

2. *Restoration Approaches:* Three programmatic restoration approaches will be considered and evaluated in the environmental impact statement. The first approach is the No Action alternative and would include various agencies and groups continuing to implement small-scale restoration projects but within a less coordinated framework than under the other proposed alternatives. Continued implementation of restoration projects might include reconnecting isolated habitat elements, localized bank revegetation, and some placement of large woody debris. The second approach is an ecosystem processes approach to habitat restoration within a comprehensive framework. Under this approach, benefits to many fish and wildlife species will be targeted. The third approach is restoration of ESA-listed fish species. Recently, Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) have been listed under ESA. This approach would evaluate restoration actions that would focus benefits on these species.

3. *Scoping and Public Involvement:* Public involvement will be sought during scoping and throughout the study in accordance with NEPA and SEPA procedures. Public meetings will be held during public review of the draft PEIS. A public scoping process will be initiated to clarify issues of major concern, identify studies that might be needed to analyze and evaluate impacts, and obtain public input on the range and acceptability of approaches and further definition of alternatives. This notice of intent formally commences the joint scoping process under NEPA and SEPA. As part of the scoping process, all affected Federal, state, and local agencies, Native American tribes, and other interested private organizations, including environmental interest groups, are invited to comment on the scope of the PEIS. Comments are requested concerning project alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant environmental impacts, and permits or other approvals that may be required. To date, the following impact areas have been identified and will be analyzed in depth in the PEIS: (1) Fish and their habitat, (2) water quality, (3) wetlands, (4) riparian habitat, (5) wildlife, (6) land use, and (7) public safety. The environmental review process will be comprehensive and will integrate and satisfy the requirements of NEPA (Federal) and SEPA (Washington State), and other relevant Federal, state, and local environmental laws. Written

comments may be accepted within 30 days of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** (see **DATES**).

4. *Other Environmental Review, Coordination, and Permit Requirements:* Other environmental review, coordination, and permit requirements include preparation of a section 404(b)(1) evaluation by the Corps and consultation among the Corps, State of Washington, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration both per section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Coordination will also be initiated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to meet the requirements of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

5. *Availability of the Draft PEIS:* The draft PEIS is scheduled for release during the spring of 2004 and the Final PEIS is scheduled for release during the fall of 2004.

Luz D. Ortiz,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-27358 Filed 10-29-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-ER-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Privacy Act of 1974; Computer Matching Program

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of renewal of the computer matching program between the Department of Education and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988, (Pub.L. 100-503), and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Final Guidelines on the Conduct of Matching Programs, notice is hereby given of the renewal of the computer matching program between the Department of Education (ED) (the recipient agency) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) (the source agency). After a new computer matching agreement has been approved by the ED and VA Data Integrity Boards, the computer matching program will begin on the effective date as specified in the agreement and as indicated in paragraph 5, below.

In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a), as amended by the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988, OMB Final Guidelines on the Conduct of Matching Programs (54 FR 25818, June 19, 1989), and OMB Circular No. A-130, the following information is provided:

1. *Names of Participating Agencies.*

The U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

2. *Purpose of the Match.*

The purpose of this matching program between ED and VA is to verify the status of applicants for financial assistance under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), who claim to be veterans.

The Secretary of ED is authorized by the HEA to administer the Title IV programs and to enforce the terms and conditions of the HEA. The Secretary has the authority to treat veterans as independent applicants. Applicants who are determined to be veterans do not have to provide parental income and asset information to apply for Title IV, HEA program assistance.

Section 480(c)(1) of the HEA defines the term "veteran" to mean "any individual who (A) has engaged in active duty in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard; and (B) was released under a condition other than dishonorable." (20 U.S.C. 1087vv(c)(1)). Section 480(d)(3) of the HEA enables an applicant who is determined to be a veteran (as defined in subsection (c)(1)) to meet the definition of an independent student for purposes of Title IV, HEA program assistance eligibility. (20 U.S.C. 1087vv(d)(3)).

3. *Legal Authority for Conducting the Matching Program.*

ED is authorized to conduct the matching program under sections 480(c) and (d)(3) of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1087vv(c)(1) and (d)(3)) and 5 U.S.C. 552a. The VA's authority is 38 U.S.C. 523.

4. *Categories of Records and Individuals Covered by the Match.*

ED will provide the Social Security Number and other identifying information of each applicant who indicates that he or she is a veteran. This information will be extracted from the Federal Student Aid Application File systems of records (18-11-01), pursuant to routine use no. 16, as corrected by 66 FR 18758 (April 11, 2001). The ED data will be matched against the Veterans and Beneficiaries Identification and Records Location Subsystem—VA (38VA21), routine use no. 21, as added by 66 FR 30049-50 (June 4, 2001).

