

personal identifiers or contact information.

DOD Clearance Officer: Ms. Patricia Toppings.

Written requests for copies of the information collection proposal should be sent to Ms. Toppings at WHS/ESD/ Information Management Division, 1777 North Kent Street, RPN, Suite 11000, Arlington, VA 22209-2133.

Dated: December 4, 2009.

Patricia L. Toppings,

*OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer,
Department of Defense.*

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Notice of an Extension of a TRICARE Demonstration Project for the State of Alaska

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)/TRICARE Management Activity, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of extension of demonstration project.

SUMMARY: This notice advises interested parties of the extension of a Military Health System (MHS) demonstration project entitled "TRICARE Demonstration Project for the State of Alaska." The original demonstration notice was published on May 18, 2004 (69 FR 28124-28125), and described a demonstration project to exempt the underwriting provisions for the cost of civilian health care in the State of Alaska from the TRICARE managed care support contract for the Western Region. The demonstration was to be conducted for up to 5 years after the start of health care delivery under the contract and therefore, was scheduled to end on March 31, 2009. On February 23, 2009, a notice was published in the **Federal Register** (74 FR 8068-8069) to extend the demonstration for 1 additional year. As the rulemaking process has not yet been completed, the demonstration project will now be extended for 1 additional year (March 31, 2011).

There is no cost impact that is caused by this extension.

DATES: *Effective Date:* The extension of the demonstration will be effective April 1, 2010.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Michael O'Bar, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)—TRICARE Management Activity, TRICARE Policy and Operations Directorate, 5111 Leesburg Pike, Suite

810, Falls Church, VA 22041-3206; telephone (703) 681-0039.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

For additional information on the TRICARE Demonstration Project for the State of Alaska, please see 74 FR 8068-8069. The demonstration notice focused on the unique situation involved in the delivery of health care services in the State of Alaska, which cannot be addressed fully by applying all of the at-risk standards that apply to the TRICARE managed care support contracts under which services are provided in the other 49 States without some modification. Under the extended demonstration, the current Western Region managed care support contractor will continue to be exempt from the underwriting provisions for the cost of civilian health care in the State of Alaska. The contractor shall provide all the services required for Alaska as specified in the TRICARE Operations Manual, Chapter 23, but will not be responsible for the underwriting fee associated with providing those services under that chapter. All other provisions contained in the TRICARE managed care support contract, TRICARE Operations Manual (6010.51-M), TRICARE Policy Manual 6010.54-M), TRICARE Systems Manual (7950.1-M), and TRICARE Reimbursement Manual (6010.55-M), shall apply in Alaska.

B. Description of Extension of Demonstration Project

The demonstration project will now be extended for 1 additional year (March 31, 2011).

Dated: December 15, 2009.

Patricia L. Toppings,

*OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer,
Department of Defense.*

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Extension of Provider Reimbursement Demonstration Project for the State of Alaska

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice of demonstration extension.

SUMMARY: This notice provides an extension of the demonstration project in the State of Alaska for individual provider payment rates. Under the demonstration, payment rates for physicians and other non-institutional

individual professional providers in the State of Alaska have been set at a rate higher than the Medicare rate. Further, the enhanced portion of the State of Alaska demonstration that provides for reimbursement of 101 percent of reasonable costs for inpatient and outpatient facilities of Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) is terminated because it is no longer necessary based on publication of the TRICARE Reimbursement of CAHs final rule (74 FR 44752) on August 31, 2009.

DATES: The portion of the demonstration regarding payment rates for physicians and other non-institutional providers is extended through December 31, 2010. The CAH portion of the demonstration shall end on November 30, 2009.

ADDRESSES: TRICARE Management Activity (TMA), Medical Benefits and Reimbursement Branch, 16401 East Centretech Parkway, Aurora, CO 80011-9066.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Glenn J. Corn, TRICARE Management Activity, Medical Benefits and Reimbursement Branch, telephone (303) 676-3566.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 20, 2006, DoD published a Notice of a TRICARE demonstration project for the State of Alaska, with an effective date of January 1, 2007 (71 FR 67113), to set payment rates for physicians and other non-institutional individual professional providers in the State of Alaska at a rate higher than the Medicare rate. The demonstration was effective January 1, 2007, for a period of three years, ending on December 31, 2009. Since that time, DoD has determined that increasing provider payment rates (factor rate increase) in Alaska, across all services, has shown mixed results on provider participation, beneficiary access to care, cost of health care services, military readiness, and morale and welfare. The Agency feels an extension of the demonstration is needed to provide more time to fully evaluate and implement a comprehensive framework for managing TRICARE in the State of Alaska. In the meantime, the Agency is looking toward developing a more comprehensive, updated management and reimbursement strategy that will provide a foundation for developing and implementing a comprehensive long-term plan through collaboration with Federal Service Partners for mutually accepted Federal rates. The demonstration continues to be conducted under statutory authority provided in 10 United States Code 1092.

