

The EA Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from an action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. NEPA also requires us to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals. We call this "scoping". The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EA on the important environmental issues. By this Notice of Intent, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues it will address in the EA. All comments received are considered during the preparation of the EA. State and local government representatives are encouraged to notify their constituents of this proposed action and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

The EA will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed project under these general headings:

- geology and soils
- water resources, fisheries, and wetlands
- vegetation and wildlife
- endangered and threatened species
- land use
- cultural resources
- air quality and noise
- public safety

We will also evaluate possible alternatives to the proposed project or portions of the project, and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas.

Our independent analysis of the issues will be in the EA. Depending on the comments received during the scoping process, the EA may be published and mailed to Federal, State, and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, affected landowners, newspapers, libraries, and the Commission's official service list for this proceeding. A comment period will be allotted for review if the EA is published. We will consider all comments on the EA before we make our recommendations to the Commission.

To ensure your comments are considered, please carefully follow the instructions in the public participation section below.

Currently Identified Environmental Issues

We have already identified several issues that we think deserve attention

based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by DOMAC. This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- Noise quality may be affected by the addition of the turboexpander-driven compressor.
- Soils (possibly contaminated) may be affected by minor ground disturbance during construction. The proposed project area is part of a site that has been identified as a "notice site" pursuant to the Massachusetts Contingency Plan. The former site owner, Boston Gas Company, is currently conducting environmental investigations to determine the need for soil remediation.

Public Participation

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. By becoming a commentator, your concerns will be addressed in the EA/EIS and considered by the Commission. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:

- Send two copies of your letter to: David P. Boergers, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426.
- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of Gas Group 1.
- Reference Docket No. CP00-104-000.
- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before May 10, 2000.

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding known as an "intervenor". Intervenor play a more formal role in the process. Among other things, intervenors have the right to receive copies of case-related Commission documents and filings by other intervenors. Likewise, each intervenor must provide 14 copies of its filings to the Secretary of the Commission and must send a copy of its filings to all other parties on the Commission's service list for this proceeding. If you want to become an intervenor you must file a motion to intervene according to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of

Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214) (see appendix 1). Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision.

Affected landowners and parties with environmental concerns may be granted intervenor status upon showing good cause by stating that they have a clear and direct interest in this proceeding which would not be adequately represented by any other parties. You do not need intervenor status to have your environmental comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mr. Paul McKee of the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (202) 208-1088 or on the FERC website (www.ferc.fed.us) using the "RIMS" link to information in this docket number. Click on the "RIMS" link, to select "Docket #" from the RIMS Menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to RIMS, the RIMS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2222.

Similarly, the "CIPS" link on the FERC Internet website provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings. From the FERC Internet website, click on the "CIPS" link, select "Docket #" from the CIPS menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to CIPS, the CIPS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2474.

David P. Boergers,
Secretary.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-6253-2]

Environmental Impact Statements; Notice of Availability Responsible Agency

Office of Federal Activities, General Information (202) 564-7167 or www.epa.gov/oeca/ofa.
Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements
Filed April 03, 2000 Through April 07, 2000
Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

EIS No. 000095, FINAL EIS, AFS, MT,
Good Creek Resource Management Project, Implementation, Vegetation Treatments and Other Activities to Restore Watershed, Flathead National Forest, Tally Lake Ranger District, Flathead County, MT, Due: May 15, 2000, Contact: Bryan Donner (406) 863-5408.

