

You may also submit comments, identified by docket number and title, by the following method:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal*: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name, docket number and title for this **Federal Register** document. The general policy for comments and other submissions from members of the public is to make these submissions available for public viewing on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> as they are received without change, including any personal identifiers or contact information.

DOD Clearance Officer: Ms. Patricia Toppings.

Written requests for copies of the information collection proposal should be sent to Ms. Toppings at WHS/ESD/ Information Management Division, 1777 North Kent Street, RPN, Suite 11000, Arlington, VA 22209-2133.

Dated: October 24, 2008.

Patricia L. Toppings,
Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison
Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. E8-26002 Filed 10-30-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

[Docket ID: USA-2008-0077]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army (OAA-RPA), DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Department of the Army announces a proposed extension of a public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. *Comments are invited on*: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by December 30, 2008.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by docket number and title, by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal*: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- *Mail*: Federal Docket Management System Office, 1160 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-1160.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name, docket number and title for this **Federal Register** document. The general policy for comments and other submissions from members of the public is to make these submissions available for public viewing on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> as they are received without change, including any personal identifiers or contact information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instruments, please write to Department of the Army, Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, 661 Sheppard Place, Ft. Eustis, VA 23604, or call Department of the Army Reports Clearance Officer at (703) 428-6440.

Title, Associated Form, and OMB Number: Signature and Tally Record; DD Form 1907; OMB Control Number 0702-0027.

Needs and Uses: Signature and Tally Record (STR) is an integral part of the Defense Transportation System and is used for commercial movements of all sensitive and classified material. The STR provides continuous responsibility for the custody of shipments in transit and requires each person responsible for the proper handling of the cargo to sign their name at the time they assume responsibility for the shipment, from point of origin, and at specified stages until delivery at destination. A copy of the STR, along with other transportation documentation is forwarded by the carrier to the appropriate finance center for payment.

Affected Public: Business or Other For-Profit.

Annual Burden Hours: 3,750.

Number of Respondents: 130.

Responses Per Respondent: 577.

Average Burden Per Response: 3 minutes.

Frequency: On occasion.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The destination transportation officer uses the DD Form 1907 to assure that the carriers utilize the STR and provide the

transportation service as requested by origin shipper. A copy of the STR, along with other transportation documentation, is forwarded by the carrier to the appropriate finance center for payment. The DD Form 1907 verifies the protected services requested in Bill of Lading that was provided.

Dated: October 24, 2008.

Patricia L. Toppings,
OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer,
Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. E8-26005 Filed 10-30-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement To Permit Construction of Dam and Reservoir along Murder Creek, Conecuh County, AL

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Mobile District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) intends to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to address the potential impacts associated with permitting construction of a dam and reservoir along Murder Creek in Conecuh County, AL. Evaluation of the proposed project via an EIS will proceed in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Upon completion of the EIS, the Corps will evaluate a permit application for the proposed work under the authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions about the proposed action, the NEPA process and the Draft EIS should be addressed to Mr. Chuck Sumner, Planning and Environmental Division, phone (251) 694-3857 or e-mail at lewis.c.sumner@usace.army.mil, Mobile District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 2288, Mobile, AL 36628-0001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. The applicant for the permit is the Conecuh County Commission. The permit application proposes construction of a dam and the creation of an estimated 2,650 acre lake on Murder Creek in central Conecuh County, AL, approximately three miles northwest of the City of Evergreen. The lake is proposed to be used as a source of irrigation for local agriculture and a water source for the anticipated bio-fuel

industry expected to move into the local area. Construction of the proposed lake will require an approximately 2,000 feet long dam across Murder Creek.

2. Alternatives to the applicants' proposal may exist which would reduce impacts to the surrounding environment. These could include, but are not restricted to, reducing the surface elevation of the lake, thereby building a smaller lake, considering alternate site locations for the lake, pursuing alternate site layouts that may have less impact on the environment, or pursuing alternate sources of water for irrigation and the bio-fuels industry, or combinations of these or other alternatives. A determination of these or other alternatives to be evaluated will be developed during the scoping and evaluation phase of the EIS.

