

received. This information was summarized and addressed in the Final EIS, released to the public on August 8, 1997.

The verbal comments could be summarized into six issues of concern, expressed mainly but not exclusively by residents of the Navajo Nation. These were: (1) concerns over the distribution of project revenues to Navajo chapters, (2) concerns about extending the local electrical distribution system, (3) concerns for health and safety, (4) concerns over involving the public in the project status, (5) concerns over the acquisition of rights-of-way, and (6) concerns for employment opportunities. In addition, a few comments identified other issues.

Each of the concerns expressed orally or in writing was addressed in the Final EIS, by providing a reference to a previous discussion in the Draft EIS, by expanding on those previous discussions in the Final, and/or by providing new information. A standard answer was provided to each of the six issues discussed above, rather than respond individually to multiple questions on the same issues. Only one minor modification to the environmentally preferred alternative in the eastern half of the project area was presented in the Final EIS. This was in response to concerns expressed by the public during and immediately following the public meetings. Local land users in the Dennehotso, Arizona area expressed concerns over the preferred alternative passing through areas of dispersed but common use, though the alternative would not impact any residences directly. The route of the alternative was modified slightly to satisfy these concerns.

The Decision

Western has decided that should the NTP be built, it should follow the preferred alternative described in the NTP Final EIS. The project would satisfy the needs identified in the EIS: it would relieve the constraints on the transmission of electricity out of the region; it would improve the flexibility and reliability of the existing system; it would allow the economical transfer, sales, and purchases of power in the region; and it would provide an opportunity for the Navajo Nation to improve economic conditions. Based upon the information gathered throughout the EIS process, Western provided the public and the decisionmaker with complete information on the environmental impacts associated with the project. Western analyzed several alternatives to the proposed action in terms of their

ability to satisfy the identified needs. Western then analyzed many routing alternatives in order to arrive at the least environmentally damaging alternative routes.

The following factors were taken into account in arriving at the preferred alternative: (1) environmental acceptability, (2) siting and permitting requirements that vary by land status (i.e., Federal, state, tribal, and local), (3) public and agency preferences, especially those of the Cooperating Agencies, (4) electrical system considerations such as power flow and the impacts on system interconnections, (5) engineering factors leading to an increase in costs, such as the length of route, construction difficulty, accessibility, extent of mitigation required, and the extent of design modifications needed for mitigation, (6) rights-of-way acquisition considerations, and (7) consideration of the statutory obligations of the permitting agencies.

In making this decision, Western believes that all practicable means to avoid or minimize significant impacts have been presented in the NTP EIS in the form of standard and specific mitigation measures.

The Kaibab National Forest; Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo and Phoenix Area Offices; Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Office (representing the state BLM offices in Arizona, Nevada, and New Mexico); and the National Park Service, Colorado Plateau Systems Support Office, participated in the NTP EIS as Cooperating Agencies. In addition to the Federal agencies, the Hopi Tribe, Hualapai Tribe, and the Navajo Nation participated as Cooperating Agencies. These agencies and tribes have decisions to make concerning the granting of rights-of-way for the alignment described in the EIS, provided a Construction, Operation, and Maintenance Plan for the construction of the NTP, including a plan for all necessary environmental mitigation, is prepared and agreed upon by all parties.

Mitigation Action Plan

The Final EIS presents reasonable and practicable mitigation measures to reduce the severity of the impacts associated with construction of the line. The preferred action, given the analysis process and the proposed mitigation, will not have a significant impact on environmental factors, with the exception of the potential for impacts on visual resources and Hopi, Hualapai, and Navajo traditional cultural places as discussed above. Western will issue a Mitigation Action Plan (MAP), as required by DOE NEPA implementing

procedures found at 10 CFR § 1021.331, at a later date. The MAP will detail the mitigation and monitoring required to reduce impacts to less than significant. Western's final decision is contingent upon the construction of the line consistent with the requirements of the MAP, and acceptance of the MAP by the Cooperating Agencies.

Dated: October 23, 1997.

