

against flood flows that would be caused by a reoccurrence of Tropical Storm Agnes (June 1972). The project consists of raising existing levees and floodwalls between three and five feet; modifying closure structures, drainage structures, and pump stations; relocating utilities; adding minor recreation facilities; and providing some new levees, closure structures, and floodwalls to maintain the integrity of the existing flood control system.

b. The Wyoming Valley Levee Raising Project's 1996 Phase II General Design Memorandum/Environmental Impact Statement recognized that there would be detrimental impacts to communities where flood protection passed through residential and commercial areas. Where possible, the levee raising design was to be sensitive to aesthetic, recreation, and environmental consideration. Contemporary Corps' projects incorporate a number of design features within urban areas to minimize the effects of large flood control projects on urban waterfronts. The purpose of modifying the Levee Raising Project through the Historic River Commons is to reconnect Wilkes-Barr's downtown to the Susquehanna River. These modifications will help reclaim the river as a civic resource for the daily life of residents and visitors and to make the river a unique amenity for the city.

4. Proposed Action and Alternatives

a. The proposed action is to modify flood damage reduction structures (*e.g.*, floodwall, levee, *etc.*) along the downtown Wilkes-Barre waterfront featuring more current urban flood protection design practices, methods, and materials. The features being considered for the proposed action include:

(1) Upstream Portal—An approximately 60-foot wide and 12-foot high upstream portal through the levee and a bridge above would provide pedestrian and emergency access to the Susquehanna River just upstream of the Market Street Bridge at the same grade as the Historic River Commons. During a flood event the portal would be closed with flood gates.

(2) Downstream Portal—An approximately 60-foot wide and 12-foot high downstream portal across from the Northampton Street and River Street intersection that would provide similar pedestrian and emergency access to the Susquehanna River. During a flood event the portal would also be closed with flood gates.

(3) River Landing—Upstream of the Market Street Bridge, a River Landing would be constructed upon the existing

stability berm (approximately 900 feet long x 70 feet wide) that was previously constructed in 1999. When completed, this River Landing would create a concrete-surfaced, 1.2-acre riverfront plaza for people to congregate for waterfront events (*e.g.*, concerts, 4th of July fireworks, art shows, ethnic food festivals, *etc.*). A series of bollards, or similar structures, at the edge of the River Landing would provide for pedestrian safety. The River Landing would require limited re-grading, reconfiguring, and a riverside expansion of the rock stability berm to accommodate the necessary features.

(4) Pier/Dock—Connected to the River Landing would be a 340-foot long and 12-foot wide boating/fishing pier. Access to the pier would be via a fixed ramp directly from the River Landing. The dock itself would not have permanent boat slips, but would have adequate fendering to provide a location where boats could temporarily tie-up for a few hours at a time (public landing). The feature would compliment the existing boat launch in Nesbitt Park, across the river in Kingston, by providing additional areas for public access for fishing and recreational boating.

(5) Amphitheater and Stage—The amphitheater and stage would be constructed just downstream of the Market Street Bridge but upstream of the Downstream Portal. The amphitheater would consist of large stones or reinforced concrete blocks placed into the slope to provide bench seating for approximately 750 people. One row of seats would be above the existing riverside access road and the majority of the rows would be below the riverside access road grade. The performance stage would be built of sheetpile and concrete slightly above the existing grade near the river's edge.

(6) Paving Riverside Access Road—At the completion of the levee raising and the Riverfront Plan, the riverside access road at the base of the riverside of the levee would be paved as an element to the riverfront development plan. The paving of this road would be an improvement for recreational purposes and provide a biking/jogging/walking trail along the riverside toe of the levee.

(7) Miscellaneous Recreational Accoutrements—The flood control project—as designed and constructed throughout the Wyoming Valley—includes recreational features in the basic design. This reach of the Wilkes-Barre levee would include similar recreational features such as lights, seating areas with benches, trees/

vegetation, educational kiosks, and trash receptacles.

b. Alternatives for Evaluation. (1) The DSEIS will describe and assess the following 5 alternatives: No Action; Portals Only; Portals and River Landing; Portals, River Landing, and Boat Dock/Pier; Portals, River Landing, Boat Dock/Pier, and Amphitheater; and Stage.

(2) These alternatives, along with no action, will be the alternatives the Corps initially proposes to evaluate in the DSEIS. As necessary, reasonable alternatives that may become apparent as the evaluation proceeds will be addressed.

(3) The Miscellaneous Recreational Accoutrements and Paving of the Riverside Access Road will be evaluated in the DSEIS, but would be evaluated separately as actions to be conducted regardless of the alternative selected.

Luz D. Ortiz,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Inland Waterways Users Board

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

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), announcement is made of the forthcoming meeting.

Name of Committee: Inland Waterways Users Board (Board).

Date: November 21, 2002.

Location: Tremont House Hotel, 2300 Ship's Mechanic Row, Galveston, TX (1-409-763-0300).

Time: Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. and the meeting is scheduled to adjourn at 1 p.m.

