

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**[ER-FRL-6610-2]****Environmental Impact Statements and Regulations; Availability of EPA Comments**

Availability of EPA comments prepared 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 14, 2000 (65 FR 20157).

Draft EISs

ERP No. D-COE-E35085-MS Rating EU2, Destination Broadwater Project, Proposed Redevelopment and Construction of a large-scale Casino Destination Resort in Biloxi, Approval of Permits for Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act and Section 404 of the CWA, Harrison County, MS.

Summary: EPA rated the applicant's proposal as environmentally unsatisfactory based on the potential for significant adverse consequences to important aquatic resources of the Mississippi Sound, as well as the availability of other less environmentally damaging alternatives.

ERP No. D-COE-E36178-00 Rating LO, Wolf River Ecosystem Restoration, Memphis, Tennessee Feasibility Study, Marshall, Benton and Tippah Counties, MS and Shelby, Fayette and Hardeman, TN.

Summary: Structural measures of the proposed action will significantly improve fish and wildlife habitat in the watershed. Therefore, EPA has no objection to the proposed action.

ERP No. D-COE-H36108-NB Rating EC2, Sand Creek Watershed Restoration Project, To Develop Environmental Restoration, City of Wahoo, Saunders County, NB.

Summary: EPA expressed concern that the need for the project was not demonstrated given the current state of the watershed. The effects of improved agricultural management practices which have been implemented over the past thirteen years were not addressed and many contemporary farming practices, (such as conservation tillage, no-till, etc.) have been implemented for the express purpose of improving water quality and controlling soil and nutrient loss.

ERP No. D-NPS-E61075-FL Rating EC2, Dry Tortugas National Park General Management Plan, Implementation, Monroe County, FL.

Summary: EPA expressed concerns and requested additional information on management plan implementation, enforcement, and mitigation of both existing conditions and possible future impacts.

ERP No. DS-NOA-E64016-FL Rating EC2, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS), Comprehensive Management Plan, Updated Information, Proposal to Establish a No-Take Ecological Reserve in the Tortugas Region, FL.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns about the proposed management plan. EPA requested details of the plan be included in the final document.

Final EISs

ERP No. F-AFS-F65026-MN, Gunflint Corridor Fuel Reduction, Implementation, Superior National Forest, Gunflint Ranger District, Cook County, MN.

Summary: The FEIS adequately addressed our concerns, regarding potential impacts to wetlands, water, and air quality. Therefore, EPA has no objection to the action as proposed.

ERP No. F-DOE-E09804-FL, JEA Circulating Fluidized Bed (CFB) Combustor Project, 300 Megawatt-Electric, Coal and Petroleum Coke-Fired, CFB Combustor and Boiler to Repower an existing Steam Turbine at JEA's North-side Generating Station Construction and Operation, Funding, Jacksonville, Duval County, FL.

Summary: EPA appreciates the mitigation measures DOE will employ to address potential impacts of this project, but we continue to have environmental concerns about potential process releases.

ERP No. F-FRC-K05055-CA, Potter Valley Project Proposed Changes in Minimum Flow Requirements, License Amendment, (FERC Project No. 77-110), Lake and Mendocino Counties, CA.

Summary: EPA expressed continuing concerns involving the range of alternatives and the relative weight given to economic factors unrelated to fishery health in selecting a preferred alternative.

ERP No. F-TVA-E65054-TN, Tellico Reservoir Land Management Plan, Implementation of Seven Mainstream and Two Tributary Reservoirs, Blount, Loudon and Monroe, TN.

Summary: EPA recognized that the preferred management plan should environmentally improve the

management of the Tellico Reservoir lands. EPA expressed concern over the continued pressure for development, timbering and recreation in the southeast, and the resulting impacts to water quality and other environmental resources.

Regulations

ERP No. R-APH-A99020-00, Pipeline Safety: Areas Unusually Sensitive to Environmental Damage

Summary: EPA had objections to the proposed regulations. EPA believes that the proposed regulations do not adequately address our substantial concerns about how the Unusually Sensitive Areas will be defined. Several recommendations were offered.

Dated: August 8, 2000.

Joseph P. Montgomery,

Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 00-20437 Filed 8-10-00; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**[ER-FRL-6609-9]****Pogo Gold Mine Project in Delta Junction, Alaska; Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement**

AGENCY: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)—Region X.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Pogo Gold Mine Project in Delta Junction, Alaska.

PURPOSE: In accordance with Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), EPA has identified a need to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and therefore issues this Notice of Intent in accordance with 40 CFR 1507.7.

FOR A COPY OF THE SCOPING DOCUMENT AND TO BE PLACED ON THE PROJECT MAILING LIST CONTACT: Matthew

Harrington, EIS Project Officer, Office of Water, (M/S-130), U.S. EPA Region 10, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98101, Telephone: (206) 553-0246.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will evaluate the impacts associated with the development of a 1.3 million ton per year gold mine in the Goodpaster Valley, 38 miles northeast of Delta Junction, Alaska. The project would consist of an underground mine designed to feed gold ore to the mill at an initial rate of approximately 2,500 tons per day (tpd). This would increase to 3,500 tpd over time. The property

would produce 375,000 ounces (oz) of gold annually at start-up, increasing to 500,000 oz per year. The Pogo project would require 2 to 3 years to construct and would have an operating life of 12 years based on the current ore reserves. The administrative actions that the EIS must address include issuing an EPA Clean Water Act (CWA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and a United States Corps of Engineers CWA 404 permit. The EIS will also address issues related to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) access and mining authorizations.