Michael S. Hacksaylo,
Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97-28910 Filed 10-30-97; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-5485-6]

Environmental Impact Statements; Notice of Availability

Responsible Agency: Office of Federal Activities, General Information (202) 564-7167 OR (202) 564-7153.

Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements

Filed October 20, 1997 Through October 24, 1997

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

EIS No. 970405, Draft EIS, COE, FL, C-51 West End Flood Control Project, Implementation To Improve the Level of Flood Control, Central and Southern Florida Project, Palm Beach County, FL, Due: December 15, 1997, Contact: Bill Porter (904) 232-2259.

EIS No. 970406, Final EIS, AFS, MT, Lost Trail Ski Area Expansion Project, Implementation, New Master Development Plan, Bitterroot National Forest, Sula Ranger District, Ravalli County, MT, Due: December 01, 1997, Contact: Gina Owens (406) 821-3201.

EIS No. 970407, Final EIS, FAA, HI, Kahului Airport Master Plan Improvements, Implementation, Funding and Approval of Permits, Kahului, Maui County, HI, Due: December 01, 1997, Contact: David J. Welhouse (808) 541-1243.

EIS No. 970408, Draft EIS, FHWA, IL, IL-315 Federal Aid Primary (FAP)/ (Illinois-336) Transportation Project, Construction from FAP 315, IL 336 (Southeast of Carthage) to US 136 (Just West of Macomb), Funding, COE 404 Permit and NPDES Permit, Hancock and McDonough Counties, IL, Due: December 15, 1997, Contact: Ronald Marshall (217) 492-4600.

EIS No. 970409, Draft EIS, BLM, OR, Northeastern Oregon Assembled Land Exchange Resource Management Plan (RMP), Implementation, Site Specific, John Day, Umatilla, Granda Ronde, Power River Basins, Grant, Umatilla,

Morrow, Wheeler, Baker, Wallowa and Union Counties, OR, Due: December 15, 1997, Contact: Dick Cosgriffe (541) 416-6731.

EIS No. 970410, Final Supplement, COE, NJ, Green Brook Sub-Basin Flood Control Plan, Updated Information Concerning a Revised Recommended Plan and Mitigation Plan, Implementation, Middlesex, Union and Somerset Counties, NJ, Due: December 01, 1997, Contact: William A. Richardson (212) 264-2199.

EIS No. 970411, Final EIS, TVA, AL, Bellefonte Nuclear Plant Conversion Project, Construction and Operation, NPDES Permit and COE Section 404 Permit, Tennessee River near Hollywood, AL, Due: December 01, 1997, Contact: Gregory L. Askew (423) 632-6418.

EIS No. 970412, Final EIS, GSA, OH, Voice of America Bethany Relay Station, Disposal and Reuse (VOA) Property for Public and/or Private Development, Union Township, Butler County, OH, Due: December 01, 1997, Contact: William Costa (617) 565-5696.

EIS No. 970413, Final EIS, NRCS, TX, Bexar-Medina-Atascosa Counties Water Conservation Plan, Renovation and Installation, Funding, Medina Lake, Bexar, Medina and Atascosa Counties, TX, Due: December 01, 1997, Contact: John P. Burt (254) 298-1214.

EIS No. 970414, Draft EIS, AFS, MT, Flathead National Forest, Management Direction Plan Related to Old Growth Forests, Forest Plan Amendment No. 21, Implementation, Flathead, Lake, Lincoln, Missoula and Lewis and Clark Counties, MT, Due: December 19, 1997, Contact: Jim Morrison (406) 758-5200.

EIS No. 970415, Final EIS, BLM, CA, Interlakes Special Recreation Management Area Plan, Implementation, Federal and Private Lands Issues, Shasta County, CA, Due: December 01, 1997, Contact: Eric Morgan (916) 224-2100. The US Department of Interior's, Bureau of Reclamation and National Park Service and the US Department of Agriculture's, Forest Service are Co-Lead Agencies for the above EIS.

