ely Ranger District, White Pine County, NV.

Summary: Review of the Final EIS was not deemed necessary. No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

ERP No. F-AFS-L65234-ID Hobo Cornwall Project Area Timber Sale and Ecosystem Management Plan, Implementation, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, St. Joe Ranger District, Shoshone County, ID.

Summary: Review of the Final EIS has been completed and the project found to be satisfactory. EPA had no objection to the preferred alternative as described in the EIS.

ERP No. F-BLM-J01075-WY North Rochelle Mine, Application for Federal Coal Lease (WYW127221), Special-Use Permits and NPDES Permit, Campbell County, WY.

Summary: The Final EIS responds to concerns and recommendations expressed by EPA's comments on the draft EIS. EPA agreed that the preferred alternative, Alternative A, can be implemented without significant impact to the environment.

ERP No. F-BLM-J67023-UT Lisbon Valley Copper Project, Plan of Operations Approval for an Open Pit Copper Mine and Heach Operation in Lower Lisbon Valley, San Juan and Grand Counties, UT.

Summary: The Final EIS addresses comments raised by EPA in the draft EIS on water management and monitoring. EPA is still concerned about potential groundwater ponding in the mine pits and adverse effects on migrating water fowl, and the adequacy of the bond post mining.

ERP No. F-USN-L11030-ID Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC), Acoustic Research Detachment (ARD), Carderock Division (CD), Capital Improvements Plan, Implementation, in the Town of Bayview, Kootenai County, ID.

Summary: Review of the Final EIS has been completed and the project found to be satisfactory. EPA had no objection to the preferred alternative as described in the EIS.

Dated: June 24, 1997.

William D. Dickerson,

Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 97-16937 Filed 6-26-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-U

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-5481-1]

Designation of an Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS) Offshore Port Everglades Harbor, FL and an ODMDS Offshore Palm Beach Harbor, FL; Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the final designation of an ODMDS offshore Port Everglades Harbor, Florida and an ODMDS offshore Palm Beach Harbor, Florida.

PURPOSE: The U.S. EPA, Region 4, in accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, will prepare a Draft EIS on the designation of an ODMDS offshore Port Everglades Harbor, Florida and an ODMDS offshore Palm Beach Harbor, Florida. An EIS is needed to provide the information necessary to designate an ODMDS. This Notice of Intent is issued Pursuant to Section 102 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, and 40 CFR Part 228 (Criteria for the Management of Disposal Sites for Ocean Dumping).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO BE PLACED ON THE PROJECT MAILING LIST

CONTACT: Mr. Christopher McArthur, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, phone 404-562-9391 or Mr. Rea Boothby, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, Planning Division, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019, phone 904-232-3453.

SUMMARY: The entrance channel and turning basin of Port Everglades Harbor must receive periodic maintenance dredging to ensure safe navigation. The dredged material has been disposed of at an interim ODMDS for Port Everglades Harbor in the past. Designation of a Port Everglades Harbor ODMDS is being evaluated to determine the most feasible and environmentally acceptable ocean disposal site for anticipated future dredging. The Palm Beach Harbor Federal Project navigation channel must receive periodic maintenance dredging to ensure safe navigation. The dredged material has been disposed of at an interim ODMDS for Palm Beach Harbor in the past. Designation of a Palm Beach Harbor

ODMDS is being evaluated to determine the most feasible and environmentally acceptable ocean disposal site for anticipated future dredging.

NEED FOR ACTION: The Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, has requested that EPA designate an ODMDS offshore Port Everglades Harbor, Florida and an ODMDS offshore Palm Beach Harbor, Florida for the disposal of dredged material from the Port Everglades Harbor and Palm Beach Harbor areas, respectively, when ocean disposal is the preferred disposal alternative. An EIS is required to provide the necessary information to evaluate alternatives and designate the preferred ODMDSs.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. No action. The no action alternative is defined as not designating an ocean disposal site.

2. Alternative disposal sites in the nearshore, and shelf break regions.

SCOPING: A scoping meeting is not contemplated. Scoping will be accomplished by correspondence with affected Federal, State and local agencies, and with anticipated interested parties.

ESTIMATED DATE OF RELEASE: The Draft EIS will be made available in January 1998.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: John H. Hankinson, Jr., Regional Administrator, Region 4.

Dated: June 24, 1997.

Richard E. Sanderson,

Director, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 97-16938 Filed 6-26-97; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-5481-2]

Designation of an Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS) Offshore Port Royal, SC; Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the final designation of an ODMDS offshore Port Royal, South Carolina.

PURPOSE: The U.S. EPA, Region 4, in accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District, will prepare a Draft EIS on the designation of an ODMDS