3. *Scoping:* a. The Corps invites full public participation to promote open communication on the issues surrounding the proposal. All Federal, State, and local agencies, native American tribes, and other persons or organizations that have an interest are urged to participate in the NEPA scoping process. A public scoping meeting will be held to help identify significant issues and to receive public input and comment. The location and time for the public scoping meeting will be advertised through various media outlets at least 30 days prior to the meeting date.

b. The Draft EIS will analyze the potential social, economic, and environmental impacts to the local area resulting from the proposed project and alternatives. Specifically, the following major issues will be analyzed in the Draft EIS: hydrologic and hydraulic regimes, threatened and endangered species, fish and wildlife habitat, wetlands, essential fish habitat and other marine habitat, air quality, cultural resources, wastewater treatment capacities and discharges, drainage discharges, transportation systems, alternatives, secondary and cumulative impacts, socioeconomic impacts, environmental justice (effect on minorities and low-income groups) (Executive Order 12898), and protection of children (Executive Order 13045).

c. The Corps will serve as the lead Federal agency in the preparation of the Draft EIS. The Corps intends to coordinate and/or consult with an interagency team of Federal and State agencies during scoping and preparation of the Draft EIS. A decision will be made during the scoping process whether other agencies will serve in an official role as cooperating agencies.

4. It is anticipated that the DEIS will be made available for public review in December 2009.

Byron G. Jorns,

Colonel, Corps of Engineers, District Commander.

[FR Doc. E8-25986 Filed 10-30-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3720-58-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed South Coast Rail Project, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of the Army Permit Application Number NAE-2007-00698

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District (Corps) announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate a proposed establishment of passenger rail service between Boston and New Bedford/Fall River, MA. The Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation and Public Works (EOT) has submitted an application for a Department of the Army permit to discharge fill material into waters of the United States (U.S.), ranging in area from less than one acre to approximately eight acres (depending on the alternative selected), including wetlands, incidental to the establishment of the passenger rail service. The EOT has stated that the purpose of their proposed project is to more fully meet the existing and future demand for public transportation between Fall River/New Bedford and Boston, MA, and to enhance regional mobility, while supporting smart growth planning and development strategies in the affected communities. The cities of Taunton, Fall River, and New Bedford are the only cities within 50 miles of Boston that are not currently served by passenger rail.

The EIS will also be prepared with the intent to serve as a joint Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and NEPA document that will comply with the procedural requirements of both state and federal law and serve as a

combined EIS/Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The MEPA review will be conducted simultaneously with the NEPA process.

The EIS/EIR will evaluate a range of alternative transit routes to determine the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative ("LEDPA"), in accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Guidelines for Specification of Disposal Sites for Dredged or Fill Material (40 CFR Part 230). Alternative routes presently identified include four principal rail routes: (1) The "Attleboro Alternative", (2) the "Stoughton Alternative", (3) the "Middleborough Alternative", and (4) the "Attleboro-Middleborough Hybrid Alternative". A fifth alternative is a Rapid Bus Alternative using modified highway infrastructure. A No Build/Transportation Surface Management alternative will also be evaluated. Public scoping may identify other alternatives for evaluation in the EIS/EIR.

DATES: Written comments must be received by: January 9, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Comments can be sent to Mr. Alan Anacheke-Nasemann, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Regulatory Division, ATTN: CENAE-R-PEA, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA, or by e-mail to: SCREIS@usace.army.mil.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Alan Anacheke-Nasemann, (978) 318-8214, e-mail: SCREIS@usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Massachusetts EOT has submitted an application under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for a Department of the Army permit to discharge fill material into waters of the U.S. incidental to establishment of passenger rail service between Boston and New Bedford and Fall River, MA, known as the "South Coast Rail Project." To date, the proposed South Coast Rail Project has been undergoing review and analysis of alternatives in accordance with the Corps' New England District's Highway Methodology. EOT completed a preliminary analysis of alternatives in April 2008, which consisted of investigating, analyzing and screening a number of alternatives. Five alternative transit routes, with mode variations and slight route variations, resulted from the screening process. The "Attleboro Alternative" would expand service via the existing AMTRAK Northeast Corridor, with added capacity, new track and existing freight lines from Attleboro via Norton to Taunton. This route could potentially affect two Commonwealth of Massachusetts Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) known as Fowl Meadow/