- EIS No. 000096, DRAFT EIS, AFS, ID*, East Slate Project, Harvesting Timber, Implementation, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, St. Joe Ranger District, Shoshone County, ID, Due: May 30, 2000, Contact: Pete Ratcliffe (208) 245-6071.
- EIS No. 000097, DRAFT EIS, IBW, El Paso*—Las Cruces Regional Sustainable Water Project, To Secure Future Drinking Water Supplies, United States and New Mexico, Due: June 13, 2000, Contact: Douglas Echlin (915) 832-4741.
- EIS No. 000098, DRAFT EIS, BIA, WA*, Colville Indian Reservation Integrated Resource Management Plan, Implementation, Colville Indian Reservation, Okanogan and Ferry Counties, WA, Due: May 30, 2000, Contact: William Nicholson (509) 634-2316.
- EIS No. 000099, FINAL EIS, BIA, AZ*, NM, Programmatic EIS—Navajo Ten Year Forest Management Plan Alternatives, Implementation and Funding, AZ and NM, Due: May 15, 2000, Contact: Harold D. Russell (520) 729-7228.
- EIS No. 000100, FINAL SUPPLEMENT, UAF, FL, CA*, Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle (EELV) Program, Development, Operation and Deployment, Proposed Launch Locations are Cape Canaveral Air Station (AS), Florida and Vandenberg Air Force Base (AFB), California, Federal Permits and Licenses, FL and CA, Due: May 15, 2000, Contact: Jonathan D. Farthing (210) 536-3668.
- EIS No. 000101, DRAFT EIS, FAA, NC*, Piedmont Triad International Airport, Construction and Operation, Runway 5L/23R and New Overnight Express Air Cargo Sorting and Distribution Facility, and Associated Developments, Funding, NPDES and COE Section 404 Permit, city of Greensboro, Guilford County, NC, Due: May 30, 2000, Contact: Donna M. Meyer (404) 305-7150.
- EIS No. 000102, DRAFT SUPPLEMENT, COE, FL*, Central and Southern Florida Project for Flood Control and Other Purposes, Everglades National Park Modified Water Deliveries, New Information concerning Flood Mitigation to the 8.5 Square Mile Area (SMA), Implementation, South Miami, Dade County, FL, Due: May 30, 2000, Contact: Elmar Kurzbach (904) 232-2325.
- EIS No. 000103, DRAFT EIS, TVA, MS*, Union County Multipurpose Reservoir/Other Water Supply Alternatives Project, To Provide an Adequate and Reliable Water Supply, COE Section 404 Permit and NPDES Permit, city of New Alban, Union County, MS, Due: May 30, 2000, Contact: Gary Hickman (865) 632-1791.
- EIS No. 000104, FINAL EIS, FHW, NY*, Stewart Airport Access Transportation Improvement Project, A New Interchange on I-84 at Drury Lane, Reconstruction of Drury Lane and a new East-West Connector Road from Drury Lane to Stewart International Airport, Funding, Towns of Montgomery, Newburgh and New Windsor, Orange County, NY, Due: May 15, 2000, Contact: Harold J. Brown (518) 431-4127.
- EIS No. 000105, DRAFT EIS, NPS, CA*, Yosemite Valley Plan, A Comprehensive Look of at Four Areas of Concern: Resource Preservation and Restoration, Visitor Enjoyment, Transportation, and Employee Housing, from Happy Isles to El Portal Road/Big Oak Flat Road, Merced River, several counties, CA, Due: July 14, 2000, Contact: Alan Schmierer (209) 372-0261.
- EIS No. 000106, DRAFT EIS, NPS*, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District Management Plan, Implementation, Augusta, Clarks, Frederick, Highland, Page, Rockingham, Shenandoah and Warren Counties, VA, Due: June 14, 2000, Contact: Jeffrey P. Reinbold (540) 740-4549.