Subsequent to the publication of the initial notice creating the increased rates

for individual providers, DoD published a second notice on July 20, 2007, expanding the TRICARE demonstration project for the State of Alaska to reimburse CAHs 101 percent of reasonable costs for inpatient and outpatient care with an effective date of July 1, 2007 (72 FR 41501), using a method similar to Medicare's payment for these hospitals. The CAH portion of the State of Alaska demonstration is no longer necessary because the DoD is implementing such a reimbursement system on a nationwide basis. Consequently, the CAH portion of the demonstration is terminated. The TRICARE CAH final rule was published on August 31, 2009 (74 FR 44752).

Dated: December 15, 2009.

Patricia L. Toppings,

*OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer,
Department of Defense.*

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Extension of the Public Comment Period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Moffat Collection System Project, City and County of Denver, Adams County, Boulder County, Jefferson County, and Grand County, CO

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Omaha District is announcing a 32-day extension of the public comment period for the Moffat Collection System Project (Moffat Project) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS). The originally announced comment period ends on January 28, 2010, but has been extended until March 1, 2010. The original Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on Friday, October 30, 2009 (74 FR 56186).

DATES: Comments on the Draft EIS should be postmarked no later than March 1, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the Draft EIS should be sent to the attention of: Scott Franklin, Moffat EIS Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District—Denver Regulatory Office, 9307 South Wadsworth Boulevard, Littleton, CO 80128; via Fax at 303-979-0602; or via e-mail at moffat.eis@usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: None.

Timothy T. Carey,

Chief, Denver Regulatory Office.

[FR Doc. E9-30119 Filed 12-17-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

The Release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Proposed Construction of the Western Wake Regional Wastewater Management Facilities, Which Includes Regional Wastewater Pumping, Conveyance, Treatment, and Discharge Facilities To Serve the Towns of Apex, Cary, Holly Springs and Morrisville, as Well as the Wake County Portion of Research Triangle Park (RTP South) in North Carolina

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), Wilmington District, Regulatory Division has been reviewing the request for Department of the Army authorization, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act from the Town of Cary, acting as the lead applicant for the Western Wake Regional Wastewater Management Facilities Project Partners (Western Wake Partners), to construct Regional Wastewater Management Facility. The proposed project consists of regional wastewater pumping, conveyance, treatment, and discharge facilities to serve the Towns of Apex, Cary, Holly Springs and Morrisville, as well as the Wake County portion of Research Triangle Park (RTP South), NC.

The project is being proposed by the Western Wake Partners to provide wastewater service for planned growth and development in the project service area and to comply with two regulatory mandates. One regulatory mandate has been issued by the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission (EMC), and the second regulatory mandate has been issued by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NC DENR).

DATES: Written comments on the Final EIS will be received until January 19, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Copies of comments and questions regarding the Final EIS may be addressed to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District,

Regulatory Division. ATTN: File Number 2005-20159, 69 Darlington Avenue, Wilmington, NC 28403. Copies of the Final EIS can be reviewed on the Wilmington District Regulatory homepage at, <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands/projects/ww-wtp>, or contact Ms. Gwen Robinson, at (910) 251-4494, to receive written or CD copies of the Final EIS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions about the proposed action and Final EIS can be directed to Mr. Henry Wicker, Project Manager, Regulatory Division, telephone: (910) 251-4930.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. *Project Description.* The proposed project consists of regional wastewater pumping, conveyance, treatment, and discharge facilities to serve the Towns of Apex, Cary, Holly Springs and Morrisville, as well as RTP South. The purpose of the project is to provide wastewater service for planned growth and development in the project service area and to comply with two regulatory mandates. One regulatory mandate has been issued by the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission (EMC), and the second regulatory mandate has been issued by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NC DENR). Regulatory Mandate No. 1—Interbasin Transfer: The Towns of Apex, Cary, and Morrisville, as well as RTP South, obtain their drinking water from Jordan Lake in the Cape Fear River Basin and discharge treated effluent to locations in the Neuse River Basin. Obtaining water from one basin and discharging it to another river basin is referred to as an interbasin transfer (IBT), which requires a permit from the EMC. In July 2001, the EMC granted the Towns of Apex, Cary, and Morrisville, as well as Wake County (on behalf of RTP South), an IBT certificate to withdraw water from the Cape Fear River Basin and transfer the water to the Neuse River Basin. However, as a condition of approval, the IBT certificate issued by the EMC requires the local governments to return reclaimed water to the Cape Fear River Basin after 2010. As a result, the local governments have initiated activities to plan, permit, design, and construct wastewater transmission, treatment, and disposal facilities in order to comply with the terms and conditions of the IBT certificate issued by the EMC. The facilities that are described and evaluated in the environmental impact statement (FEIS) are needed to comply with the IBT certificate terms and conditions.