

32 CFR part 317; or may be obtained from the system manager.”

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[FR Doc. 2012-30741 Filed 12-20-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Development of a Long-Term Sediment Management Plan of the Mount St. Helens Sediment Retention Structure in the North Fork Toutle River

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District, intends to prepare a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) to assess impacts associated with alternatives for the long-term management of the existing Mount St. Helens (MSH) Sediment Retention Structure (SRS) located at river mile 13.2 of the North Fork Toutle River. The MSH SRS is a single-purpose structure constructed in 1987–1989 to trap and control downstream movement of volcanic sediments eroding from the debris avalanche of Mount St. Helens. The purpose of the long-term management of the existing MSH SRS is to continue to provide flood damage reduction benefits to downstream communities along the Cowlitz River including Longview, Kelso, Castle Rock, and Lexington, Washington.

DATES: A Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be available for public review and comment in 2013.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Tim Kuhn, at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District, P.O. Box 2946, Portland, OR 97204, by phone at 503-808-4752 or email: Timothy.s.kuhn@usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Announcement is made by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District (Corps), that a DSEIS will be developed to address environmental changes that have occurred since the original EIS was published in December 1984. The Water Resources Development Act of 2000, Section 339, authorized the Corps to maintain the flood damage reduction benefits through the end of the Mount St. Helens project planning period, which is 2035. The originally authorized work is described

in the October 1985 report of the Chief of Engineers titled, *Mount St. Helens, Washington, Decision Document (Toutle, Cowlitz, and Columbia Rivers)*, published as House Document No. 135, 99th Congress. Continued work on the Mount St. Helens project will be accomplished under the existing open construction project that was authorized in August 1985. The State of Washington is the non-federal sponsor of the project, and cost-sharing requirements are outlined in a 1986 Local Cooperation Agreement between the Department of the Army and State of Washington and Cowlitz County diking districts.

Scoping Process: a. The Corps of Engineers invites affected Federal, State, and local agencies, Native American tribes, and other interested organizations and individuals to participate in the development of the DSEIS. The Corps of Engineers anticipates conducting a public scoping meeting for this DSEIS in early 2013. The exact date, time, and location of this meeting have not yet been determined. This information will be publicized once the meeting arrangements have been made. The Corps will provide notice to the public of additional opportunities for public input on the SEIS during review periods for the draft and final SEIS.

b. Significant issues to be analyzed in depth in the DSEIS include alternatives for managing estimated volumes of sediment (sediment decay rate), potential impacts to fish and wildlife, and potential impacts to tributaries of the North Fork Toutle River, associated wetlands, and potential impacts to downstream waterways including the Cowlitz River.

c. The Corps will serve as the lead Federal agency in preparation of the DSEIS. The Corps intends to coordinate and/or consult with Federal and State agencies, as well as interested Native American Tribes during the scoping and preparation of the DSEIS. A decision will be made during the scoping process whether other agencies and/or Tribes will serve in an official role as Cooperating Agencies.

Dated: December 7, 2012.

John W. Eisenhauer,
Colonel, Corps of Engineers, District Commander.

[FR Doc. 2012-30847 Filed 12-20-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3720-58-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Notice of Intent to Grant an Exclusive License of the United States; Patent No. 6,569,807

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: In accordance with 37 CFR 404.7(a)(1)(i), announcement is made of a prospective exclusive license of the following U.S. Patent No. 6,569,807, entitled “Mycoherbicidal compositions and methods of preparing and using the same”, which issued on May 27, 2003, all reissues, reexaminations, and patent term extensions of this patent, and any international equivalents thereof to Marrone Bio Innovations, Inc.

DATES: Written objections must be filed not later than 15 days following publication of this announcement.

ADDRESSES: United States Army Engineer Research and Development Center, ATTN: CEERD-OT (Ms. Bea Shahin), 2902 Newmark Drive, Champaign, IL 6182-1076.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Bea Shahin (217) 373-7234, Fax (217) 373-7210, email: Bea.S.Shahin@usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Patent # 6,569,807 entitled “Mycoherbicidal compositions and methods of preparing and using the same” describes innovative techniques in the laboratory that induce a biocontrol fungus, *Mycroleptodiscus terrestris*, to produce survival propagules termed microsclerotia in fermentation broth culture. The microsclerotia are composed of melanized fungal hyphae and can be dried to a moisture content of approximately 5% thus offering a shelf life to the intended product, a mycoherbicide. Upon rehydration the microsclerotia germinate hyphally within 24 hours and sporogenically within 72 hours. The hyphae and the spores provide primary and secondary inoculum respective that can induce disease development in the nuisance aquatic species, *Hydrilla verticillata*. Although the original research intent was to develop a mycoherbicide that could be used to manage hydrilla, the patent as written is extremely broad and allows the Corps of Engineers exclusive rights to any fungus that produces

microsclerotia and can be used for aquatic plant control.

