

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. EL01-47-000]

Hydroelectric Power Component—Removing Obstacles to Increased Electric Generation and Natural Gas Supply in the Western United States; Notice of Public Meetings

March 26, 2001.

In light of the recent and potential future severe electric energy shortages in the western states, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) issued a March 14, 2001 Order Removing Obstacles To increased Electric Generation and Natural Gas Supply in The Western United States. In this Order, the Commission announces certain actions it is taking within its regulatory authorities under the Federal Power Act to help increase electric generation supply at non-Federal hydroelectric projects in the Western United States. The Commission set forth a number of proposals that would be taken into consideration until December 31, 2001.

The Commission urges all non-Federal hydroelectric licensees in the Western Systems Coordinating Council to immediately examine their projects and propose any efficiency modifications that may increase generation. The licensees are asked to detail to the Commission any environmental impacts, including impacts from changes to discretionary operations, that could occur if there are changes resulting from proposed efficiency modifications.

Where operations of hydroelectric facilities would affect flow-dependent environmental resources, the Commission's licenses include operating constraints, such as requirements for minimum stream flow, minimum reservoir fluctuation, run-of-river operating mode, ramping rates, and flood control. While these operating constraints act to reduce the energy production, peaking capacity, and other power benefits, they also serve to protect resources including resident and anadromous fish, water quality, recreation, municipal and industrial water supplies, and agricultural resources. Modification of these operational constraints has the potential to increase generation from existing hydroelectric facilities and provide additional power during peak-load periods.

Any proposal to increase generation would need to be reviewed to minimize impacts to environmental resources and

the level of inconvenience that users of hydropower facilities may experience. Before making changes to specific project licenses, the Commission would need to work closely with licensees, resource agencies and other to identify opportunities for increased power generation while minimizing impacts.

In order to explore ways to expedite review of the licensees' proposals for increased generation, Commission staff will conduct two public meetings in Oregon and California. These meetings will take place at the following dates and locations:

Meeting Dates and Addresses.

- (1) Monday, April 9, 2001, at Airport Holiday Inn, 8439 NE Columbia Boulevard, Portland, Oregon
- (2) Tuesday, April 10, 2001, at Vagabond Executive, 2030 Arden Way, Sacramento, California

Both meetings will commence at 9 a.m. The objective of each meeting would be to develop methods for expeditiously processing proposals to increase power generation consistent with environmental protection.

For further information, please contact Lon Crow at the Commission, 202-219-2651.

David P. Boergers,*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 01-7850 Filed 3-29-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[ER-FRL-6616-8]

Environmental Impact Statements and Regulations; Availability of EPA Comments

Availability of EPA comments prepared 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. An explanation of the ratings assigned to draft environmental impact statements (EISs) was published in the **Federal Register** dated April 14, 2000 (65 FR 20157).

Draft EISs

ERP No. D-FHW-F40391-MI Rating EC2, M-24 Reconstruction Project, From One Mile North of the Oakland County Line to I-69, Funding, Lapeer County, MI.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns regarding the

evaluation of the alternatives and wetland mitigation, and requested the additional information be included in the final EIS.

ERP No. D-NPS-L65368-WA Rating LO, Mount Rainier National Park General Management Plan, Implementation, Pierce and Lewis Counties, WA.

Summary: EPA expressed lack of concerns, however we provided comments which may help in addressing the goals of the Class I airshed and maintaining and preserving the Park's interior forest integrity.

Final EISs

ERP No. F-FHW-C40148-NY, Miller Highway Project (P.I.N. 103.27), Relocation of Miller Highway between West 59th Street to West 72nd Streets, on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, Funding and COE Section 404 Permit, New York County, NY.

Summary: The plan to characterize more adequately the nature and extent of contamination at the site and apply the appropriate remediation measure to contaminated excavated soil in consultation with the EPA and NYSDEC prior to the implementation of the project addressed the concern expressed in EPA's the comments on the draft EIS. EPA recommended that the commitment be included in the Record of Decision.

ERP No. FS-NPS-E61073-MS, Natchez Trace Parkway, Update Information on the Construction of Section 3P13 (Old Agency Road), City of Ridgeland, Madison County, MS.

Summary: EPA continues to express environmental concerns with wetland impact mitigation, compensation plan and plan implementation.

Dated: March 27, 2001.

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

[FR Doc. 01-7945 Filed 3-29-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[ER-FRL-6616-7]

Environmental Impact Statements; Notice of Availability

Responsible Agency: Office of Federal Activities, General Information (202) 564-7167 or <http://www.epa.gov/oeca/ofa>

Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements
Filed March 19, 2001 Through March 23, 2001

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

EIS No. 010094, Draft EIS, NRS, WV,
Upper Tygart Valley River Watershed
Plan, Water Supply Project, Approval
and Funding, Randolph and
Pocahontas Counties, WV, Comment
Period Ends: May 14, 2001, Contact:
William J. Hartman (304) 284-7545.