5. *Effective Dates of the Matching Program.*

The matching program will become effective on (1) December 24, 2003, the day after the expiration of the current computer matching agreement (CMA); (2) thirty (30) days after this notice of the matching program has been published in the **Federal Register**; or (3) forty (40) days after a report concerning the matching program has been transmitted to the Office of Management

and Budget and the Congress, whichever date occurs last. The matching program will continue for 18 months after the effective date and may be extended for an additional 12 months thereafter, if the conditions specified in 5 U.S.C. 552a(o)(2)(D) have been met.

6. Address for Receipt of Public Comments or Inquiries.

Individuals wishing to comment on this matching program or obtain additional information about the program, including requesting a copy of the computer matching agreement between ED and VA, should contact Ms. Marya Dennis, Management and Program Analyst, U.S. Department of Education, 3111 Union Center Plaza, 830 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 377-3385. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed in the preceding paragraph.

Electronic Access to the Document

You may view this document, as well as all other Department of Education documents published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/news/fedregister>.

To use PDF you must have the Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free at 1-888-293-6498, or in the Washington, DC, area at (202) 512-1530.

Note: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO access at: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html>.

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 552a; Pub. L. 100-503.

Dated: October 24, 2003.

Theresa S. Shaw,

Chief Operating Officer, Federal Student Aid.
[FR Doc. 03-27375 Filed 10-29-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[FE Docket Nos. PP-234 and PP-235]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and To Conduct Public Scoping Meetings and Notice of Floodplain and Wetlands Involvement; Baja California Power, Inc., and Semptra Energy Resources

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) and to conduct public scoping meetings.

SUMMARY: Baja California Power, Inc. (BCP) and Semptra Energy Resources (SER) were issued Presidential permits by DOE to separately construct double-circuit 230,000-volt (230-kV) electric transmission lines across the U.S. border with Mexico. In addition, right-of-way grants were issued to each company by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for construction of the domestic portion of both transmission lines on Federal land. The transmission lines originate at new powerplants in Mexico, pass west of Calexico, California, and terminate at San Diego Gas & Electric Company's (SDG&E's) Imperial Valley Substation near El Centro, California. Under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), DOE and its cooperating agency in that proceeding, BLM, prepared an environmental assessment (EA) and findings of no significant impact (FONSI) prior to issuance of the Presidential permits and right-of-way grants. On May 2, 2003, the United States District Court for the Southern District of California held that the EA and the FONSI did not comply with NEPA, and, on July 8, 2003, the court sent the matter back to the respective agencies for additional NEPA review.

The purpose of this notice of intent is to inform the public that DOE will now prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) addressing BCP's and SER's projects and conduct two public scoping meetings. Although the two transmission lines have been constructed and are in service, DOE will, in accordance with the court's July 2003 order, conduct this NEPA review as if the transmission lines did not exist. BLM will be a cooperating agency.

DOE and BLM invite public participation in the scoping process and solicit public comments for consideration in establishing the scope and content of the EIS. Because the projects involve action in a floodplain, the EIS will include a floodplain assessment and floodplain statement of findings in accordance with DOE

regulations for compliance with floodplain and wetlands environmental review (10 CFR part 1022).

DATES: DOE and BLM invite interested agencies, organizations, and members of the public to submit comments or suggestions to assist in identifying significant environmental issues and in determining the appropriate scope of the EIS. The public scoping period starts with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** and will continue until December 1, 2003. Written and oral comments will be given equal weight, and DOE will consider all comments received or postmarked by December 1, 2003, in defining the scope of this EIS. Comments received or postmarked after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

Public scoping meetings will be held on November 20, 2003, in El Centro, California, from 12 p.m. until 3 p.m. and in Calexico, California, from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Requests to speak at a public scoping meeting(s) should be received by Mrs. Ellen Russell at the address indicated below on or before November 13, 2003. Requests to speak may also be made at the time of registration for the scoping meeting(s). However, persons who submitted advance requests to speak will be given priority if time should be limited during the meeting.

ADDRESSES: One copy of written comments or suggestions on the scope of the EIS and requests to speak at the scoping meeting(s) should be addressed to: Mrs. Ellen Russell, Office of Fossil Energy (FE-27), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-0350, Phone 202-586-9624, facsimile: 202-287-5736, or electronic mail at Ellen.Russell@hq.doe.gov.

The scoping meetings will be held at the City Hall of El Centro, located at 1275 W. Main Street, and the City of Calexico City Hall, located at 608 Heber Street.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the proposed projects or to receive a copy of the Draft EIS when it is issued, contact Mrs. Russell at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice or:

Lynda Kastoll, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1661 South Fourth Street, El Centro, CA 92243, Phone: 760-337-4421, facsimile: 760-337-4490, or electronic mail at lkastoll@ca.blm.gov.

For general information on the DOE NEPA review process, contact: Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (EH-42), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000