

consider the potential benefits of larger main lock chambers at EDM.

d. Additional concerns at EDM involve the structural integrity of the aged concrete lock walls. Internal cracks throughout the concrete lock walls may eventually propagate through entire wall sections and lead to significant movements of wall sections. A major cause of cracking is concrete deterioration. Because these three locks and dams were constructed prior to the advent of air-entrainment in concrete, the concrete has been particularly susceptible to weathering and freeze-thaw damage. Another source of concern is that concrete construction practices of the 1920's and 1930's, including mix-design, placement, consolidation, curing, and cold/hot weather protection, were much less stringent compared to the quality control tolerances required for a similar project constructed today. Still another contributing factor is the raising of the Emsworth Dams and pool in 1938, which increased the head between the upper and lower pools and increased structural loads on the concrete lock walls.

e. Major rehabilitations on the EDM lock and approach walls undertaken in the 1980s addressed short-term issues, but there remains a concern about their long-term effectiveness. Prior to these major rehabilitation efforts, lock wall surfaces were in advanced stages of deterioration and there were concerns about the stability of various wall sections. Degraded concrete surfaces were removed, and a 12-inch overlay of new concrete was provided in an attempt to retard deterioration rates by preventing water from reaching the interior concrete. However, despite these efforts, water is apparently still reaching the interior concrete and causing it to become saturated and susceptible to additional deterioration.

f. Following years of different attempts at estimating concrete structural reliability, including the possible development of analytical models and expert opinion, it was decided that a condition assessment of these three projects and expert opinion were the appropriate tools to complete this essential task. In September of 2000 a five-person panel of experts was assembled to estimate the current and future reliability of the structures on the upper Ohio River. This panel of experts established probabilities of failures, the potential consequences for various failure modes and estimated the impacts to the expected service life of several repair or replacement options for concrete wall sections.

g. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, is nearing completion of a system-wide study of Ohio river navigation projects. The study was initiated in 1995 and is referred to as the Ohio River Mainstem System Study (ORMSS). ORMSS is being conducted by a team of specialists from the Corps' Louisville, Huntington, Nashville, and Pittsburgh districts. The product of this study is a "System Investment Plan," which will be the strategic "roadmap for reinvestment" establishing priorities for expenditure of federal funds on the navigation system and recommending site-specific feasibility studies.

h. The ORMSS "System Investment Plan" identifies the need for new main locks at the EDM facilities. The Upper Ohio River navigation feasibility study of EDM is the site-specific feasibility study that could lead to project authorization in a future Water Resources Development Act.

i. The ORMSS Report combines plan formulation with a programmatic environmental impact statement in a main report and a series of appendices. The ORMSS Environmental Appendix includes environmental documentation and a system-wide Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA). The CEA evaluates past environmental impacts, current conditions, and reasonably foreseeable future actions by the Government and others that may impact "Valued Environmental Components" or resources within and adjacent to the Ohio River.

j. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the anticipated environmental scope and complexity of the Upper Ohio River navigation feasibility study in Pennsylvania will warrant that the NEPA document be a tiered environmental impact statement (EIS) referencing the ORMSS Programmatic EIS while anticipating future site-specific, supplemental NEPA documents for each recommended project component.

3. *Public Participation.* a. The Corps will conduct public meetings to gain input from interested agencies, organizations, and the general public concerning the scope and content of the EIS, alternatives that should be analyzed, and related issues and impacts to be addressed in the EIS (see **DATES**).

b. The Corps invites full public participation to promote open communication and better decision-making. All persons and organizations that have an interest in the Upper Ohio Navigation Study, Pennsylvania, are

urged to participate in this NEPA evaluation process.

c. Public comments are welcomed anytime throughout the study process. Formal opportunities for public and agency participation include: (1) Public meetings; (2) correspondence, telephone or e-mail at any time throughout the NEPA process; (3) review and comment on the draft EIS; and (4) review of the final EIS. Schedules and locations for formal review periods will be announced through the study's mailing list and in local news media. Anyone who wishes to be included on the mailing list for public distribution of meeting announcements and documents should contact Mr. Conrad Weiser.

4. *Schedule:* The draft EIS is anticipated to be released for public review and comment in May 2012. The final report and final EIS are scheduled to be completed in October 2012.

Brenda S. Bowen,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Intent To Convey the "Drum Stick" Parcel of the Former Fort Ord, Located in Monterey County, CA in Return for the "Stillwell Kidney" Parcel Owned by the City of Seaside

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2869(d)(1) the Department of the Army (Army) is providing notice of its intent to convey the "Drum Stick" parcel of the former Fort Ord, located in Monterey County, CA in return for the "Stillwell Kidney" parcel owned by the City of Seaside. Fort Ord was selected for closure by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission in 1991. The Drum Stick parcel is an undeveloped, densely-vegetated 11.28-acre property adjacent to California State Route 1 on the former Fort Ord. The Stillwell Kidney parcel currently contains approximately 400 abandoned housing units. Under 10 U.S.C. 2869, the Army is authorized to enter into an agreement to convey real property, including any improvements thereon, located on a military installation that is closed or realigned under a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Act to any person who agrees to convey to the Army real property of at

least equal value. The Army has concluded that the Stillwell Kidney parcel has a fair market value that is at least equal to that of the Drum Stick parcel.

ADDRESSES: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District, ATTN: CENAO-CO, 803 Front Street, Norfolk, VA 23510-1096.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Todd Waldman, Esquire, (757) 201-7202.

