delta channel and the configuration of the ebb tide delta.

Geomorphic analysis indicates that the cumulative shoreline changes on each island were averaged over 3,500 feet of shoreline immediately adjacent to the inlet. When the percent of the ebb tide delta on the Bogue Banks side is small, as it was between 1984 and 2001, the bar channel was located close to Bogue Banks and the portion of the delta on the Bogue Banks side was providing some degree of wave sheltering for the west end of the island. The particular ebb tide delta configuration resulted in a considerable amount of accretion along the 3,500-foot shoreline immediately east of the inlet while Bear Island experienced an almost mirror image response on its ocean shoreline, *i.e.,* erosion. Even though the present ebb tide delta configuration is favorable for the extreme west end of Emerald Isle, the eastward migration of the inlet channel that led to the existing inlet configuration also caused the inlet shoreline of Bogue Banks (the Pointe shoreline) to erode. Not only has the Bogue Banks inlet shoreline eroded in response to the eastward movement of the channel, so has the Bear Island ocean and inlet shorelines. Based on these and numerous other comparisons, the preliminary results of the geomorphic analysis indicates that a centrally located channel, approximating the position and orientation of the channel in 1978, may be beneficial to the inlet shoreline on Bogue Banks (the Pointe shoreline) and the east end of Bear Island.

Copies of the Final EIS will also be available on our regulatory home page at *http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/WETLANDS/*, and click on Emerald Isle Bogue Inlet Channel Relocation Project heading at the top right corner under Fast Track.

Dated: April 1, 2004.

Charles R. Alexander, Jr.,

Colonel, U.S. Army, District Engineer.

[FR Doc. 04–7968 Filed 4–7–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710–GN–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Availability for the Draft Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Hamilton City Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration, Glenn County, CA

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

ACTION: Notice; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The comment period for the Draft Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement/Environment Impact Report (DFR/DEIS–EIR) published in the **Federal Register** on Wednesday, March 31, 2004 (69 FR 16902), required comments be submitted on or before May 17, 2004. The comment period has been extended to May 24, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Erin Taylor, Environmental Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1325 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814–2922, (916) 557–5140 or fax (916) 557–7202.

Brenda S. Bowen,

Alternate Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 04–7965 Filed 4–7–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710–EZ–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Near-Term Ecosystem Restoration Plan for the Louisiana Coastal Area

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (Corps) intends to refocus and modify the Draft Programmatic Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Draft PSEIS) for the Louisiana Coastal Area—Louisiana Comprehensive Coastwide Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study (LCA Comprehensive Study) and prepare a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Draft PEIS) for a Near-Term Ecosystem Restoration Plan for the Louisiana Coastal Area. This is a modification of the notice of intent published in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 169093). The intent of this notice is to describe the rationale for revising the purpose and need for action, the scope of the analysis, and intent to prepare a Draft PEIS for the Near-Term Ecosystem Restoration Plan for the Louisiana Coastal Area.

On April 4, 2002, the Corps announced in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 169093) its intention to prepare a Draft PSEIS for the LCA Comprehensive Study. The original proposed scope of the Draft PSEIS analysis was threefold: (1) Supplement previous Louisiana coastal restoration NEPA-compliance studies; (2) utilize the ''lessons learned'' from previous Louisiana coastal wetlands restoration efforts; and (3) determine the feasibility of developing the existing Coast 2050 restoration strategies into projects for the creation of a comprehensive coastwide ecosystem restoration plan. Six public scoping meetings regarding preparation of the Draft PSEIS and the feasibility of comprehensive coastwide ecosystem restoration of coastal Louisiana were held at various locations throughout Louisiana in late April 2002. The scoping report was provided to scoping participants and published on the Coast 2050 Web site (*Coast2050.gov*) in August 2002.

The President's FY05 Budget, released on February 2, 2004 (*http:www.whithouse.gov/omb/budget/fyw005/corps.html*), contained specific language that refocuses and advances planning, scientific, and restoration efforts that are already underway:

> In 2004, the Corps will work to issue a draft report that identifies the most critical ecological needs and proposes a near-term program of highly cost-effective projects to address them. The report will also highlight the key long-term scientific uncertainties and engineering challenges facing the effort to protect and restore the ecosystem, and propose demonstration projects and studies to help answer these questions. The report will focus on the specific coastal areas that require the most immediate attention and on the best way to sequence the proposed work over the next 10 or so years, as we learn what works best. In 2004, the Corps will begin developing studies of potentially promising, long-term ecosystem restoration concepts, with the objective of determining whether they would provide a cost-effective way to create coastal wetlands. An existing Federal-State Task Force established under 1990 legislation will increase its efforts to build and evaluate highly cost-effective fresh-water and sediment diversion projects. This coordinated approach to restoration combines a commitment to address the highest priority needs with a search for innovative solutions. It also ensures that the coastal Louisiana restoration effort will, in the long-term, be able to adapt and evolve as needed, based on the best available science.

The Corps believes these events and activities have influenced the purpose and need for action and the scope of the analysis of the LCA Comprehensive Study. Hence, the Corps proposes to prepare a Draft PEIS for the Near-Term Ecosystem Restoration Plan for the Louisiana Coastal Area.

