

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Army****Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Projects and Activities Associated With Programs at White Sands Missile Range (WSMR), New Mexico**

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD; White Sands Missile Range.

COOPERATING AGENCIES: U.S. Air Force; Ballistic Missile Defense Organization; Defense Special Weapons Agency; National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This notice of availability is for the White Sands Missile Range Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS addresses the potential impacts of several categories of test projects at WSMR. The testing categories include: missile testing (i.e., Multiple Launch Rocket System, Special Launch Vehicle, and Standard Missile), high altitude testing (i.e., High Altitude Balloon Experiment and Research Rockets), environmental testing (Large Blasts, Temperature Testing), and high energy testing (Lasers, Radio Detecting and Ranging (RADAR)).

In the past, WSMR incorporated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements into project planning on a case-by-case basis. To better evaluate the cumulative effects of unrelated actions being planned at the same time, the EIS incorporates all known and future programs. The analysis addresses potential impacts and cumulative effects. Mitigation of these effects is incorporated into the proposed action.

DATES: The public review period for this FEIS will end 30 days after publication of the NOA in the **Federal Register** by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

ADDRESSES: Anyone wishing to receive a copy of the EIS may send a postcard with their name and address to Commander, WSMR, ATTN: STEWS-NRES-C (Robert J. Andreoli), White Sands Missile Range, NM 88002-5048.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert J. Andreoli at (505) 678-7926.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EIS's proposed action and alternatives are described below:

Proposed Action

The proposed action of this EIS is the long-term operation of WSMR with the proposed adoption of specific mitigation measures for the continuation of

existing programs and the future testing of scientific, military, and commercial systems. This proposed action includes two major components. The first component is the continuation of current project activities and existing operations and services including routine maintenance; modernization or removal of outdated facilities; and improvements in infrastructure, utilities, and services as necessary. The second component consists of changes in the number of projects and programs planned for the next 10-year period, with resulting changes in site usage and services. The proposed action includes adoption of mitigation measures to reduce the effect of WSMR activities on the environment.

Other Alternatives Considered

The no action alternative is the other primary alternative considered. This alternative represents the status quo. Under this alternative, WSMR would remain a viable national range which supports missile development and test programs for the Army, Navy, Air Force, NASA, and other government and private organizations. Chapter 1 of the WSMR Environmental Assessment (1985) describes the current activities at WSMR. The no action alternative is the continuation of existing missions and operations at approximately their current scope and rates, but without the adoption of specific mitigation measures.

The alternative of closing WSMR is considered to be out of the scope of this analysis. There are no Congressional or U.S. Army indications that this option is contemplated. A special NEPA process to address the shutdown and conversion of military bases has been established for such analyses.

The other preliminary alternative identified for consideration in the Notice of Intent (NOI), but not further analyzed in the EIS, focused on testing of future systems and expansion of the mission into nuclear effects testing and launches into WSMR from off the range. Ongoing simulated nuclear effects testing is included in current operations and is analyzed accordingly in the EIS. (This research is more accurately referred to as nuclear effects simulation. It does not involve the testing of actual nuclear weapons.) A parallel NEPA process has been implemented with respect to current off-range launches into WSMR and is briefly discussed in Section 1.5.

Dated: July 23, 1998.

Raymond J. Fatz,

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health) OASA (I,L&E).

[FR Doc. 98-20210 Filed 7-28-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Army****Notice of Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Activities Associated With Future Programs at the U.S. Army Dugway Proving Ground, Utah**

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Pub. L. 91-190, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, an EIS is being prepared to evaluate environmental implications of proposed operations, and development potential of Dugway Proving Ground (DPG) in terms of environmental carrying capacity. The proposed action includes diversifying DPG operations, the expansion of chemical and biological defensive testing, increased DoD training activities, and implementation of the installation real property master plan. Issues to be considered include new activities projected for the installation, modernization or removal of outdated facilities, and improvements to infrastructure, utilities and service necessary to accommodate new missions and changes in existing test, evaluation, and training missions. Three alternatives are being considered: (1) Increased training intensity without expansion of defensive chemical and biological testing; (2) expanded action (increased training, and diversified and increased testing); and (3) no-action which is the continuation of current operations and management intensity. Cessation of current mission activity is not a decision under consideration. Mitigation measures to minimize adverse environmental impacts may be developed for each alternative.

Scoping: The first step will be to determine the appropriate scope of issues, activities and alternatives to be addressed. Comments received as a result of this notice will be used to assist the Army in identifying potential impacts to the quality of the human environment. Individuals or organizations may participate in the scoping process by written comment or by attending scoping meetings. The Army will conduct scoping meetings in Salt Lake City and Tooele, Utah, prior

to preparing the EIS (exact, date, time and location to be determined and will be advertised in the local news media at least 15 days prior to the scoping meeting).

DATES: The public scoping period will continue until October 15, 1998. Written public comments and suggestions can be submitted on or before September 28, 1998 to the address shown below. To ensure consideration in preparation of the draft EIS, written comments and suggestion should be postmarked by October 15th. Comments received after this date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Commander, U.S. Army Dugway Proving Ground, ATTN: STEDPPA (Site-Wide EIS), Dugway, Utah 84022-5000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Steven E. Klauser, (435) 831-3739.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Among the anticipated areas to be evaluated are public health and safety, noise, shock and vibration, water quality, air quality, biological resources including threatened and endangered species, social and economic effects, and historical and archaeological resources.

Dated: July 23, 1998.

Raymond J. Fatz,

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health), OASA (I&L&E).

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Submission for OMB review; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Acting Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the submission for OMB review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before August 28, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Danny Werfel, 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, D.C. 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 Acting Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes this notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g., new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment at the address specified above. Copies of the requests are available from Patrick J. Sherrill at the address specified above.

Dated: July 23, 1998.

Hazel Fiers,

Acting Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of the General Counsel

Type of Review: Revision.

Title: General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) Section 427 Guidance for All Grant Applications.

Frequency: Once only per application for new awards.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profits; Not-for-profit institutions; State, local or Tribal Gov't; SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 5,125.

Burden Hours: 7,688.

Abstract: In compliance with Section 427 of the General Education Provisions Act, as amended by Pub. L. 103-382, all applicants for grant awards made by the Department of Education are required to describe in their applications the steps they propose to take to ensure equitable access to, and equitable participation in, the proposed grant activities conducted with federal funds. The Department has developed a single document that provides common guidance for all competitive and formula grant applicants on how they can meet this requirement. The language in this common guidance document is nearly identical to language that the Department has previously used in separate guidance documents applicable to discretionary grant applicants and to States that have previously applied for formula grants on the basis of consolidated plans available under Title XIV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Office for Civil Rights

Type of Review: Reinstatement.

Title: Fall 1998 Elementary and Secondary School Civil Rights Compliance Report.

Frequency: Biennially.

Affected Public: State, local or Tribal Gov't; SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 60,950.

Burden Hours: 293,419.

Abstract: The Elementary and Secondary School Civil Rights Compliance Report is the vehicle for the Office for Civil Rights (OCR), U.S. Department of Education, to acquire source material in the form of data and information regarding the civil rights compliance issues in the nation's public elementary and secondary schools. Information from the Elementary and Secondary School Civil Rights Compliance Report is used by OCR field offices when they consider public school districts for compliance reviews, and as source material when civil rights compliance investigations are conducted.

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