

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** This announces the availability of the DEIS which assesses the potential environmental impacts of the exchange of tracts of land between Fort Benning and the City of Columbus (hereafter referred to as the City). Section 2829 of Pub. L. 101-510, enacted November 5, 1990, authorized a land exchange between the City and Fort Benning. The proposed action is to transfer the North Tract (ranging in size from 2113 acres to 2,760 acres) to the City in exchange for the South Tract, which ranges from 2,156 to 2,848 acres.

**DATES:** The public comments period for the DEIS will end 45 days after publication of the NOA in the **Federal Register** by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**ADDRESSES:** To obtain copies of the DEIS contact the U.S. Army Infantry Center, Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Management Division, (ATTN: Mr. John Brent), Fort Benning, Georgia 31905-5122, or send e-mail to Brentj@benning.army.mil.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions regarding this proposal may be directed to Mr. John Brent at (706) 545-4766.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On June 26, 1996, Fort Benning conveyed 346 acres to the City for landfill development in exchange for 380 acres, as authorized under the same enabling legislation as the currently proposed exchange. An Environmental Assessment was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, and a Finding of No Significant Impact was prepared for the landfill land exchange. This notice of availability pertains only to the proposed North-South Tract land exchange DEIS, involving the remaining 2,760 acres of Fort Benning land (the North Tract) and 2,848 acres of the City land (the South Tract).

The City intends to use the North Tract land for economic development and passive recreation. Fort Benning would use the land it receives for dismounted light infantry training.

The alternative actions considered in this DEIS are:

a. Alternative I: No-Action. No land would be exchanged under this alternative. Impacts associated with the Fort Benning mission and land use are evaluated for the North Tract. Impacts associated with the City's projected use of the South Tract for industrial development also are analyzed.

b. Alternative II: Minimum Development of North Tract. A North Tract of 2,760 acres would be exchanged

for a South Tract of 2,848 acres. This alternative would provide approximately 885 acres of the North Tract for economic/light industrial development. Also approximately 690 acres of the North Tract would become a Parks and Recreation Area near Bull Creek and may be used for wetland mitigation. The remaining 1,185 acres of the North Tract would be conservation areas. The Army would use the South Tract for dismounted light infantry training.

c. Alternative III: Maximum Development of North Tract. This alternative would also include transfer of a North Tract of 2,760 acres in exchange for a South Tract of 2,848 acres. Approximately 690 acre Parks and Recreation Area near Bull Creek would be established on the North Tract and may be used for wetland mitigation. The remaining North Tract property (approximately 2,070 acres) would be developable land. The Army would use the South Tract for dismounted light infantry training.

d. Alternative IV: Development of the North Tract with Habitat Conservation Area (HCA). This alternative would also include transfer of a North Tract of 2,760 acres in exchange for a South Tract of 2,848 acres. An HCA would be established and managed for protected species on approximately 708 acres. An approximately 690 acre Parks and Recreation Area near Bull Creek would be established on the North Tract and may be used for wetland mitigation. The remaining North Tract property (approximately 1,362 acres) would be developable. The Army would use the South Tract for dismounted light infantry training.

e. Alternative V (Preferred Alternative): Development of Reduced North Tract Without the HCA. This alternative would reduce the North Tract to 2,113 acres in exchange for a South Tract of 2,156 acres. Most of the area identified for an HCA in Alternative IV would remain with Fort Benning. Approximately 690 acre Parks and Recreation Area would be established on the North Tract and may be used for wetlands protection, leaving approximately 1,423 acres of developable land. The Army would use the reduced South Tract for dismounted light infantry training. The City would continue timber production on the portion retained from the South Tract (692 acres).

The DEIS includes analyses of the environmental consequences each alternative may have on topographical setting and land use, aesthetics, air quality and climate, noise, geology and soils, water resources, biological

resources, cultural resources, human health and safety, socioeconomic, infrastructure, hazardous and toxic materials/wastes, and environmental justice. The findings indicate that potential environmental impacts from each alternative may include changes to land use, impacts to biological resources and cultural resources, and cumulative impacts to biological resources.

A public meeting for the purpose of receiving comments on this DEIS will be held in Columbus, Georgia. Additional details will follow in the media or may be obtained by contacting the Fort Benning Public Affairs Office at (706) 545-2211. Public comments received on the DEIS will be considered and addressed in the final EIS and considered by the Army in its Record of Decision.

The DEIS and supporting documents are available for public review at the following locations: W.C. Bradley Memorial Library, 1120 Bradley Drive, Columbus, Georgia; South Lumpkin Library, 2034 South Lumpkin Road, Columbus, Georgia; Sawyers Library, Building 93, Fort Benning, Georgia; Simon Schwob Memorial Library, Columbus State University, 4225 University Avenue, Columbus, Georgia; Columbus Chamber of Commerce, 901 Front Street, Columbus, Georgia; and Columbus Government Center Tower, Columbus, Georgia.

