

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### Recombinant DNA Research: Actions Under the Guidelines

**AGENCY:** National Institutes of Health (NIH), PHS, DHHS.

**ACTION:** Notice of Actions Under the NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules (NIH Guidelines).

**SUMMARY:** This notice sets forth actions to be taken by the Director, National Institutes of Health (NIH), under the NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules (59 FR 34496, amended 59 FR 40170, 60 FR 20726, 61 FR 1482, 61 FR 10004, 62 FR 4782).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Background documentation and additional information can be obtained from the Office of Recombinant DNA Activities (ORDA), National Institutes of Health, MSC 7010, 6000 Executive Boulevard, Suite 302, Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7010, Phone 301-496-9838, FAX 301-496-9839. The ORDA web site is located at <http://www.nih.gov/od/orda> for further information about the office.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Today's action is being promulgated under the NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules (NIH Guidelines). The proposed actions were published for comment in the **Federal Register** of February 14, 1997 (62 FR 7108), and reviewed by the NIH Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee (RAC) at its meeting on March 6, 1997.

#### I. Background Information and Decisions on Actions Under the NIH Guidelines

In a letter dated December 2, 1995, Dr. Kenneth I. Berns (President), Dr. Gail Cassel (Chair, Public and Scientific Affairs Board), and Dr. Diane O. Fleming (Chair, Subcommittee on Laboratory Safety) of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) requested that Equine morbillivirus, Sabia, and Flexal be added to Appendix B of the NIH Guidelines. The Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed a list of select agents identified as potential weapons for biological terrorism. These select agents are subject to Federal regulation 42 CFR Part 72, published by CDC on October 24, 1996, in the **Federal Register** (61 FR 55190). This regulation promulgates the final rule of additional requirements for facilities transferring or receiving select

agents. Most of the biological agents in the select agents list are already included in Appendix B except these three agents requested for inclusion by ASM. In a letter dated December 20, 1996, ORDA asked Dr. Flemming to clarify the proper Risk Group classification of these three viruses. In her letter dated February 3, 1997, Dr. Fleming stated that Flexal virus should be listed as a Risk Group 3 agent based on the classification recommended in the CDC/NIH publication entitled: *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories*, 3rd Edition, 1993. Sabia virus and Equine morbillivirus have not been formally classified in this publication. Dr. Fleming stated that she has consulted with Dr. Michael P. Kiley, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Arboviral Laboratory Safety (SALS) of the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, with regard to the proper Risk Group classification of these two viruses. Dr. Kiley recommended that Sabia and Equine morbillivirus should be classified as Risk Group 4 agents. Risk Group 4 agents are handled under Biosafety Level 4 physical containment, because they are likely to cause serious or lethal human disease for which preventive or therapeutic interventions are not available.

The ASM request was reviewed by Brian R. Murphy, M.D., Head, Respiratory Viruses Section, NIH, and Stephen E. Straus, M.D., Chief, Laboratory of Clinical Investigation, NIH. Dr. Murphy presented his review and Dr. Straus' written review at the March 6-7, 1997, RAC meeting. Dr. Murphy and Dr. Straus concurred with the ASM request with regard to the classification of these three viruses.

The RAC deliberated the issue at the March 6-7, 1997, RAC meeting. A motion was made by the RAC to amend: (1) Appendix B-III-D, Risk Group 3 (RG3)—Viruses and Prions, to include Flexal, an arenavirus, and (2) Appendix B-IV-D, Risk Group 4 (RG4)—Viral Agents, to include Sabia, an arenavirus, and Equine morbillivirus, a paramyxovirus. The motion passed by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and no abstentions.

I accept the RAC recommendations, and the NIH Guidelines will be amended accordingly.

#### II. Summary of Actions

*A. Appendix B-III-D, Risk Group 3 (RG3)—Viruses and Prions*, will be amended to include Flexal, an arenavirus.

*B. Appendix B-IV-D, Risk Group 4 (RG4)—Viral Agents*, will be amended

to include Sabia, an arenavirus, and Equine morbillivirus, a paramyxovirus.

OMB's "Mandatory Information Requirements for Federal Assistance Program Announcements" (45 FR 39592) requires a statement concerning the official government programs contained in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance. Normally NIH lists in its announcements the number and title of affected individual programs for the guidance of the public. Because the guidance in this notice covers virtually every NIH and Federal research program in which DNA recombinant molecule techniques could be used, it has been determined not to be cost effective or in the public interest to attempt to list these programs. Such a list would likely require several additional pages. In addition, NIH could not be certain that every Federal program would be included as many Federal agencies, as well as private organizations, both national and international, have elected to follow the NIH Guidelines. In lieu of the individual program listing, NIH invites readers to direct questions to the information address above about whether individual programs listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance are affected.

Dated: September 30, 1997.