Alternatives: The alternatives to be evaluated include at this time the "no action" alternative, various dry tailings disposal site alternatives, transportation corridor alternatives, various power alternatives, and reclamation alternatives. The proposed project is a joint venture between Teck Resources, Inc., and subsidiary companies of Sumitomo Metal Mining Co., Ltd., and Sumitomo Corporation of Tokyo, Japan. Teck Resources Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Teck Corporation of Vancouver, Canada, is the operator of the project.

Scoping: Scoping meetings for the purpose of identifying issues to be evaluated in the EIS will be held in Delta Junction and Fairbanks, Alaska, on September 26 and September 27, respectively. The exact location and times of the meetings will be announced in local newspapers. The public is invited to attend and identify issues that should be addressed in the EIS. A scoping document that explains in greater detail the project and alternatives identified at this time is being sent to known interested parties as of the date of this notice of intent. The public can obtain a copy of the scoping document by contacting Matthew Harrington at the phone number and address listed above in this notice.

Estimated Date of DEIS Release: February 1, 2001.

Responsible Official: Charles E. Findley, Acting Regional Administrator.

Anne N. Miller,

Acting Director, Office of Federal Activities.
[FR Doc. 00-20438 Filed 8-10-00; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6850-5]

Public Information Hearings on Discharges From Cruise Ships

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: EPA, supported by the Coast Guard and other Federal agencies, is hosting three regional public information hearings to gather information regarding the management of wastewater, solid waste, hazardous waste, and other discharges by cruise ships. These hearings are part of an information gathering effort to prepare an assessment of the quality and quantity, environmental impacts, existing control measures, and possible regulation of discharges from cruise ships. Information is being sought from the cruise ship industry, the public and other interested parties. These three information hearings will provide an opportunity for the interested public to provide input into our assessment of waste management on cruise ships.

DATES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for meeting dates.

ADDRESSES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for meeting locations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information on the hearings or our approach to the assessment of cruise ship discharges, write to the Marine Pollution Control Branch, ATTN: Cruise Ships, US Environmental Protection Agency, MC 4504F, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC, 20460, or send an email to Cruise.Ships@epa.gov. You may also call Dorn Carlson at telephone 202/260-6411, or Tom Charlton at telephone 202/260-6960. For information about a specific hearing, please call the Regional contact for that hearing: Los Angeles, CA, Allan Ota (EPA Region 9), 415/744-1980; Juneau, AK, Steve Torok (EPA Region 10), 907/586-7658; Miami, FL, Bob Howard (EPA Region 4), 404/562-9370.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Public Hearing Information: The public hearings will be held on the following dates, times, and locations:

1. Wednesday, September 6, 2000, Session I, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and Session II, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., in Los Angeles, CA—Multipurpose Room, Port of Los Angeles, Port Plaza, 100 West 5th St., San Pedro, CA 90731.

2. Friday, September 8, 2000, Session I, from 12 Noon to 6 p.m., and Session

II, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., in Juneau, AK—Centennial Hall, 101 Egan Drive, Sheffield Ballroom #3, Juneau, AK 99801.

3. Tuesday, September 12, 2000, Session I, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and Session II, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Miami, FL—Embassy Suites Hotel, 3974 NW South River Drive, Miami, FL 33142.

Anyone who plans to speak at any of these hearings should write, call or email a request to speak to the address listed above in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. Include your name, affiliation, address, phone number and email address, approximately how much speaking time you desire, and which hearing and session you will attend. We will use this information to try to arrange enough time on the agenda for all comments.

We will make every effort to accommodate your request, but because we do not know how many speakers will come forward, we cannot guarantee that you will be given all the time you request.

To assure that adequate time is allotted for each speaker, please send all requests to present oral comments at the public hearing by August 23, 2000.

Special note for potential attendees for the Juneau, AK, meeting: For the Juneau session, oral presentations will be limited to the evening session. If you are unavailable for the evening session, we will make arrangements to record your statement in the afternoon. The afternoon session in Juneau will be an open house format from Noon to 6:00 p.m. Information displays will be provided and personnel from EPA, U.S. Coast Guard, and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation will be available to answer questions.

Information on Services for Individuals with Disabilities: For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities, or to request special assistance at the meeting, please contact one of the people listed under the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section as soon as possible.

Providing Written Information: We are also interested in receiving any documents that support your oral information, or any other written information on the subject. These written materials may be mailed or emailed to the same address listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. Please submit your written material or documentation on cruise ship discharges in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ × 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing. Submit an original and three copies. If you want an acknowledgment of receipt of your