

System, the National Forest Management Act, and the National Forest planning process. Nominations to the Committee should describe and document the proposed member's qualifications for membership on the Committee of Scientists.

Appointments to the Committee will be made by the Secretary of Agriculture. Equal opportunity practices will be followed in all appointments to the Committee of Scientists. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the Department, membership will include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

Dated: July 18, 1997.

Christine Pytel,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 97-048N]

Technical Meeting to Solicit Input for a Survey on Browning in Hamburger

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is holding a public technical meeting on August 20, 1997. The purpose of the meeting is to solicit scientific information, including data, on a proposed survey to determine the frequency with which hamburger, sold at retail and cooked at home, turns brown before reaching 160 degrees F. The results of this survey will be used to determine the contribution of this factor to a risk assessment for *E. coli* O157:H7. Persons with an interest in the study, particularly in details such as sampling, preparation, cooking, and evaluation procedures to be used in this survey, are especially encouraged to attend.

DATES: The meeting will be held on August 20, 1997, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m., and materials will be available at that time.

ADDRESSES: The half-day meeting will be held at the Washington Plaza Hotel, 10 Thomas Circle, at Massachusetts Avenue and 14th Street, Washington, DC 20008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To register for the meeting, contact Ms. Traci Phebus at (202) 501-7138 or FAX (202) 501-7642. To arrange for presentation of technical materials, contact Mr. David Soderberg at (202) 501-7358 or FAX (202) 501-7639. Presenters are asked to submit one original and two copies of written comments to the FSIS Docket Clerk, Docket #97-048N, Department of Agriculture, FSIS, 102 Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, Washington, DC 20250-3700. Persons wishing to present technical data are asked to bring 100 copies of their data for distribution to participants in the meeting. Participants who require a sign language or other special accommodations should contact Ms. Phebus at the above numbers by August 13, 1997.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A pilot study to prepare for this survey was undertaken. Preliminary results from the pilot study may be available for this meeting, but the primary purpose of the pilot study was to try out laboratory techniques (for example, cooking and color evaluation) and to test logistics before initiating the main survey. Actual results from the pilot study may require more confirmation before they can be determined to be scientifically accurate. It is expected that discussions in the August 20 meeting will focus on technical details of the proposed survey. Sampling may be a major topic of discussion. The purpose of this meeting is to solicit advice on the survey design from consumers, public health officials and others.

Persons with expert knowledge about consumer behavior in the purchasing, preparing, and cooking of hamburger are especially encouraged to attend. Persons unable to attend the meeting may submit comments to the above addresses.

Transcripts of this meeting will be available in the FSIS Docket Room.

Done at Washington, DC, on: August 7, 1997.

Thomas J. Billy,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97-21673 Filed 8-14-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for ASARCO's Rock Creek Project, Copper/Silver Mine, Kootenai National Forest, Sanders County, MT

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a supplement to the draft environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA Forest Service, Kootenai National Forest (KNF) in conjunction with Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will prepare a Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for ASARCO's proposal to develop the Rock Creek copper/silver mine project approximately 5 miles northeast of Noxon, Montana.

The original notice of intent was published in the **Federal Register**, Volume 53, No. 9, January 14, 1988. A number of items including lead agency, mine water disposal, release date of the SDEIS have changed since 1988. This revised notice describes the current situation.

The KNF and DEQ are joint lead agencies in this effort. Joint lead status will allow both agencies to fulfill their interrelated responsibilities in managing the process for preparation of the draft, supplement and final EIS documents under the guidelines of the National Environmental Policy Act and the Montana Environmental Policy Act, respectively. The DEQ administers the 1971 Montana Metal Mine Reclamation Act. The purposes of the act are, first, to recognize and protect the usefulness, productivity, and scenic values of the lands and waters within the state and second, to reclaim to beneficial use the lands used for metal mines. The Forest Service has the responsibility for managing the uses of the Federal surface land and resources.

This SDEIS is being prepared because there is new information relevant to environmental concerns about the proposed action (40 CFR part 1502.9(c)(1) (i & ii)). The revised notice of intent to prepare the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) was published in the May 27, 1993, **Federal Register** (Vol. 58, No. 101). The notice of availability for the ASARCO Rock Creek Copper and Silver Mining Project DEIS was published in the October 6, 1995, **Federal Register** (Vol. 60, No. 194).