Dated: September 21, 2006.

Joseph R. Loschi,
District Counsel.

[FR Doc. 06-8357 Filed 9-28-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-EN-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) for Atlantic Fleet Active Sonar Training and To Announce Public Scoping Meetings

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

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 pts 1500-1508), and Executive Order (EO) 12114, "Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions" (44 Fed. Reg. 62,18722 (Mar. 29, 1979)), the Department of the Navy (DON) announces its intent to prepare a combined NEPA EIS and EO 12114, OEIS, to evaluate the potential environmental consequences associated with mine warfare (MIW) and antisubmarine warfare (ASW) active sonar training exercises along the east coast and Gulf of Mexico. The MIW/ASW sonar training exercises include Independent Unit Level Training, Coordinated Unit Level Training, and Strike Group Training exercises. These active sonar training exercises include air, surface, and subsurface sonar platforms that are manned by personnel who require training in order to maintain certification and readiness for deployment. Additionally, effective MIW and ASW are dependent on training involving coordination among these platforms. The EIS/OEIS will consider two Action Alternatives to accomplish these objectives, in addition to the No Action Alternative.

DATES: Public scoping meetings will be held at the following seven sites to

receive comments on environmental concerns that should be addressed in the EIS/OEIS:

New London, CT; Chesapeake, VA; Morehead City, NC; Charleston, SC; Jacksonville, FL; Panama City, FL; and Corpus Christi, TX, on the following dates:

1. Monday, October 23, 2006, 5 p.m.-8 p.m., Chesapeake Conference Center, 900 Greenbrier Circle, Chesapeake, VA.
2. Thursday, October 26, 2006, 5 p.m.-8 p.m., American Bank Center, 1901 North Shoreline Boulevard, Corpus Christi, TX.
3. Thursday, November 2, 2006, 5 p.m.-8 p.m., Radisson Hotel New London, 35 Governor Winthrop Boulevard, New London, CT.
4. Tuesday, November 7, 2006, 5 p.m.-8 p.m., Ramada Inn Mandarin, 3130 Hartley Road, Jacksonville, FL.
5. Thursday, November 9, 2006, 5 p.m.-8 p.m., Marriott Bay Point Resort, 4200 Marriott Drive, Panama City, FL.
6. Tuesday, November 14, 2006, 5 p.m.-8 p.m., National Guard Armory, 3609 Bridge Street, Morehead City, NC.
7. Thursday, November 16, 2006, 5 p.m.-8 p.m., Town and Country Inn and Conference Center, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC.

Each of the seven scoping meetings will consist of an informal, open house session with information stations staffed by DON representatives. Additional information concerning the meetings will be available on the EIS/OEIS Web page located at: <http://www.AFASTEIS.GCSAIC.COM>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Atlantic Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Attn: Code EV21 (Atlantic Fleet Sonar PM), 6506 Hampton Blvd., Norfolk, Virginia 23508-1278; telephone 1-757-322-4767; Fax 757-322-4894.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Navy currently uses active sonar for ASW and MIW training associated with ongoing Independent Unit Level Training (single unit events including sonar maintenance), Coordinated Unit Level Training (Intermediate and Squadron events), and Strike Group Training (Composite Training Unit Exercise, Expeditionary Strike Group Exercises, and Joint Task Force Exercises) along the east coast and Gulf of Mexico. The proposed action is to identify areas in which to conduct ASW and MIW active sonar training along the east coast and Gulf of Mexico. The proposed EIS/OEIS will address the potential consequences to the marine environment associated with ASW and MIW active sonar

training along the east coast and Gulf of Mexico.

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide and maintain the long-term viability of Navy active sonar training for the U.S. Atlantic Fleet ship, submarine, and aircraft crews to meet deployment requirements and maintain proficiency of ASW and MIW skills, while protecting human health and the environment. The need for the proposed action is to meet the legal mandate for the Chief of Naval Operations to organize, equip, and train all naval forces for combat as directed in 10 U.S.C. 5062. Navy forces must train to deal with the threat of modern quiet submarines; the most effective detection technology available is active sonar detection. In addition, Navy forces must train to detect mines which can prevent access to strategic areas, damage fleet forces, and disrupt commerce.

Three alternatives, which each meet the requirement to train and maintain combat-ready Navy forces, will be analyzed in the EIS/OEIS. The No Action Alternative is the continuation of year-round training within and adjacent to current Navy East Coast and Gulf of Mexico Operating Areas. Two action alternatives evaluate the capability of fixed and seasonal active sonar training areas along the east coast and Gulf of Mexico to meet operational criteria and provide year-round training capacity and fidelity, include short notice and surge deployments of U.S. Atlantic Fleet units. Additionally, the EIS/OEIS may also incorporate other reasonable alternatives that meet the Navy's purpose and need as informed by the public scoping process.

All alternatives would consider the protective measures used during Navy training to minimize potential effects to the marine environment.

The EIS/OEIS will evaluate the potential environmental effects of ASW and MIW active sonar training associated with each alternative. Effects to be addressed will include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) *Physical environment*—air and water quality and ambient sound levels.

(2) *Biological resources*—wildlife, including threatened and endangered species and otherwise protected wildlife such as marine mammals and migratory birds, fish and fisheries, including analysis of essential fish habitat, coastal, marine, and benthic communities, and special biological resource areas.

(3) *Socioeconomic resources*—including recreational, commercial and industrial activities, safety and occupational health and hazardous materials, airspace, artificial reefs, and cultural resources.