DATES: Scoping meetings will be held in May 2004. Written scoping comments will be accepted from the date of this notice until May 20, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Scoping comments regarding the Draft PEIS for the LCA Near-Term Plan may be sent to Dr. William P. Klein, Jr., CEMVN–PM–RS, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, LA 70160–0267. Comments may also be made via facsimile (fax) at 504–862–1892. Comments will not be accepted if submitted by e-mail or Internet.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Major Jason A. Kirk, Senior Project Manager, CEMVN–PM–Coastal Restoration, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, LA 70160–0267, telephone: 504–862–1222; fax: 504–862–1892; and e-mail: *Jason.A.Kirk.MAJ@mvn02.usace.army.mil,* or Mr. Howard H. Gonzales, Project Manager, CEMVN–PM–Coastal Restoration, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, LA 70160–0267, telephone: 504–862–1672; fax 504–862–1892; and e-mail: *Howard.H.Gonzales@mvn02.usace.army.mil.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. *Scoping Process.* The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing the NEPA process directs federal agencies that have made a decision to prepare an environmental impact statement to engage in a public scoping process. The scoping process is designed to provide an early and open means of determining the scope of issues (problems, needs, and opportunities) to be identified and addressed in the draft environmental impact assessment, which in this case is a Draft PEIS. Scoping is the process used to: (a) Identify the affected public and agency concerns; (b) facilitate an efficient PEIS preparation process; (c) define the issues and alternatives that will be examined in detail in the PEIS; and (d) save time in the overall process by helping to ensure that the draft statements adequately address relevant issues. Scoping is a process, not an event or a meeting. It continues throughout the planning for a PEIS and may involve meetings, telephone conversations, and/or written comments. (Council on Environmental Quality, Memorandum for General Counsel, April 30, 1981).

2. *Request for Scoping Comments.* In May 2004, the Corps will conduct scoping meetings. Notices will be mailed to the affected and interested public once the dates and locations of the scoping meetings have been established. The Corps invites scoping input in writing, or in person, concerning the following scoping questions: Question #1: What are the critical natural and human ecological needs that should be addressed in the PEIS? For example, critical natural and human ecological needs may include: deltaic processes, sustainability, hurricane and flood protection, protection of human infrastructure, and others. Question #2: What are the significant resources that should be considered in the PEIS for the LCA Near-Term Ecosystem Restoration Plan? For example, significant resources may include: gulf hypoxia, barrier islands, offshore sand resources, water quality, and others.

The Corps also requests comments regarding the following nine LCA Near-Term Plan Identification Criteria. (1) Prevents future land loss where predicted to occur: one of the most fundamental measures of ecosystem degradation in coastal Louisiana has been the conversion of land (mostly emergent vegetated habitat) to open water. Thus, the projection of the future condition of the ecosystem must be based upon the determination of future patterns of land and water. Based on the U.S. Geological Survey open file report 03–334 ''Historical and Predicted Coastal Louisiana Land Changes: 1978–2050'', do proposed projects prevent or reduce future land loss or restore areas of past loss where scientists have documented these losses to occur. (2) Sustainability—restores or mimics fundamentally impaired deltaic process: this criterion refers primarily to projects or opportunities to restore or mimic natural connections between the river and the basins (or estuaries) and includes distributary flows, crevasses, and over-bank flow. Activities that mechanically move sediment from river to basins are also viewed as mimicking deltaic processes, especially if nourished by a small diversion. (3) Sustainability—restores endangered or critical ecological structure: this criterion refers to projects or opportunities to restore or maintain geomorphic features that are essential to maintaining the integrity of coastal ecosystems; includes natural features such as barrier islands, distributary ridges, cheniers, and beach and lake rims. (4) Engineering and design complete and construction started within 10 years. (5) Protects vital local, regional, and national community and socioeconomic resources: this criterion would identify the local, regional, and national social, economic, and cultural resources that are affected by the proposed opportunities and/or projects. These existing resources include, but are not limited to, noise, population, esthetics, housing, cultural, leisure opportunities, community cohesion and growth, public facilities and services, employment, business and industry, agriculture, and flood protection. Effects include both beneficial and detrimental impacts to human culture and their economic activities. (6) Public acceptability based on scoping and public meeting comments. (7) Based upon sufficient scientific and engineering understanding of processes. (8) Capitalizes on existing structure, resources, etc.: this criterion would identify the proposed project elements (*i.e.* freshwater diversions, sediment delivery via pipeline, march creation, etc.) that capitalize on existing infrastructure and resources to achieve the objective of the element. Existing infrastructure may include, but is not limited to, diversion structures that are in place but require modification and/or improvements; diversion structures that are in place and operating but potentially not at full capacity (*e.g.* Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Structure). Existing resources may include, but are not limited to, sediment deposition areas that are adjacent to or near proposed march creation elements or shoreline restoration elements; sediment-rich waterways that may be tapped for influence in disconnected and degraded coastal regions. (9) Construction does not preclude other options and/or projects.