EIS No. 010095, Draft EIS, AFS, CO,
Nucla-Telluride Transmission Line
Project, Permit Approval and Funding
for Construction and Operation of a
115 kV Transmission Line between
the Nucla Substation in Montrose
County and either the Tulluride or
Sunshine Substations in Miguel
County, CO, Comment Period Ends:
May 14, 2001, Contact: Steve Wells
(970) 327-4261.

EIS No. 010096, Final EIS, FHW, VA,
Hampton Roads Crossing Study,
Improvements to Relieve Congestion
at the I-64 Hampton Roads Bridge
Tunnel, I-64 & I-664 Interchange,
Hampton; I-64 and I-564 Interchange,
Norfolk; VA-164 near Coast Guard
Boulevard, Portsmouth; & I-66, I-264
and I-664 Interchange, Chesapeake,
Funding, Coast Guard/COE Permits,
Isle of Wight & York Cos. VA, Wait
Period Ends: April 30, 2001, Contact:
Ed Sunda (804) 775-3338.

EIS No. 010097, Draft Supplement,
DOE, SC, Savannah River Site Salt
Processing Alternatives, Evaluation
for Separating High-Activity and Low-
Activity Fractions of Liquid High-
Level Radio-active Waste and
Potential Environmental Impacts of
Alternatives to the In-Tank-
Precipitation Process (ITP), Aiken and
Barnwell Counties, SC, Comment
Period Ends: May 14, 2001, Contact:
Andrew R. Grainger (800) 881-7292.

Dated: March 27, 2001.

Joseph C. Montgomery,

*Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office
of Federal Activities.*

[FR Doc. 01-7946 Filed 3-29-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

Designation of Two (2) High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice lists two (2) new
High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas
(HIDTAs) designated by the Director of
National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).
The newly designated HIDTAs are the
Nevada HIDTA consisting of Clark
County and the North Florida HIDTA
consisting of Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler,
Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns and Marion

Counties. These new HIDTAs are
designated pursuant to 21 U.S.C.
1706(b), to promote more effective
coordination of drug control efforts. In
considering whether to designate an
area under this section as a high
intensity drug trafficking area, the
Director considered, in addition to such
other criteria the Director considers to
be appropriate, the extent to which: (1)
The area is center of illegal drug
production, manufacturing, importation,
or distribution; (2) state and local law
enforcement agencies have committed
resources to respond to the drug
trafficking problem in the area, thereby
indicating a determination to respond
aggressively to the problem; (3) drug-
related activities in the area are having
a harmful impact in other areas of the
country; and (4) a significant increase in
allocation of Federal resources is
necessary to respond adequately to
drug-related activities in the area.

This action will support local, state
and Federal law enforcement officers in
assessing regional drug threats,
designing strategies to combat the
threats, developing initiatives to
implement the strategies, and evaluating
the effectiveness of their coordinated
efforts.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Comments and questions regarding this
notice should be directed to Mr. Kurt F.
Schmid, National HIDTA Director,
Office of National Drug Control Policy,
Executive Office of the President,
Washington, DC 20503; (202) 395-6692.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In Fiscal
Year 2000, 1242 agencies participated in
462 HIDTA-funded initiatives within
the 26 previously designated HIDTA
regions throughout the country. The
HIDTA Programs strengthens local, state
and Federal drug trafficking and money
laundering task forces, bolsters drug
enforcement information networks, and
improves integration of law
enforcement, drug treatment and drug
abuse prevention programs, where
appropriate.

Signed at Washington, DC this 9th day of
March, 2001.

Edward H. Jurith,

Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 01-7903 Filed 3-29-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3180-02-M

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice and request for
comments.

SUMMARY: The Federal Emergency
Management Agency, as part of its
continuing effort to reduce paperwork
and respondent burden, invites the
general public and other Federal
agencies to take this opportunity to
comment on the proposed collection of
information. In accordance with the
Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44
U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), this notice seeks
comments concerning the Capability
Assessment for Readiness (CAR) which
collects data on the capabilities of States
to effectively respond to major disasters
and emergencies.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The CAR
program was established based on the
requirement recognized by both the U.S.
Congress and FEMA that an assessment
of State capabilities was needed to
determine the States' readiness to
effectively respond to major disasters,
and secondarily that FEMA financial
assistance to the States is being
effectively utilized. The answers to
these questions are provided in the CAR
assessment that involves detailed
programmatic questions on mitigation,
preparedness, response, and recovery
activities.

Section 313 of the Robert T. Stafford
Disaster Relief and Emergency
Assistance Act (Public Law 93-288, as
amended) requires the President to
"conduct annual reviews of activities of
Federal agencies and State and local
governments in major disaster and
emergency preparedness and in
providing major disaster and emergency
assistance in order to assure maximum
coordination and effectiveness of such
programs. * * *

Section 613 of the Stafford Act
concerning financial contributions to
States for necessary and essential State
and local emergency preparedness
personnel and administrative expenses
provides that the State "shall make such
reports in such form and content as the
Director may require."

Collection of Information

Title: Capability Assessment for
Readiness (CAR).

Type of Information Collection:
Extension of a currently approved
collection.

OMB Number: 3067-0272.