

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit and amendment is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222–226), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

782–1694 - The applicant proposes to take an unspecified number marine mammal specimen materials for scientific research. The objective of the research is to use the data and specimen materials collected from dead pinnipeds and cetaceans or receive samples from other permitted researchers to obtain information about the biology and life history of each of the species. Specimens from animals will be collected and curated, imported or exported only when the specimens are available from animals: 1) directly taken in countries and situations where such taking is legal [e.g. Alaska Native subsistence harvest]; 2) taken incidental to commercial fishing or other operations; 3) found dead at sea or stranded; 4) found dead of natural causes; and 5) taken legally under other research permits. Samples are requested to be taken anywhere in the United States and imported/exported worldwide.

Permit 782–1438 authorizes the Holder to take beluga whales (*Delphinapterus leucas*) by capture to satellite tag, flipper tag, suction cup tag, biopsy sample and incidentally harass the animals. The research is conducted in Alaskan waters, specifically the Gulf of Alaska, Bristol Bay, Norton Sound, Kotzebue Sound and the Beaufort Sea. The maximum number of unintentional mortalities currently authorized is one animal annually. During capture operations in May 2002, a beluga whale became entangled in the net and drowned.

The Holder now requests authority to increase the number of beluga whales that may be accidentally killed during capture operations to four (4) animals for the duration of the permit which expires September 2003. A beluga tagged in Cook Inlet in August 2002 was found dead a week later. While the cause of death of the Cook Inlet animal is unknown because a necropsy was not feasible, mortality could have been related to capture or tagging. As a result, the Holder requests an amendment to

Permit 782–1438 to allow for additional unintentional mortalities in 2003.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application should be mailed to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301)713–0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by e-mail or by other electronic media.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Documents may be reviewed in the following locations:

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 713–2289; fax (301) 713–0376; and Protected Resources Division, Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115–0700; phone (206) 526–6150; fax (206) 526–6426;

Both Permit actions - Protected Resources Division, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802–1668; phone (907) 586–7235; fax (907) 586–7012;

Protected Resources Division, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802–4213; phone (562) 980–4020; fax (562) 980–4027;

Protected Species Coordinator, Pacific Area Office, NMFS, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Rm. 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814–4700; phone (808) 973–2935; fax (808) 973–2941;

Protected Resources Division, Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930–2298; phone (978) 281–9346; fax (978) 281–9371;

Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St.

Petersburg, FL 33702–2432; phone (813) 570–5312; fax (813) 570–5517.

Dated: October 3, 2002.

Trevor R. Spradlin,

Acting Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 02–25713 Filed 10–9–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Availability of Non-Exclusive, Exclusive License or Partially Exclusive Licensing of U.S. Patent Concerning Enzyme-Catalyzed Modifications of Macromolecules in Organic Solvents

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with 37 CFR part 404.6, announcement is made of the availability for licensing of U.S. Patent No. US 6,455,285 B1 entitled “Enzyme-Catalyzed Modification of Macromolecules in Organic Solvents” issued September 24, 2002. This patent has been assigned to the United States Government as represented by the Secretary of the Army.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert Rosenkrans at U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, Kansas Street, Natick, MA 01760, Phone; (508) 233–4928 or e-mail: Robert.Rosenkrans@natick.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Any licenses granted shall comply with 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR part 404.

Luz D. Ortiz,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 02–25883 Filed 10–9–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710–08–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Florida Bay Florida Keys Feasibility Study

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DOD.

ACTION: Notice; date correction.

SUMMARY: The public scoping meetings scheduled for October 8 and 9, 2002 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. as published in the **Federal Register** on Friday,

September 27, 2002 (67 FR 61080) has been rescheduled. The public scoping meetings will now be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on October 29, 2002, at the Marathon Government Center, 2798 Overseas Highway, Marathon, FL.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Brad Tarr, Project Biologist, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Planning Division, Environmental Branch, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019, by e-mail bradley.a.tarr@usace.army.mil, or by telephone at 904-232-3582.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: None.