Dated: October 23, 1998.

**Raymond J. Fatz,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health) OASA (I,L&E).*

[FR Doc. 98-28885 Filed 10-27-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army

#### **Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Mission and Master Plan, Fort Bliss, Texas, and New Mexico**

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, DoD.

**ACTION:** Extension of public comment period.

**SUMMARY:** To accommodate requests from the public, the Department of the Army has decided to extend the public comment period on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS) for the Mission and Master Plan, Fort Bliss, Texas and New Mexico from October 5, 1998 to November 5, 1998.

**DATES:** Comments on the DEIS should be postmarked by November 5, 1998 to

ensure consideration. Comments postmarked after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

**ADDRESSES:** To request information about this DPEIS, contact Vicki Hamilton via e-mail at PEIS@emh10.bliss.army.mil. Written comments should be sent to U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss, Directorate of the Environment, ATTN: AZC-DOE-C (PEIS), Building 624 North, Pleasanton Road, Fort Bliss, TX 79916-6812.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Vick Hamilton at (915) 568-2774.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On August 18, 1998, Department of the Army published a notice in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 44247) (63 FR 44247) announcing the availability of the subject DPEIS and the locations of the planned public meetings as well as the repositories for the DPEIS. The dates and times for the public meetings were announced subsequently in the public media in the vicinity of Fort Bliss and the meetings were held on September 3, 4, and 5, 1998. The Environmental Protection Agency published its Notice of Availability for the DPEIS on August 21, 1998 (63 FR 44859). Department of the Army has received requests from several parties to extend the comment period. In response to these requests, and to ensure that all interested parties have time to comment, the comment period has been extended to November 5, 1998.

Dated: October 23, 1998.

**Raymond J. Fatz,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health) OSASA (I,L&E).*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER98-4109-001]

#### El Dorado Energy, LLC; Notice of Filing

October 22, 1998.

Take notice that on October 13, 1998, El Dorado Energy, LLC tendered for filing a revised code of conduct in compliance with the Commission's order issued on October 1, 1998, in Docket No. ER98-4109-001.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888

First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 18 CFR 385.214). All such motions and protests should be filed on or before November 2, 1998. Protests will be considered by the Commission to determine the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceedings. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-28799 Filed 10-27-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP98-363-000]

#### Etowah LNG Company, L.L.C.; Notice of Site Visit

October 22, 1998.

On November 4 and 5, 1998, the Office of Pipeline Regulation staff will be conducting and environmental site visit of Etowah LNG Company's proposed Etowah LNG Project in Polk, Paulding, and Cobb Counties, Georgia. All parties may attend. Those planning to attend must provide their own transportation.

For further information about where the site visit will begin, please call Paul McKee at (202) 208-1088.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-28793 Filed 10-27-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-13-000]

#### Florida Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

October 22, 1998.

Take notice that on October 13, 1998, Florida Gas Transmission Company (FGT), 1400 Smith Street, Houston, Texas 77002, filed a request with the Commission in Docket No. CP98-13-000, pursuant to Sections 157.205 and 157.212 of the Commission's

Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (NGA) for authorization to construct and operate a new delivery point in Polk County, Florida for Chesapeake Utilities Corporation (Chesapeake), authorized in blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP82-553-000, all as more fully set forth in the request on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

FGT proposes to construct, operate, and own an additional delivery point in Polk County, Florida for Chesapeake at or near mile post 26.1 on FGT's existing 6-inch Avon Park Lateral. FGT states that the subject delivery point would include a tap, minor connecting pipe, electronic flow measurement equipment, and any other related appurtenant facilities necessary for FGT to transport for and deliver to Chesapeake up to 100 MMBtu per day and 36,500 MMBtu per year of natural gas. Chesapeake would reimburse FGT for the \$74,000 estimated construction costs. FGT further states that Chesapeake would construct, own, and operate the meter and regulation station.

Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after the Commission has issued this notice, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Procedural Rules (18 CFR 385.214) a motion to intervene or notice of intervention and pursuant to Section 157.205 of the Regulations under the NGA (18 CFR 157.205) a protest to the request. If no protest is filed with the allowed time, the proposed activity shall be deemed to be authorized effective the day after the time allowed for filing a protest. If a protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the NGA.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2585-000, North Carolina]

#### Northbrook Carolina Hydro, L.L.C.; Notice Soliciting Applications

October 22, 1998.

On July 28, 1995, Duke Power Company, the original licensee of the Idols Project No. 2585, filed a Notice of Intent to file an application for a new license, pursuant to section 15(b)(1) of the Federal Power Act (Act), 16 U.S.C.