

the closure of Zone 4 would not be achieved. This realization, coupled with the availability of adequate storage space in Zone 4 to accommodate both surplus pits and weapons dismantlement activities, as well as concerns expressed by the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board over storing both national security and surplus pits in Zone 12, led DOE to reexamine whether it would be more appropriate to continue storing surplus pits in Zone 4.

The storage of surplus pits in Zone 4 at Pantex is ongoing and consistent with the current storage practices and was evaluated as part of the No Action Alternative in the Storage and Disposition PEIS. The SPD EIS ROD also acknowledged that DOE was considering leaving the surplus pits in Zone 4, pending disposition at SRS.

#### *D. MOX Fuel Program*

Section 3155(c) of The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 required the Department to submit to Congress by February 1, 2002, a plan for disposal of the surplus plutonium currently located at SRS or to be shipped to SRS in the future. Section 3155(d) also required the Department to submit a plan for a disposition path for plutonium that would otherwise have been disposed of at an immobilization facility or at a MOX facility, if the Department determines not to proceed with either facility. In response to this Congressional mandate, DOE/NNSA, on February 15, 2002 (and supplemented by letter on March 5, 2002) submitted a document entitled Report to Congress: Disposition of Surplus Defense Plutonium at Savannah River Site. That report states that DOE/NNSA's current disposition strategy involves a MOX-only approach, under which DOE/NNSA would dispose of up to 34 t of surplus plutonium by converting it to MOX fuel and irradiating it in commercial power reactors. Implementation of this strategy is key to the successful completion of the agreement between the U.S. and the Russian Federation discussed in Section I.A., above. DOE is currently analyzing the changes to the MOX fuel portion of the surplus plutonium disposition program needed to carry out that strategy, including analysis conducted pursuant to NEPA. No final decisions regarding the MOX portion of the surplus plutonium disposition program will be made until DOE/NNSA has completed this analysis.

#### **Amended Decisions**

DOE/NNSA is modifying its decisions on storage and disposition of surplus plutonium as follows:

- Cancel the immobilization portion of DOE/NNSA's disposition strategy.
- Select the alternative of consolidated long-term storage at SRS of non-pit surplus plutonium now stored separately at RFETS and at SRS.
- Utilize the KAMS facility for consolidated long-term storage of surplus plutonium.
- Continue storage of surplus pits in Zone 4 at Pantex in lieu of storage in Zone 12.

Issued in Washington, DC, April 15, 2002.

**John A. Gordon,**

*Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration.*

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**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**[ER-FRL-6628-4]**

#### **Environmental Impact Statements; Notice of Availability**

*Responsible Agency:* Office of Federal Activities, General Information (202) 564-7167 or [www.epa.gov/oeca/ofa](http://www.epa.gov/oeca/ofa)

Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements

Filed April 08, 2002 Through April 12, 2002

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

*EIS No. 020143, Final EIS, FHW, MI, M-24 Reconstruction Project, From One Mile North of the Oakland County Line to I-69, Funding, Lapeer County, MI, Wait Period Ends: May 20, 2002, Contact: James A. Kirshensteiner (517) 702-1835.*

*EIS No. 020144, Draft EIS, FHW, MN, Trunk Highway (TH) 53 Project, Transportation Improvements, from 1.2 km (¾ mile) South of St. Louis County Road 307 to the South City Limits of Cook, NPDES Permit, COE Section 10 and 404 Permits, St. Louis County, MN, Comment Period Ends: June 03, 2002, Contact: Cheryl Martin (651) 291-6120.*

*EIS No. 020145, Final EIS, USA, CO, Pueblo Chemical Depot, Destruction of Chemical Munitions, Design, Construction, Operation and Closure of a Facility, Pueblo County, CO, Wait Period Ends: May 20, 2002, Contact: Penny Robitaille (410) 436-4178.*

#### **Amended Notices**

*EIS No. 020124, Draft EIS, FRC, CT, NY, Islander East Pipeline Project,*

*Interstate Natural Gas Pipeline Facilities Construction and Operation to provide 285,000 dekatherms per day (Dth/d) of Natural Gas to Energy Markets in Connecticut, Long Island and New York, New Haven, CT and Suffolk County, NY, Comment Period Ends: May 20, 2002, Contact: Margalie R. Salas (202) 208-2156. Revision of FR notice published on 04/05/2002: Title Correction. 285,009 dekatherms per day (Dth/d) Changed to 285,000 dekatherms per day (Dth/d).*

*EIS No. 020125, Final EIS, FTA, MN, Northstar Transportation Corridor Improvement Project, Downtown Minneapolis to the St. Cloud Area along Trunk Highway 10/47 and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Transcontinental Route connecting Hiawatha Light Rail Transit Line at a Multi-Modal Station, Minneapolis/St Paul International Airport and Mall of America, Bloomington, MN, Wait Period Ends: May 06, 2002, Contact: Joel Ettinger (312) 353-2865. Revision of FR Notice Published on 04/12/2002: Correction to County from Joseph to Josephine County Report on 04/12/2002.*

*EIS No. 020129, Draft EIS, BLM, OR, Kelsey Whisky Landscape Management Planning Area, Implementation, Associated Medford District Resource Management Plan Amendments, Josephine and Jackson Counties, OR, Comment Period Ends: July 12, 2002, Contact: Sherwood Tubman (541) 618-2399. Revision of FR Notice Published on 03/29/2002: CEQ Comment Period Ending 04/29/2002 has been Corrected to 05/13/2002.*

Dated: April 16, 2002.