- EIS No. 000107, FINAL EIS, DOE, SC*, Savannah River Site Spent Nuclear Fuel Management Plan, Implementation, Aiken County, SC, Due: May 15, 2000, Contact: Andrew R. Grainger (803) 725-1523.
- Amended Notices**
- EIS No. 000033, DRAFT EIS, AFS, WA*, Deadman Creek Ecosystem Management Projects, Implementation, Kettle Falls Ranger District, Colville National Forest, Ferry County, WA, Due: April 28, 2000, Contact: Wade Spang (509) 738-6111. Published FR on 2-11-2000: CEQ Comment Date has been extended from 03/30/2000 to 04/28/2000.
- EIS No. 000040, DRAFT EIS, AFS, OR*, Mt. Ashland Ski Area Expansion, Implementation, Ashland Ranger District, Rogue River National Forest and Scott River Ranger District, Klamath National Forest, Jackson County, OR, Due: May 04, 2000, Contact: Linda Duffy (541) 482-3333. Published FR on 2-18-2000: CEQ Comment Date has been extended from 04/03/2000 to 05/04/2000.
- EIS No. 000087, DRAFT EIS, AFS, ID*, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Small Sales, Harvesting Dead and Damaged Timber, Coeur d'Alene River Range District, Kootenai and Shoshone Rehnberg (208) 664-2318. Published FR-4-07-00—Correction to Comment Period from 5-15-2000 to 5-22-2000.
- EIS No. 000088, DRAFT EIS, AFS, PA*, Duck and Sheriff Project Area (DSPA), Timber Management, Road Construction and Reconstruction, Trail Maintenance, Wildlife Habitat Improvement, and Recreation Management, Allegheny National Forest, Bradford Ranger District, Cherry Grove Township of Warren County, and Howe Township of Forest County, PA, Due: May 22, 2000, Contact: John Schultz (814) 362-4613. Published FR-04-07-00 Correction to Comment Period from 5-15-2000 to 5-22-2000.
- EIS No. 000089, DRAFT EIS, AFS, ID*, Warm Springs Ridge Vegetation Management Project, Improve Forest Conditions, Boise National Forest, Cascade Resource Area, Boise County, ID, Due: May 22, 2000, Contact: Kathy Ramirez (208) 392-6681. Published FR-04-07-00 Correction to Comment Period from 05-15-2000 to 5-22-2000.
- EIS No. 000090, FINAL EIS, FAA, MA*, Provincetown Municipal Airport Safety and Operational Enhancement Project, Improvements (1) Firefighter Equipment Garage; (2) General Aviation Parking Apron Expansion; (3) Runaway Safety Areas, and (4) a Runaway Extension, COE Section 404 Permit, Cape Cod National Seashore, Barnstable County, MA, Due: May 08, 2000, Contact: Frank Smigelski (781) 238-7618. Published—FR 04-07-00—Correction to Comment Period from 5-01-2000 to 5-8-2000.
- EIS No. 000092, FINAL EIS, FTA, CA*, Vasona Corridor Light Rail Transit Project, Extension of existing Light Rail Transit (LRT), in portion of the Cities of San Jose, Campbell and Los Gatos, Santa Clara County, CA, Due: May 08, 2000, Contact: Jerome Wiggins (415) 744-3115. Published FR-04-07-00 Correction to Comment Period from 5-1-2000 to 5-8-2000.
- EIS No. 000093, DRAFT EIS, AFS, ID, JJ* (Jerry Johnson) Ecosystem Restoration Project, Implementation, Clearwater National Forest, Lochsa Ranger District (Powell), Idaho County, ID, Due: May 22, 2000, Contact: Ken Hotchkiss (208) 942-3113. Published FR-04-14-00—Correction to Comment Period from 5-15-2000 to 05-22-2000.