Brenda S. Bowen,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012-30849 Filed 12-20-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Plains and Eastern Clean Line Transmission Project and Notice of Potential Floodplain and Wetland Involvement

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of Intent (NOI) To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Notice of Potential Floodplain and Wetland Involvement.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) intends to prepare an *Environmental Impact Statement for the Plains & Eastern Clean Line Transmission Project* (DOE/EIS-0486; Plains & Eastern EIS or EIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts of participating with Clean Line Energy Partners LLC (Clean Line) in the proposed Plains & Eastern Project (the proposed project). The proposed project would include an overhead \pm 600 kilovolt (kV) high voltage direct current (HVDC) electric transmission system and associated facilities with the capacity to deliver approximately 3,500 megawatts (MW) primarily from renewable energy generation facilities in the Oklahoma Panhandle region to load-serving entities in the Mid-South and Southeast via an interconnection with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). The proposed project would traverse Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Tennessee, a distance of approximately 700 miles between interconnection facilities in Texas County, Oklahoma, and Shelby County, Tennessee. The proposed project would require construction of a new alternating current (AC)/direct current (DC) converter station at each end of the transmission line.

Portions of the proposed project may affect floodplains and/or wetlands. This NOI, therefore, also serves as a notice of proposed floodplain or wetland action in accordance with DOE floodplain and wetland environmental review requirements (10 CFR part 1022). The Plains & Eastern EIS will include a floodplain and wetland assessment. DOE plans to coordinate the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review and the Section 106 compliance process under the National Historic

Preservation Act (NHPA). DOE also intends to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), as appropriate, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

DATES: DOE invites public comment on the scope of the Plains & Eastern EIS during a 90-day public scoping period beginning with publication of this notice and ending on March 21, 2013. See *Public Participation* in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for public scoping meeting dates and locations. DOE will consider all comments received or postmarked by the end of the scoping period and will consider comments received or postmarked after the ending date to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the scope of the Plains & Eastern EIS and requests to be added to the EIS distribution list may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- Electronic comments via the project Web site at <http://PlainsandEasternEIS.com>.
- Email to info@PlainsandEasternEIS.com.
- U.S. Mail to Plains & Eastern Clean Line EIS, 1099 18th Street, Suite 580, Denver, CO 80202.

For additions to the distribution list, please specify the format of the Plains & Eastern EIS that you would prefer to receive (printed copy, CD, or DVD) and a preference for either the complete EIS document or "Summary Only." When completed, the EIS will be available for download at the project Web site (<http://PlainsandEasternEIS.com>) and at the DOE NEPA Web site (<http://energy.gov/nepa>).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the Plains & Eastern EIS, contact Jane Summerson, Ph.D., DOE NEPA Document Manager, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585, or email at Jane.Summerson@ee.doe.gov.

For general information about the DOE NEPA process, contact Carol Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (GC-54), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585, or phone at (202) 586-4600, voicemail at (800) 472-2756, or email at askNEPA@hq.doe.gov. Additional information regarding DOE's NEPA activities is available on the DOE NEPA Web site at <http://energy.gov/nepa>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Background

Section 1222(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct) authorizes the Secretary of Energy, acting through and in consultation with the Administrator of the Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern) to participate with other entities in designing, developing, constructing, operating, maintaining, or owning new electric power transmission facilities and related facilities located within any state in which Southwestern operates, provided the Secretary determines that certain conditions have been met. Southwestern is one of four Power Marketing Administrations that operates within DOE. Southwestern is chartered to market and deliver power in the southwestern United States, including Arkansas and Oklahoma, to rural electric cooperatives and municipal utilities.

On June 10, 2010, DOE issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for new or upgraded transmission projects pursuant to Section 1222 (75 FR 32940). Clean Line Energy Partners LLC of Houston, Texas, the parent company of Plains and Eastern Clean Line LLC and Plains and Eastern Clean Line Oklahoma LLC (collectively referred to as Clean Line), responded to the RFP on July 6, 2010, providing a description of the proposed project and supporting information. Clean Line's original proposal included two HVDC lines, each rated at 3,500 MW, together with the capacity to deliver 7,000 MW. Since the original proposal was submitted, Clean Line has modified its Section 1222 proposal to a single HVDC line with the capacity to deliver 3,500 MW. More information on the proposed project, including updates, can be found at <http://PlainsandEasternEIS.com>. DOE has concluded that Clean Line's proposal complied with and was responsive to the RFP.

Prior to making a determination whether to participate in the proposed project, DOE must fully evaluate the proposed project, in consultation with Southwestern, including reviewing the potential environmental impacts pursuant to NEPA and the requirements of Section 1222(b). DOE is preparing the Plains & Eastern EIS pursuant to NEPA, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA regulations (40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508), and the DOE NEPA implementing regulations (10 CFR part 1021).

Portions of the proposed project may affect floodplains and/or wetlands. There are floodplains associated with the Cimarron River, North Canadian River, Arkansas River, White River,