Amended Notices

EIS No. 970290, Final EIS, FHW, CO, CO-82 Highway Transportation Project, Improvements to "Entrance to Aspen", Funding and COE Section 404 Permit, City of Aspen, Pitkin County, CO, Due: November 05, 1997, Contact: Ron Speral (303) 969-6737.

Published FR 08-01-97—Review Period extended.

Dated: October 28, 1997.

William D. Dickerson,

Director, NEPA Compliance Division Office of Federal Activities.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-5485-7]

Environmental Impact Statements and Regulations; Availability of EPA Comments

Availability of EPA comments prepared September 22, 1997 Through September 26, 1997 pursuant to the Environmental Review Process (ERP), under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act as amended. Requests for copies of EPA comments can be directed to the Office of Federal Activities at (202) 564-7167.

An explanation of the ratings assigned to draft environmental impact statements (EISs) was published in FR dated April 11, 1997 (62 FR 16154).

Draft EISs

ERP No. D-DOE-L08053-00 Rating LO, Lower Valley Transmission Project, Construction of a New 115 kV Transmission Line from Swan Valley Substation near Swan Valley, Special-Use-Permits, Bonneville and Teton Counties, ID and Teton County, WY.

Summary: Review of the Draft EIS has been completed and the project found to be satisfactory.

ERP No. D-FHW-K40221-CA Rating EO2, C-84—Realignment Project, Transportation Improvement between CA-84 from I-880 to CA-2389/Mission Blvd. Funding and COE Section 404 Permit, in the Cities of Fremont, Hayward and Union, Alameda County, CA.

Summary: EPA had environmental objections to the build alternatives based on concerns with the purpose and need, alternative analysis, impacts to water and air resources, and indirect and cumulative effects of the project. EPA suggested other alternatives be examined which also meet the stated purpose and need.

ERP No. D-FHW-K40226-CA Rating EC2, CA-37 Highway Improvement, Napa River Bridge to the existing Freeway Section of CA-37 that begins near Diablo Street, Funding and US Army COE Section 404 Permit Issuance, Vallejo, Solano County, CA.

Summary: EPA had environmental concerns regarding the cumulative impacts, mitigation for wetland impacts and CO hotspot analysis presented in the DEIS for the FHWA's CA-37 Improvement Project.

ERP No. D-GSA-L80016-WA Rating * LO, Seattle New Federal Courthouse, Construction, King County, WA.

SUMMARY: EPA does not foresee having any environmental objections to the proposed project.

ERP No. D-JUS-K80035-CA Rating EC2, Service Processing Center (SPC) for Detainees, Construction and Operation, Possible Sites, Stockton and Tracy Sites, San Joaquin Counties, CA.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concern regarding the air conformity analysis, potential water and waste water impacts and cumulative impact. EPA requested additional information on these issues.

ERP No. D-UAF-G11033-NM Rating EC2, Holloman Air Force Base, Proposed Expansion of German Air Force Operations, for the Beddown of 30 Aircrafts and Construction of Facilities for 640 Personnel, NM.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns and requested additional information in the areas of environmental justice, and mitigation.

ERP No. D-UMC-K36048-CA Rating EC2, Santa Margarita River Flood Control Project (MILCON P-010) and Basilone Road Bridge Replacement Project (MILCON P-030), Construction and Operation, COE Section 404 Permit, Camp Pendleton, CA.

Summary: EPA had environmental concerns and requested additional information on the projects description, practicable least-damaging alternatives pursuant to the Clean Water Act 404(b)(1) Guidelines and biological resources, including wetlands mitigation.

Final EISs

ERP No. F-COE-L36110-WA, Cedar River Section 205 Flood Damage Reduction Plan, Implementation, Renton, King County, WA.

Summary: EPA had no objection to the preferred minimum dredging alternative. The final EIS is consistent with the draft.

ERP No. F-FHW-K40210-AZ, Pima Freeway—Loop 101, Construction, I-17 and Scottsdale Road, Funding, NPDES and COE Section 404 Permits, Maricopa County, AZ.

Summary: Review of the Final EIS was not deemed necessary. No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

ERP No. F-NRC-K01008-00, Crownpoint Uranium Solution Mining