The public comment received on the DEIS has lead the Agencies to take a look at revising some proposed portions of the operation. A new alternative (Alt. V) has been developed which includes the surface deposition of tailings as a paste, and a water treatment system using a semi-passive bioreactor and a reverse osmosis process. The concentrate from the mill would be pumped to an enclosed rail loadout facility. There are also changes in mitigations for the project which

include change in: the type of diesel engines used, the type of pipe used to transport materials and the depth buried, the use of seepage collection features, the design intensity for storm diversions and ponds, the busing of employees, the closing of roads and additional monitoring.

The public will be informed of the availability of the SDEIS by a notice of availability in the **Federal Register**, news releases and mailings of those on the mailing list. The anticipated date of release of the SDEIS for comment is Fall, 1997.

DATES: Specific comments concerning the scope of the analysis should be submitted by September 15, 1997.

ADDRESSES: The responsible official is Robert Schrenk, Forest Supervisor, Kootenai National Forest. Written comments and suggestions concerning the re-analysis and the proposed SDEIS should be sent to the responsible official at 506 U.S. Highway 2 West, Libby, MT 59923.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Paul Kaiser, Project Coordinator, Kootenai National Forest. Phone: (406) 293-6211.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A new alternative (V) was developed to address the new information received and concerns raised since release of the DEIS on October 6, 1995.

Original Proposed Action

ASARCO's proposal, which was submitted in 1987, includes constructing a 10,000 ton per day mine and mill complex to develop their stratiform copper/silver ore deposit which is located under the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness. The ore would be accessed via tunnels starting outside and downslope from the wilderness boundary. ASARCO estimates an ore reserve of 136 million tons and mine recovery rate of 65 percent. ASARCO projects the estimated mine life (from beginning through reclamation) to be 32 years. The mine is estimated to employ 305-355 people. Parts of the project would be on National Forest System land with the remainder on private land. Facilities would include a tailings impoundment approximately 250' high and 324 acres in size, a new access road, utility corridor, water lines, wells, mill site, water treatment site, and rail loadout facility. An exploration adit is proposed to further define the ore body. Two parallel adits (horizontal access passages) would be drilled, one would be used for the ore conveyor and the other for mine access. Two ventilation adits are proposed, one to have its surface opening within the wilderness

and the other would use the proposed exploration adit outside the wilderness. Excess mine water is proposed to be discharged to the Clark Fork River after being treated to State water quality standards.

New Alternative

The new alternative (Alt. V) proposal includes activities on approximately 483 acres. Alternative V has been developed which includes the surface deposition of tailings as a paste, and a water treatment system using a semi-passive bioreactor and a reverse osmosis process. The concentrate from the mill would be pumped to an enclosed rail loadout facility. There are also changes in mitigations for the project which include change in: the type of diesel engines used, the type of pipe used to transport materials and the depth buried, the use of seepage collection features, the design intensity for storm diversions and ponds, the busing of employees, the closing of roads and additional monitoring.

Reviewer Obligations

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice at this early stage because of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45-day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the supplement to the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the supplemental statement.

Comments may also address the adequacy of the supplemental to the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. (Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.).

Dated: July 31, 1997.

Robert L. Schrenk,

Forest Supervisor, Kootenai National Forest.

[FR Doc. 97-20897 Filed 8-14-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Cholmondeley Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to provide timber for the Ketchikan Area timber sale program. The Record of Decision will disclose how the Forest Service has decided to provide harvest units, roads, and associated timber harvesting facilities. The proposed action is to harvest up to an estimated 37 million board feet (mmbf) of timber on an estimated 1,700 acres. A range of alternatives will be developed and will include a no-action alternative. The proposed timber harvest is located within Tongass Forest Plan Management Areas K18 and K19, Value Comparison Units 614, 615, 616, 617, 674, 675 and 676 on Prince of Wales Island, Alaska, on the Craig Ranger District of the Ketchikan Area of the Tongass National Forest.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of this project should be received by September 30, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Please send written comments to Forest Supervisor's Office; Tongass National Forest, Ketchikan Area; Attn: Cholmondeley EIS; Federal Building, Ketchikan, AK 99901.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions about the proposal and EIS should be directed to Dale Kanen, District Ranger, Craig Ranger District, Tongass National Forest, P.O. Box 500, Craig, AK 99921 telephone (907) 826-3271 or Norm Matson, Planning Biologist, Federal Building, Ketchikan, AK 99901 telephone (907) 228-6273.