Scoping comments will be compiled, analyzed, and utilized in the plan formulation process. A Scoping Report, summarizing the comments, will be made available to all scoping participants and published on the Louisiana Coastal Area Web site (*LCA.gov*). Scoping comments will be accepted throughout the scoping comment period (see **DATES**).

3. *Public Involvement.* Scoping is a critical component of the overall public involvement program. An intensive public involvement program will continue throughout the study to solicit input from affected Federal, State, and local agencies, Indian tribes, and other interested parties.

4. *Interagency Coordination.* The Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), will provide a Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report. Coordination will be maintained with the USFWS and the NOAA Fisheries regarding threatened and

endangered species under their respective jurisdictional responsibilities. Coordination will be maintained with the Natural Resources Conservation Service regarding prime and unique farmlands. The U.S. Department of Agriculture will be consulted regarding the ''Swampbuster'' provisions of the Food Security Act. Coordination will be maintained with the Advisory Counsel on Historic Preservation and the State Historic Preservation Officer. The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources will be consulted regarding consistency with the Coastal Zone Management Act. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will be contacted concerning potential impacts to Natural and Scenic Streams.

5. *Availability of Draft PEIS.* It is anticipated that the Draft PEIS will be available for public review during the summer of 2004. A 45-day review period will be provided so that all interested agencies, groups and individuals will have an opportunity to comment on the Draft PEIS. In addition, public meetings will be held during the review period to receive comments and address questions concerning the Draft PEIS.

Brenda S. Bowen,

Alternate Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 04–7967 Filed 4–7–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710–84–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Grant of Partially Exclusive Licenses

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with 37 CFR 404.7(a)(1)(i), announcement is made of a prospective partially exclusive license for the manufacture, use, and sale of building elements or blocks based on U.S. Patent Number 6,264,735 entitled ''Low-Lead Leaching Foamed Concrete Bullet Barrier'' and U.S. Patent Number 6,620,236 entitled ''Material, and Method of Producing it, for Immobilizing Heavy Metals Later Entrained Therein'' having a unit weight of 100 pounds or less.

ADDRESSES: United States Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Waterways Experiment Station, ATTN: CEERD–OP–MS (Mr. Phillip Stewart), 3909 Halls Ferry Road, Vicksburg, MS 39180–6199.

DATES: Written objections must be filed not later than 30 days after publication of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Phillip Stewart, ATTN: CEERD–OP–MS; (601) 634–4113, FAX (601) 634–4110; e-mail: *phillip.stewart@erdc.usace.army.mil*; U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Waterways Experiment Station, 3909 Halls Ferry Road, Vicksburg, MS 39180–6199.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: These patents relate to a low-lead leaching foamed concrete having properties that make it a highly desirable material for use as a bullet barrier. Bullets will not ricochet upon impact, but remain embedded in the concrete. The material is non-flammable, and the calcium phosphate and aluminum hydroxide in the admixture react with the lead fragments from the bullets to produce an insoluble lead aluminum phosphate coating that keeps lead out of the environment, eliminating the high disposal costs associated with what would otherwise be a hazardous material. This concrete material is being made and sold under the trademark name of SACON® shock absorbing concrete. Patent number 6,264,735 claims the addition of phosphate to a foamed cement-based mortar and patent number 6,620,236 claims the addition of phosphate and aluminum compounds to a foamed Portland cement-based mortar. The United States of America, as represented by the Secretary of the Army, intends to grant an exclusive license for the manufacture, use, and sale of building elements or blocks having a unit weight of less than 100 pounds or less that are based on the subject patents to Mississippi Prison Industries Corporation, a non-profit corporation created in 1990 by the state of Mississippi with principal offices located in Jackson, Mississippi. Pursuant to 37 CFR 404.7(b)(1)(i), any interested party may file a written objection to this prospective exclusive license agreement.

Richard L. Frenette,

Counsel.

[FR Doc. 04–7966 Filed 4–7–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710–92–P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Postsecondary Education

Overview Information; Training Program for Federal TRIO Programs (Training Program); Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.103A.

Dates:

Applications Available: May 6, 2004.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: June 28, 2004.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: August 27, 2004.

Eligible Applicants: Institutions of higher education and other public and private nonprofit institutions and organizations.

Estimated Available Funds: $6,000,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: $300,000–$500,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: $400,000.

Maximum Award: We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding the maximum amount listed for each of the five absolute priorities, listed below, for a single budget period of 12 months:

Priority 1: $500,000;
Priority 2: $500,000;
Priority 3: $300,000;
Priority 4: $400,000; and
Priority 5: $300,000.

The Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education may change the maximum amount through a notice published in the **Federal Register**.

In addition, successful applicants must provide training to at least one trainee for each $1,500 awarded, unless we specifically approve another amount.

Estimated Number of Awards: 10–15.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: Up to 24 months.

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose of Program: To improve the operation of projects funded under the Federal TRIO Programs, the Training Program provides grants to train staff and leadership personnel employed in, participating in, or preparing for employment in projects funded under the TRIO Programs.

Priorities: In accordance with 34 CFR 75.105(b)(2)(iv) and 34 CFR 75.105(b)(2)(ii), these priorities are from section 402G(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA); and the