Dated: April 11, 2000.

Joseph C. Montgomery,
Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office
of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 00-9370 Filed 4-13-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-U

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-6253-3]

Environmental Impact Statements and Regulations; Availability of EPA Comments

Availability of EPA comments prepared March 27, 2000 through March 31, 2000 pursuant to the Environmental Review Process (ERP), under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act as amended. Requests for copies of EPA comments can be directed to the Office of Federal Activities at (202) 564-7167.

Summary of Rating Definitions Environmental Impact of the Action

LO—Lack of Objections

The EPA review has not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring substantive changes to the proposal. The review may have disclosed opportunities for application of mitigation measures that could be accomplished with no more than minor changes to the proposal.

EC—Environmental Concerns

The EPA review has identified environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment. Corrective measures may require changes to the preferred alternative or application of mitigation measures that can reduce the environmental impact. EPA would like to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts.

EO—Environmental Objections

The EPA review has identified significant environmental impacts that must be avoided in order to provide adequate protection for the environment. Corrective measures may require substantial changes to the preferred alternative or consideration of some other project alternative (including the no action alternative or a new alternative). EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts.

EU—Environmentally Unsatisfactory

The EPA review has identified adverse environmental impacts that are of sufficient magnitude that they are

unsatisfactory from the standpoint of public health or welfare or environmental quality. EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts. If the potentially unsatisfactory impacts are not corrected at the final EIS stage, this proposal will be recommended for referral to the CEQ.

Adequacy of the Impact Statement

Category 1—Adequate

EPA believes the draft EIS adequately sets forth the environmental impact(s) of the preferred alternative and those of the alternatives reasonably available to the project or action. No further analysis or data collection is necessary, but the reviewer may suggest the addition of clarifying language or information.

Category 2—Insufficient Information

The draft EIS does not contain sufficient information for EPA to fully assess environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment, or the EPA reviewer has identified new reasonably available alternatives that are within the spectrum of alternatives analyzed in the draft EIS, which could reduce the environmental impacts of the action. The identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussion should be included in the final EIS.

Category 3—Inadequate

EPA does not believe that the draft EIS adequately assesses potentially significant environmental impacts of the action, or the EPA reviewer has identified new, reasonably available alternatives that are outside of the spectrum of alternatives analyzed in the draft EIS, which should be analyzed in order to reduce the potentially significant environmental impacts. EPA believes that the identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussions are of such a magnitude that they should have full public review at a draft stage. EPA does not believe that the draft EIS is adequate for the purposes of the NEPA and/or Section 309 review, and thus should be formally revised and made available for public comment in a supplemental or revised draft EIS. On the basis of the potential significant impacts involved, this proposal could be a candidate for referral to the CEQ.

Draft EISs

ERP No. D-BIA-K65223-CA Rating EC2, Cortina Integrated Solid Waste Management Project, Development and Operation, Approval of Land Lease Cortina Indian Rancheria of Wintin Indians, Colusa County, CA.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns regarding water quality impacts and the lack of mitigation measures.

ERP No. D-BLM-L65338-OR

Rating EC2, John Day River Management Plan, Implementation, John Day River Basin, Gilliam, Grant, Wheeler, Crook, Harney, Jefferson, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union and Wasco Counties, OR.

Summary: EPA expressed concern about the degraded environmental conditions in the wild and scenic corridor and the relatively minor adjustments being proposed for land management, which may not be sufficient to protect/enhance the resource values, or comply with state water quality standards. EPA requested that the plan include both implementation and effectiveness monitoring to measure progress in meeting goals/objectives, and to enable BLM and partners to make needed adjustments.

ERP No. D-DOE-L09814-ID Rating EC2, Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition, Construction and Operation, Bannock, Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Jefferson and Madison Counties, ID.

Summary: EPA expressed concerns about, and requested additional information on: (1) The effectiveness of the grout containing the low-level waste (LLW) in preventing contamination of the aquifer for 500 years, (2) the reclassification of waste stream products as LLW, (3) the existence of adequate facilities for handling LLW, (4) the feasibility of the Hanford alternative, and (5) the accuracy of the cost analysis.

No. D-SFW-L36100-WA Rating EC2, Tacoma Water Green River Water Supply Operations and Watershed Protection Habitat Conservation Plan, Implementation, Issuance of a Multiple Species Permit for Incidental Take, King County, WA.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns regarding flow management, fish passage, and adaptive management. Additional information was requested on gravel enrichment, water conservation, cumulative effects, and the need to integrate the terms of the HCP with the TMDL for 303(d) listed waters.

ERP No. D-SFW-L65335-WA Rating EC2, Crown Pacific Project, Issuance of a Multiple Species Permit for Incidental Take, Hamilton Tree Farm, Habitat Conservation Plan, Whatcom and Skaget County, WA.

Summary: EPA had environmental concerns regarding the issuance of the Incidental Take Permit. EPA suggested that Crown Pacific should improve the