Luz D. Ortiz,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 02-25877 Filed 10-9-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-AJ-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Corps of Engineers

Chief of Engineers Environmental Advisory Board; Meeting

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), announcement is made of the forthcoming meeting. The meeting is open to the public.

Name of Committee: Chief of Engineers Environmental Advisory Board (EAB).

Date: October 25, 2002.

Location: Hilton Palm Beach Airport Hotel, Salon B, 150 Australian Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL 33406, phone (561) 684-9400.

Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Norman Edwards, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, DC 20314-1000; Ph: 202-761-4559.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Board advises the Chief of Engineers on environmental policy, identification and resolution of environmental issues and missions, and addressing challenges, problems and opportunities in an environmentally sustainable manner. The theme of this meeting is the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. While it is emphasized that this is not a public meeting on the implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, the meeting will focus on selected environmental aspects of the CERP and other restoration issues that may have national implications and/or

application. The intent of this meeting is to present an opportunity for the Chief of Engineers to receive the views of his EAB. Time will be provided, however, for public comment. Each speaker will be limited to no more than three minutes in order to accommodate as many people as possible within the limited time available. If you wish to receive electronic notice of future meetings you may subscribe to a list server at: http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/hot_topics/eab.htm.

Luz D. Ortiz,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 02-25878 Filed 10-9-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-92-M

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

[Recommendation 2002-2]

Weapons Laboratory Support of the Defense Nuclear Complex

AGENCY: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

ACTION: Notice, recommendation.

SUMMARY: The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board has made a recommendation to the Secretary of Energy pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2286a(a)(5) concerning weapons laboratory support of the defense nuclear complex.

DATES: Comments, data, views, or arguments concerning the recommendation are due on or before November 12, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Send comments, data, views, or arguments concerning this recommendation to: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue, NW., Suite 700, Washington, DC 20004-2901.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth M. Pusateri or Andrew L. Thibadeau at the address above or telephone (202) 694-7000.

Dated: October 7, 2002.

John T. Conway,
Chairman.

Background

In the past, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) has issued recommendations addressing the need for weapons laboratories to support the safety of nuclear explosive operations at the Pantex Plant. Specifically, Recommendation 93-6, Maintaining Access to Nuclear Weapons Expertise in the Defense Nuclear Facilities Complex, addressed preserving expertise in the defense nuclear facilities complex. Both the

Board and the Department of Energy (DOE) have devoted significant resources to implementing this recommendation and to maintaining access to the unique knowledge of individuals who were engaged for many years in critical defense nuclear activities, such as weapons design and testing. The continued support by such individuals is necessary to avoid future safety problems in these and related activities, and to maintain the safety of activities with existing weapons.

The Board is encouraged by the initiatives undertaken thus far to ensure access to the capabilities and experience of such individuals while they are still available. Activities such as those at the Theoretical Institute for Thermonuclear and Nuclear Studies at Los Alamos National Laboratory and the Intern Program at Sandia National Laboratories provide excellent opportunities to introduce new personnel to the weapons programs.

However, after visiting each of the weapons laboratories (Los Alamos National Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and Sandia National Laboratories) to discuss laboratory support for the safety of nuclear explosive operations at the Pantex Plant, the Board has become increasingly concerned that an additional problem regarding technical expertise must be addressed. The weapons laboratories have not taken adequate steps to ensure that experienced staff members who can employ their specialized knowledge are readily available to the defense nuclear complex, especially to operations at the Pantex Plant. While some new talent is being developed, it will be years before these new individuals can be shepherded adequately through the nuclear weapons complex, inculcated with the unique knowledge gained through years of dedicated weapons laboratory work, and mentored in those skills required to maintain the stockpile safely. In the meantime, highly experienced specialists responsible for individual weapon programs are leaving the complex and delays in addressing safety issues continue to occur.

Some of these delays were highlighted in a letter dated August 1, 2002, from the Board to the Acting Director of the National Nuclear Security Administration, which addressed a specific safety improvement at the Pantex Plant. In that letter, the Board emphasized the need to designate a single person who would serve as the point of contact for each weapon system at each appropriate weapons laboratory. That individual should be empowered to integrate and coordinate for his or her