

Pennsylvania Ave. SE). It will begin with an open house at 1:00 PM followed by the scoping meeting at 2:00 PM. Navy representatives will make a brief presentation, then members of the public will be asked to provide their comments. It is important that federal, state, and local agencies and interested individuals take this opportunity to identify environmental concerns that should be addressed in the EIS. In the interest of time, speakers will be asked to limit comments to five minutes.

ADDRESSES: 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 1, 1996, and should be mailed to Commanding Officer, Engineering Field Activity Chesapeake, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Washington Navy Yard, Bldg. 212, 901 M Street SE, Washington DC 20374-5018 (Attn: Mr. Hank Riek), telephone (202) 685-3064, facsimile (202) 685-3350. The scoping meeting will be conducted in English, and requests for language interpreters or other special communications needs should be made to Mr. Riek at least one week prior to the meeting. The Navy will make every reasonable effort to accommodate these needs.

Dated: April 26, 1996.

M.A. Waters,
LCDR, JAGC, USN, Federal Register Liaison
Officer.

[FR Doc. 96-10746 Filed 4-30-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810-FF-M

Notice of Availability of a Draft Plan for U.S. Navy Compliance With Regulations 5 of Annex V to the MARPOL Convention, and of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Disposal of U.S. Navy Shipboard Solid Waste, and Notice of Public Hearing To Receive Comments on the DEIS

SUMMARY: The Department of the Navy (DON) announces the availability of two documents pertaining to the management of solid waste aboard Navy ships. The first is a Draft Plan for Compliance with Regulation 5 of Annex V to the MARPOL Convention by vessels owned or operated by the Department of the Navy. The second document is a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Disposal of U.S. Navy Shipboard Solid Waste. Copies of these documents can be obtained by contacting Mr. Robert

Ostermueller, Planner in Charge, Northern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 10 Industrial Highway, Mail Stop #82, Lester, Pennsylvania 19113-2090, telephone (610) 595-0759, fax (610) 595-0778.

Federal, state and local agencies, and interested individuals, are encouraged to submit comments regarding the draft Plan and/or the DEIS. Written comments may be submitted to Mr. Ostermueller at the above address. The Navy will also hold two public meetings to receive oral or written comments on either or both documents. The first meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on Tuesday May 28, 1996, at the Holiday Inn, 625 First Street, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314. The second meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on Thursday, May 30, 1996, at the Clift Hotel, 495 Geary Street, San Francisco, CA, 94120. In the interest of available time, each speaker will be asked to limit oral comments to five minutes. Longer comments should be summarized at the public meeting or mailed to the address indicated above.

DATES: Written comments on the Plan and/or the DEIS will be considered if received by Mr. Ostermueller at the above address not later than June 17, 1996. Oral or written comments will also be considered if presented at one of the public meetings discussed above, to be held on May 28 and 30, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: CDR Lane Willson, U.S. Navy, Shipboard Solid Waste Project Manager, Chief of Naval Operations (N45) 2211 S. Clark Place, Arlington, VA 22244-5108, (703) 602-8794.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Special Area Compliance Plan is being prepared pursuant to Section 1003(c)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994, Public Law 103-160, codified at 33 U.S.C. 1902(2)-(4). That statute requires the Secretary of the Navy to submit, by 30 November 1996, a plan for compliance by all ships owned or operated by the DON with the requirements of Regulation 5 of Annex V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL). Regulation 5 of Annex V establishes rules pertaining to discharge of shipboard solid waste from vessels operating in designated "special areas" of the world, of which three are currently in effect: the Baltic Sea, the North Sea and the Antarctic Region. Essentially Regulation 5 of Annex V prohibits all discharges of solid waste, other than food waste, from ships in "in-effect" special areas.

The Compliance Plan must be submitted in consultation with the

Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Transportation and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. The statute also requires the opportunity for public participation in the Plan's development, and for public comment on the Plan.

Pursuant to the statutory mandate to provide opportunity for public participation in the development of the plan, DON announced commencement of the Plan's development in the Federal Register of July 21, 1994 (59 Fed. Reg. 37223). That announcement identified three solid waste management alternatives that would be considered: on-board destruction through incineration or some form of advanced waste destruction technology; storage aboard ship for later offload ashore; and on-board processing and discharge at sea of waste products. The announcement solicited public comment on the Compliance Plan, specifically requesting comment on the scope of alternatives to be considered, on the studies considered necessary, on measures of merit by which to evaluate the alternatives, and on suggested technologies or strategies for compliance. Written comments from the public were invited. The July 21, 1994, Federal Register notice also announced a September 20, 1994 public meeting, at which the Navy presented information on and received public comment concerning preparation of the Compliance Plan. In November 1995 and again in February 1996 the Navy met with representatives of federal and state environmental agencies, industry and environmental interest groups in order to obtain their views regarding the Plan. These efforts, this notice's request for comments on the Plan, and the opportunity for public involvement in the DEIS development, described below, provide the public with the opportunity to participate in development of the Compliance Plan.

