

container vessels at ports on the West Coast of the U.S.; (2) to provide economic benefits to the national economy by accommodating large container vessels, thereby reducing costs of transporting goods among Pacific Rim countries and maintaining U.S. competitiveness in the global marketplace; (3) to improve security for international movement of goods by developing an additional facility for large container vessels in a new location on the U.S. West Coast; (4) to improve safety and efficiency of navigation in the Coos Bay Navigational Channel by providing a larger area for vessel handling and maneuvering; and (5) to have a net beneficial effect on the estuarine ecosystem in the vicinity of Coos Bay.

The project is needed to accommodate large container vessels, which are used by Pacific Rim shippers transporting a wide variety of consumer goods as well as import production commodities for manufacturing firms, and U.S. produced goods for export. The volume of container traffic has increased significantly during the past ten years, and growth is expected to remain strong. Ocean carriers are responding to the growth opportunities by using larger and larger vessels. Currently, the average vessel calling at U.S. West Coast ports carries 6,500 TEUs (20-foot equivalent units), but vessels capable of carrying 12,000 TEUs are becoming more common. The larger vessels can transport containers more efficiently and at lower costs than smaller vessels. For navigation safety, a navigational channel should be at least 10 percent deeper than the draft of the largest vessels that utilize the channel, as well as wide enough to allow safe vessel maneuvering. Existing Coos Bay port facilities are not accessible to many larger ships because of depth and width limitations in the navigational channel.

In addition to deep-draft harbors, large container vessels require ports with terminals that are large enough to accommodate the containers once they are off-loaded, and that are connected to a railway system to move the containers on land. Currently, only five ports on the U.S. west coast (Los Angeles, Long Beach and Oakland, California; and Tacoma and Seattle, Washington) can accommodate these large container vessels, and additional capacity is needed. Container vessel traffic will likely exceed the capacity of existing terminals by 2015, if not sooner. In addition, should one of the existing deep-draft ports be significantly damaged (for example, by a natural disaster), it could have a major impact on the national economy. Coos Bay is

geographically separated from the other deep-draft ports and, therefore, would be unlikely to be damaged by the same event affecting another major West Coast port.

Past development and resource extraction within and near Coos Bay have negatively affected the local ecosystem. Impacts have included habitat degradation and loss, declines in fish and wildlife populations, spread of invasive species, and diminished water quality, among others. Ecosystem restoration is needed to offset the effects of the proposed channel modifications and development, as well as some of the effects of past actions.

5. *Alternatives.* In addition to a no action alternative (no modifications to the Coos Bay Navigational Channel other than for maintenance) the FS/EIS will evaluate alternatives with channel depths at increments between the currently authorized 37-foot depth and a depth of 51 feet.

6. *Issues.* Numerous potential environmental issues will be addressed in the FS/EIS, and additional issues may be identified during the scoping process. Issues initially identified include:

- (a) Impacts on biological resources, including species listed under Federal and State Endangered Species Acts and State sensitive species.
- (b) Geological issues, including dredging and stabilization of fill areas;
- (c) Impacts on water and sediment quality;
- (d) Land use and planning issues;
- (e) Impacts on traffic and transportation systems, including marine navigation, railroads, roads, and the Southwest Oregon Regional Airport at North Bend;
- (f) Social and economic impacts;
- (g) Potential noise impacts;
- (h) Impacts on air quality;
- (i) Impacts on public facilities and services;
- (j) Impacts on visual resources;
- (k) Public health and safety issues;
- (l) Impacts on recreation;
- (m) Cultural Resources; and
- (n) Cumulative effects.

7. *Coordination.* The proposed action is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. Consultation will also be done with NMFS under section 305(b)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act concerning Essential Fish Habitat, Marine Mammal Protection Act. Consultation will also be done with the State Historic Preservation Officer.

8. *Other Environmental Review and Consultation.* The proposed action will involve evaluation for compliance with guidelines pursuant to section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act; application (to the State of Oregon) for Water Quality Certification pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act; certification of state lands, easements, and rights of way; and determination of Coastal Zone Management Act consistency.

Dated: December 21, 2007.

Thomas E. O'Donovan,
Col, En, Commanding.

[FR Doc. E8-367 Filed 1-10-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-AR-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Estuary Habitat Restoration Council; Open Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 105(h) of the Estuary Restoration Act of 2000, (Title I, Pub. L. 106-457), announcement is made of the forthcoming meeting of the Estuary Habitat Restoration Council. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held January 29, 2008, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be in room 3M60/70 in the GAO building located at 441 G Street, NW., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Ellen Cummings, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, DC 20314-1000, (202) 761-4750.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Estuary Habitat Restoration Council consists of representatives of five agencies. These agencies are the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Agriculture, and Army. The duties of the Council include, among others, soliciting, reviewing, and evaluating estuarine habitat restoration project proposals, and submitting to the Secretary of the Army a prioritized list of projects recommended for construction.