**Joseph C. Montgomery,**

*Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.*

[FR Doc. 02-9656 Filed 4-18-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6560-50-U**

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**[ER-FRL-6628-3]**

**North Slope, Alaska: Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a Proposal To Develop Oil and Gas Reserves in or Near the Point Thomson Unit, Potentially Including Designation of Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site(s)**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO BE PLACED ON THE PROJECT MAILING LIST**

**CONTACT:** John Malek, Sediment Management and Aquatic Resources Specialist, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10, 1200 Sixth Avenue, ECO-083, Seattle, Washington, 98101, Phone (206) 553-1286, E-mail [malek.john@epa.gov](mailto:malek.john@epa.gov) or Theodore L. Rockwell, Jr., Environmental Scientist, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Alaska Operations Office, 222 W Seventh Avenue, Box 19, Anchorage, AK 99513-7588, Phone (907) 271-3689, E-mail [rockwell.theodore@epa.gov](mailto:rockwell.theodore@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The ExxonMobil Production Company, a division of Exxon Mobil Corporation (ExxonMobil) and its partners, the Point Thomson Unit Owners, are proposing to develop oil and gas reserves in or near the Point Thomson Unit located approximately 46 miles east of Prudhoe Bay on the Beaufort Sea coast, in the State of Alaska, with the goal of production and transport of sales-quality gas condensate to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS). The Point Thomson Gas Cycling Project involves the cycling of gas in the high pressure Thomson Sands reservoir to recover liquid gas condensate. The axis of the Thomson Sands reservoir is roughly aligned with the lagoon system located immediately south of Flaxman Island and extends offshore to the northwest. ExxonMobil and its partners intend to develop this reservoir from onshore locations using extended reach drilling technology.

The proposed development may involve:

- Construction of ice roads;
- Development of gravel mine;
- Construction of gravel roads, pads, airstrip;
- Construction of a gravel fill dock extending into the Beaufort Sea;
- Dredging a channel to the dock from the open sea;
- Disposal, offshore, of the dredged material (ocean dumping);
- Construction of a pipeline system and connection to existing pipelines in other units;
- Construction of production facilities;
- Drilling production wells;
- Drilling underground waste injection wells;
- Operation of production facilities; and
- Abandonment following extraction of recoverable reserves.

Alternatives will be identified and evaluated throughout the Scoping and EIS process with a preferred alternative identified in the Draft EIS.

EPA has determined that the proposed project will or may require

review, concurrence, permits or authorizations from EPA which has regulatory responsibility pursuant to a number of laws including the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Clean Water Act (CWA), Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), and Clean Air Act (CAA). Other permits and/or authorizations may be required from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), State agencies, and the North Slope Borough.

Based upon our review of the proposed project and our understanding of both the regulatory needs for this and associated projects, EPA has determined that to most efficiently meet our NEPA compliance responsibilities, it is prudent to now begin an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). EPA will be the lead agency for this effort and will invite all interested Federal agencies, tribal governments, State agencies, and the North Slope Borough to participate in the preparation of the EIS as they deem necessary for their needs. Letters to that effect already have been sent to the Federal agencies and the following have stated their intent to participate as a cooperating agency: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District; U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. State agencies, the North Slope Borough, Borough residents, and the general public will be contacted during the scoping process.

EPA anticipates the preparation of this EIS will be carried forward via a third-party contract process in which ExxonMobil works with EPA to acquire an independent third-party contractor to collect information, prepare the documents for Agency review, revision and acceptance.

**Scoping:** EPA expects to hold scoping meetings in Anchorage, Barrow, Nuiqsut, Kaktovik, Arctic Village, and Fairbanks. Further information about these meetings will be published locally or can be obtained by contacting the EPA as described above. A description of the project will be circulated prior to these meetings to help the public focus their scoping comments.

The draft EIS is tentatively scheduled for release to the public and agencies for review in mid-2003. The EPA plans to conduct a series of public meetings hearings after release of the draft EIS. Actual times and locations for the public hearings will be announced by advance public notice and local

publications following release of the draft EIS.

**L. John Iani,**

*Regional Administrator, Region 10.*

Dated: April 15, 2002.

**Anne Norton Miller,**

*Director, Office of Federal Activities.*

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**BILLING CODE 6560-50-P**

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**[FRL-7173-4]**

**RIN 2040-AB75**

### **Meeting of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council; Notice of Public Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.

**ACTION:** Notice.

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**SUMMARY:** Under Section 10(a)(2) of Public Law 92-423, "The Federal Advisory Committee Act," notice is hereby given that a meeting of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council established under the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. S3300f *et seq.*), will be held on May 8, 2002, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and May 9, 2002, from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, in Room 1133, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, D.C. 20460. The Council will hear presentations and have discussions on topics important to the Environmental Protection Agency's national drinking water program, including: The States' perspectives on drinking water program implementation; the Agency's approach to developing future contaminant candidate lists; progress and key issues regarding water infrastructure protection activities; updates on key regulatory activities; and arsenic rule implementation, including exemptions, unreasonable risk to health, and point-of-use devices.

The Council encourages the hearing of outside statements and will allocate one hour for this purpose. Oral statements will be limited to five minutes, and it is preferred that only one person present the statement. Any outside parties interested in presenting an oral statement should petition the Council by telephone at (202) 564-3791 before April 25, 2002.

Any person who wishes to file a written statement can do so before or after a Council meeting. Written statements received prior to the meeting