The draft Plan concludes that it is not technologically feasible, within the foreseeable future, for certain Navy vessels to comply fully with the special area discharge limitations of Regulation 5 of Annex V, while at the same time maintaining the required level of operational capability. Full compliance would require all naval vessels operating in "in-effect" special areas to adopt either the onboard destruction or the storage and retrograde approach to shipboard solid waste management. The draft Plan demonstrates that, given the current state of demonstrated shipboard solid waste management technology, adoption of either approach would materially interfere with the operations

and operational capability of certain U.S. Navy warships operating in "in-effect" special areas.

The draft Plan identifies as the Navy's preferred alternative a combination of waste management approaches for the Fleet, depending upon the design, construction, manning and operating profiles of the various ship types. Navy vessels smaller than frigates, such as fleet ocean tugs, rescue and salvage vessels, mine countermeasure ships and coastal patrol craft, have relatively small crews and typically remain at sea in "in-effect" special areas for only a few days at a time. Given these circumstances it is feasible for these vessels, employing compaction technology, to retain solid waste on board for shore disposal. For these vessels, therefore, the Navy's preferred alternative for special area compliance is storage and retrograde of solid waste.

The draft plan indicates that ocean going surface vessels of frigate size and larger are technologically unable to comply with the special area discharge limitations of Regulation 5 of Annex V while maintaining required levels of operational capability. U.S. Navy frigates are vessels approximately 450 feet in length and with a displacement of roughly 4,100 tons. The Navy's preferred special area compliance alternative for these vessels is a combination of management practices. Plastic and hazardous waste would be stored aboard for recycling or disposal ashore. The remaining solid waste streams, consisting of paper, cardboard metal and glass, would be processed using shipboard equipment and discharged overboard. Paper, cardboard and food waste would be processed in a pulper, creating a slurry of those wastes in seawater, which would be discharged overboard. Metal and glass would be processed in a shredder, which would tear or break metal cans and glass containers into small pieces. The processed waste would then be bagged in burlap and discharged overboard.

The Compliance Plan does not address submarines; further research and development is needed to resolve the particular solid waste challenges unique to submarines. In the meantime, submarines will continue to minimize waste generated at sea through intensive source reduction efforts at the pier.

Although it would be consistent with the MARPOL Convention, which requires reasonable and practicable compliance efforts of warships, the Navy's preferred alternative for frigate size and larger vessels would not be consistent with a future requirement of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships

(APPS), 33 U.S.C. 1901 et seq. Section 1902(c)(1) of APPS requires Navy surface vessels to comply with MARPOL special area requirements by 31 December 2000. To avoid inconsistency with U.S. law after the year 2000, and in accordance with Section 1902(c) (3) and (4), the Navy is recommending a legislative amendment to APPS that will allow discharge after the date of non-plastic, non-floating pulped and shredded material in special areas of certain naval vessels. This authorization would extend only to those vessels that the Secretary of the Navy determines are prevented by their uniquely military design, construction, manning or operating requirements from being capable of meeting the Regulation 5 of Annex V discharge standards. The proposed legislation would prohibit the discharge of pulped material within 3 nautical miles of the nearest land, and would prohibit the discharge of shredded material within 12 nautical miles of the nearest land.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on Disposal of U.S. Navy Shipboard Solid Waste was developed pursuant to Executive Order 12114 (Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions), and Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508). A Notice of Intent to prepare the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was provided in the Federal Register on October 12, 1995 (60 FR 53171). The notice reiterated the solid waste disposal alternatives that would be considered, and announced public scoping meetings. These meetings were held in Alexandria, VA, and in San Francisco, CA, in October 1995.

The DEIS addresses the environmental consequences of each of the alternative means of shipboard solid waste management, and identifies the same preferred alternative as does the Compliance Plan. The DEIS has been provided to Congress in conjunction with the Navy's APPS legislative proposal, discussed above. Hence, the DEIS serves also as a Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (LEIS) to assist in Congressional consideration of the legislative proposal. If enacted, the amendment to APPS would authorize, but not require, the Navy to implement its currently identified preferred alternative as the Navy's final plan for special area compliance.

As indicated above, comment on the draft Compliance Plan and on the DEIS is required not later than June 17, 1996. The Navy will consider all comments and anticipates promulgating a final

Compliance Plan and Final EIS in late summer or early fall, 1996.

Dated: April 26, 1996.

M.A. Waters,

LCDR, JAGC, USN Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 96-10745 Filed 4-30-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810-FF-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Submission for OMB review; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Director, Information Resources Group, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before May 31, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Wendy Taylor, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503. Requests for copies of the proposed information collection requests should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patrick J. Sherrill (202) 708-8196.

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Director of the Information Resources Group publishes this notice containing proposed