Agenda topics will include decisions on recommending additional proposals to the Secretary of the Army for funding, a brief update on projects previously recommended and funded and the recent amendments to the Estuary Restoration Act.

Security measures require that persons interested in attending the meeting must pre-register with us before 2 p.m., January 25, 2008. We cannot guarantee access for requests received after that time. To pre-register, please contact Ellen Cummings by telephone or send an e-mail to

estuary.restoration@usace.army.mil.

When leaving a voice mail message or sending an e-mail please provide the name of the individual attending, the company or agency represented, and a telephone number, in case there are any questions. The public should enter on the "G" Street side of the GAO building. All attendees are required to show photo identification and must be escorted to the meeting room by Corps personnel. Attendee's bags and other possessions are subject to being searched. All attendees arriving between one-half hour before and one-half hour after 2 p.m. will be escorted to the meeting. Those who are not pre-registered and/or arriving later than the allotted time will be unable to attend the public meeting.

Brenda S. Bowen,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. E8-374 Filed 1-10-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-92-P

ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Notice

AGENCY: United States Election Assistance Commission.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

DATE AND TIME: Thursday, January 17, 2008, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

PLACE: U.S. Election Assistance Commission, 1225 New York Ave., NW, Suite 150, Washington, DC 20005, (Metro Stop: Metro Center).

AGENDA: Commission will receive briefings on the following: FY2008 Appropriations; EAC Standards Board, EAC Board of Advisors; EAC Technical Development Guidelines Committee; Election Data Collection Grant Program. Commissioners will consider and vote on the following: Changes to the National Voter Registration Form; Disclaimer Proposal to State Instructions Portion of the NVRA Form; EAC Organizational Chart. EAC will install new Officers for 2008. The Commission will consider other administrative matters.

This Meeting Will Be Open To The Public.

PERSON TO CONTACT FOR INFORMATION: Bryan Whitener, Telephone: (202) 566-3100.

Thomas R. Wilkey,

Executive Director, U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

[FR Doc. 08-93 Filed 1-9-08; 12:55 pm]

BILLING CODE 6820-KF-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Climate Change Science Program Product Development Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Office of Science, Department of Energy

ACTION: Notice of open teleconference meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a teleconference meeting of the Climate Change Science Program Product Development Advisory Committee. Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Monday, January 28, 2008, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. E.D.T.

ADDRESSES: Participants may call Ms. Karen Carlson-Brown at (301) 903-3338 to receive a call-in number by January 23, 2008. Public participation is welcomed; however, the number of teleconference lines is limited and available on a first come basis.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Anjali S. Bamzai (301-903-0294; anjuli.bamzai@science.doe.gov) Designated Federal Officer, Climate Change Science Program Product Development Advisory Committee, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Office of Biological and Environmental Research, Climate Change Research Division, SC-23.3/Germantown Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-1290. The most current information concerning this meeting can be found on the Web site: <http://www.science.doe.gov/ober/cpdac/announcement.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Purpose of the Meeting:* To continue discussions on drafting the Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) Synthesis and Assessment Product (SAP) related to climate modeling. This activity is being conducted at the request of the Department of Energy, in accordance with the CCSP Guidelines for Producing the CCSP Synthesis and Assessment Products.

Tentative Agenda:

- Discussion on how public review comments have been addressed by the

SAP 3.1 author team in the current version of the report.

- Discussion on how comments from CPDAC members have been addressed by the SAP 3.1 author team in the current version of the report.

- Motion by Chair of CPDAC to seek concurrence on the draft SAP 3.1.

- Public comment (10 minute rule).

Public Participation: The teleconference meeting is open to the public. If you would like to file a written statement with the Committee, you may do so either before or after the meeting. If you would like to make oral statements regarding any of the items on the agenda, you should contact Anjali Bamzai at the address or telephone number listed above. You must make your request for an oral statement at least five business days before the meeting. Reasonable provisions will be made to include the scheduled oral statements on the agenda. The Chairperson of the Committee will conduct the meeting to facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Public comment will follow the 10-minute rule.

Minutes: The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review at http://www.science.doe.gov/ober/cpdacminutes_presentations.html.

Issued in Washington, DC, on January 7, 2008.

Rachel Samuel,

Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. E8-347 Filed 1-10-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Unconventional Resources Technology Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Office of Fossil Energy, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

This notice announces a meeting of the Unconventional Resources Technology Advisory Committee. Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Tuesday, January 29, 2008: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.—Open Session; 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.—Lunch; and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.—Open Session.

ADDRESSES: Crowne Plaza Houston North Greenspoint, 425 N. Sam Houston Parkway East, Houston, TX 77060.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elena Melchert or Bill Hochheiser, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Oil and