Agenda: The Board will hear briefings on navigation projects administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Norman T. Edwards, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CECW-PD, 441 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20314-1000; Ph: 202-761-4559.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Any interested person may attend, appear before, or file statements with the

committee at the time and in the manner permitted by the committee.

Luz D. Ortiz

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Energy Information Administration

Policy Statement; Solicitation Of Comments On The Proposed Policy For Information In Statistical Tables Based On Confidential Historical Electric Power Survey Data

AGENCY: Energy Information Administration (EIA), Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Policy Statement; Solicitation of Comments on the Proposed Policy for Information in Statistical Tables Based on Confidential Historical Electric Power Survey Data.

SUMMARY: The EIA is requesting comments on a proposed policy to discontinue the use of disclosure limitation methods for information in statistical tables derived from confidential historical electric power survey data. This request is based on the need to provide additional tabulations that will improve and broaden the understanding of the electric power industry by releasing additional information. These data may be released at the national, State, or regional level. For this policy, confidential historical electric power survey data are defined as any electric power data collected in an EIA survey under a pledge of confidentiality during a survey period at least 3 years prior to the time of dissemination. These statistical tables are disseminated in various EIA products, including the Electric Power Monthly, Electric Power Annual, Coal Industry Annual, Quarterly Coal Report, Renewable Energy Annual, Natural Gas Monthly, Natural Gas Annual, Petroleum Marketing Monthly, Petroleum Supply Monthly, Petroleum Marketing Annual, Petroleum Supply Annual, Volumes 1 and 2, and Annual Energy Review. (EIA's electric power data are available on the web at <http://www.eia.doe.gov/>).

DATES: Comments must be filed by December 23, 2002. If you anticipate difficulty in submitting comments within that period, contact the person listed below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Comments on this proposed policy should be directed to Dean Fennell. To ensure receipt of the

comments by the due date, submission by FAX (202-287-1934) or e-mail (Dean.Fennell@eia.doe.gov) is recommended. The mailing address is Energy Information Administration, EI-53, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20585-0650. Alternatively, Mr. Fennell may be contacted by telephone at 202-287-1744.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information should be directed to Mr. Fennell at the address listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- I. Background
- II. Current Actions
- III. Request for Comments

I. Background

The Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93-275, 15 U.S.C. 761 *et seq.*) and the DOE Organization Act (Pub. L. 95-91, 42 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*) require the EIA to carry out a centralized, comprehensive, and unified energy information program. This program collects, evaluates, assembles, analyzes, and disseminates information on energy resource reserves, production, demand, technology, and related economic and statistical information. This information is used to assess the adequacy of energy resources to meet near and longer-term domestic demands.

The EIA provides the public and other Federal agencies with opportunities to comment on collections of energy information conducted by EIA. As appropriate, EIA also requests comments on important issues relevant to the dissemination of energy information. Comments received help the EIA when preparing information collections and information products necessary to support EIA's mission.

The EIA collects survey information about the electric power industry from companies and organizations involved in the generation, transmission, distribution, and sales of electric power. This survey information is disseminated in a variety of information products and electronic data files used by government and private sector policymakers and analysts.

II. Current Actions

EIA is requesting public comments on a proposed policy to discontinue the use of disclosure limitation methods for information in statistical tables derived from confidential historical electric power survey data. This request is based on the need to provide additional tabulations that will improve and broaden the understanding of the electric power industry. These data may

be released at the national, State, or regional level. (An example of this is publishing national level fuel consumption data in the Annual Energy Review, or publishing State or regional level data for fuel consumption, useful thermal output, or generation in reports such as the Electric Power Monthly or Natural Gas Annual.)

For this policy, confidential historical electric power survey data are defined as any electric power data collected in an EIA survey under a pledge of confidentiality during a survey period at least 3 years prior to the time of dissemination. The 3-year period includes the reporting year (the year for which data are currently being collected) and two prior years where data have been finalized. In the case of annual data, the EIA would disseminate information for 1998 and prior years without suppressing individual sensitive data cells in summary tables. For monthly data, historical data would be disseminated for 1999 and prior years without suppressing individual sensitive data cells in summary tables. While EIA will continue to maintain the confidentiality of individual data forms, EIA believes that the release of these historical data in tabular form (State, regional, or national level) will not affect the competitiveness of an individual company. EIA will continue to use its disclosure rules, which are designed to protect confidential data, and withhold sensitive data in summary level tables for the years that remain protected. At present, EIA will withhold sensitive annual data for 1999, 2000, and 2001 and sensitive monthly data for 2000, 2001, and 2002.

With respect to the confidentiality of information collected in EIA's electric power surveys, there are two categories. Some information is collected under a pledge of confidentiality and EIA takes various actions to ensure the protection of such information. Those steps include access controls on the individually-identifiable information, as well as the use of disclosure limitation methods to ensure statistical tables based on the confidential information do not have sensitive data cell values. A sensitive data cell value is one that could be used by a knowledgeable person to estimate too closely the confidential information reported by an individual survey respondent. EIA never publicly releases individually-identifiable information collected under a pledge of confidentiality.

Other electric power survey information is considered nonconfidential because EIA has determined that the public release of the information would not cause substantial