**Harold Varmus,**

*Director, National Institutes of Health.*

[FR Doc. 97-27093 Filed 10-10-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Notice of Availability of the Assessment Plan: Grant Calumet River, Indiana Harbor Ship Canal, Indiana Harbor and Associated Lake Michigan Environments

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is given that the document titled "Assessment Plan for the Natural Resource Damage Assessment of the Grand Calumet River, Indiana Harbor Ship Canal, Indiana Harbor and Associated Lake Michigan Environments" ("The Plan") will be available for public review and comment on the date of publication in the **Federal Register**. The U.S. Department of the Interior, and The State of Indiana ("trustees") are trustees for natural resources considered in this assessment, pursuant to subpart G of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan. 40 CFR

300.600 and 300.610, and Executive Order 12580.

The trustees are following the guidance of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Regulations found at 43 CFR Part 11. The public review of the Plan announced by this Notice is provided for in 43 CFR 11.32(c).

Interested members of the public are invited to review and comment on the Plan. Copies of the Plan can be requested from the address listed below. All written comments will be considered by the trustees and included in the Report of Assessment, at the conclusion of the assessment process.

**DATES:** Written comments on the Plan must be submitted by November 13, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for copies of the Plan may be made to:

Supervisor, Ecological Services Office,  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 620 S.  
Walker Street, Bloomington, Indiana  
47403.

or:

Ms. Elizabeth Admire, Indiana  
Department of Environmental  
Management, 100 N. Senate Avenue,  
P.O. Box 6015, Indianapolis, Indiana  
46206-6015.

Comments on the Plan should be sent to the the Indiana Department of Environmental Management at the address listed above. The trustees will coordinate comment review.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The trustees are undertaking an assessment of damages resulting from the suspected injury to natural resources of the Grand Calumet River, Indiana Harbor Ship Canal, Indiana Harbor and Associated Lake Michigan Environments which have been exposed to hazardous substances released by area steel mills, refineries and other potential sources. It is suspected that this exposure has caused injury and resultant damages to trustee resources. The injury and resultant damages will be assessed under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended, and the Clean Water Act, as amended. The Plan addresses the trustees' overall assessment approach and utilizes existing data. Plan addenda may be prepared by the trustees to provide public notice of additional data collection activities.

**William F. Hartwig,**

*Regional Director, Region 3, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-26788 Filed 10-10-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### General Management Plan; Point Reyes National Seashore, California; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

**SUMMARY:** The National Park Service will prepare a General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS) for Point Reyes National Seashore and initiate the scoping process for this document. This notice is in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.7 and 40 CFR 1508.22, of the regulations of the President's Council on Environmental Quality for the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Public Law 91-190.

#### Background

The purpose of the GMP/EIS will be to state the management philosophy for the Seashore and provide strategies for addressing major issues. Two types of strategies will be presented in the GMP: (1) Those required to manage and preserve cultural and natural resources; and (2) those required to provide for safe, accessible and appropriate use of those resources by visitors. Based on these strategies, the GMP will identify the programs, actions and support facilities needed for their implementation.

Persons wishing to comment or express concerns on the management issues and future management direction of Point Reyes National Seashore should address these to the Superintendent, Point Reyes National Seashore, Point Reyes, California 94956. Questions regarding the plan should be addressed to the superintendent either by mail to the above address, or by telephone at (415) 663-8522. Comments on the scoping of the proposed GMP/EIS should be received no later than January 31, 1998.

Public scoping sessions to receive comments and suggestions will be conducted during the scoping period at the park and in the vicinity. The times and locations of these sessions will be announced in the local media.

The responsible official is John J. Reynolds, Regional Director, Pacific West Region, National Park Service. The draft GMP/EIS is expected to be available for public review in the spring of 1999, and the final GMP/EIS and Record of Decision completed early in 2000.

Dated: September 30, 1997.

**John Reynolds,**

*Regional Director, Pacific West Region.*

[FR Doc. 97-27107 Filed 10-10-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### Comprehensive Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement for the Vancouver National Historic Reserve, Washington

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** The National Park Service, in cooperation with the City of Vancouver, Washington, U.S. Army, and the State of Washington, will prepare a comprehensive management plan and environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Vancouver National Historic Reserve in Vancouver, Washington.

The 366-acre Reserve, which includes Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, Vancouver Barracks, Officers Row, Pearson Field, the Water Resources Education Center, and portions of the Columbia River Waterfront, was established with the signing of Public Law 104-333 on November 12, 1996. The Reserve is to be administered in accordance with a comprehensive management plan to be developed by a partnership consisting of the U.S. Army, the National Park Service, the City of Vancouver, and the State of Washington Office of Historic Preservation.

The comprehensive management plan will take a long-range look at ways to protect the Reserve resources and opportunities for management and use, and will help determine management direction for the next 10 to 15 years. One of the primary components of the plan is interpretive planning. Interpretive planning identifies the primary interpretive themes, recommends appropriate interpretive services, facilities, and programs that will best communicate the Historic Reserve's purpose, significance, compelling stories, themes, and values. The plan will also define roles and responsibilities of the Reserve partners and provide estimates of management, development, and operating costs and staffing needs.

The legislation establishing the Reserve also directed that the Plan include an economic study for Pearson Field. The Partners will work to determine the scope of the study and to look at funding options in preparing the study as an attachment to the final plan.