

cover letter accompanying the disk or CD ROM. This ensures that you can be identified as the submitter of the comment and allows EPA to contact you in case EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties or needs further information on the substance of your comment. EPA's policy is that EPA will not edit your comment, and any identifying or contact information provided in the body of a comment will be included as part of the comment that is placed in the official public docket.

If EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment.

i. *E-mail*. Comments may be sent by electronic mail (e-mail) to morris.makeba@epa.gov, attention PA206-4212. EPA's e-mail system is not an "anonymous access" system. If you send an e-mail comment directly without going through Regulations.gov, EPA's e-mail system automatically captures your e-mail address. E-mail addresses that are automatically captured by EPA's e-mail system are included as part of the comment that is placed in the official public docket.

ii. *Regulations.gov*. Your use of Regulation.gov is an alternative method of submitting electronic comments to EPA. Go directly to <http://www.regulations.gov>, then select "Environmental Protection Agency" at the top of the page and use the "go" button. The list of current EPA actions available for comment will be listed. Please follow the online instructions for submitting comments. The system is an "anonymous access" system, which means EPA will not know your identity, e-mail address, or other contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment.

iii. *Disk or CD ROM*. You may submit comments on a disk or CD ROM that you mail to the mailing address identified in the ADDRESSES section of this document. These electronic submissions will be accepted in WordPerfect, Word or ASCII file format. Avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

2. *By Mail*. Written comments should be addressed to the EPA Regional office listed in the ADDRESSES section of this document.

For public commenters, it is important to note that EPA's policy is that public comments, whether submitted electronically or in paper, will be made available for public viewing at the EPA Regional Office, as EPA receives them and without change, unless the comment contains copyrighted material, confidential business information (CBI), or other

information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. When EPA identifies a comment containing copyrighted material, EPA will provide a reference to that material in the version of the comment that is placed in the official public rulemaking file. The entire printed comment, including the copyrighted material, will be available at the Regional Office for public inspection.

Submittal of CBI Comments

Do not submit information that you consider to be CBI electronically to EPA. You may claim information that you submit to EPA as CBI by marking any part or all of that information as CBI (if you submit CBI on disk or CD ROM, mark the outside of the disk or CD ROM as CBI and then identify electronically within the disk or CD ROM the specific information that is CBI). Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2.

In addition to one complete version of the comment that includes any information claimed as CBI, a copy of the comment that does not contain the information claimed as CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the official public regional rulemaking file. If you submit the copy that does not contain CBI on disk or CD ROM, mark the outside of the disk or CD ROM clearly that it does not contain CBI. Information not marked as CBI will be included in the public file and available for public inspection without prior notice. If you have any questions about CBI or the procedures for claiming CBI, please consult the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT SECTION**.

Considerations When Preparing Comments to EPA

You may find the following suggestions helpful for preparing your comments:

1. Explain your views as clearly as possible.
2. Describe any assumptions that you used.
3. Provide any technical information and/or data you used that support your views.
4. If you estimate potential burden or costs, explain how you arrived at your estimate.
5. Provide specific examples to illustrate your concerns.
6. Offer alternatives.
7. Make sure to submit your comments by the comment period deadline identified.
8. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, identify the appropriate regional file/rulemaking identification number in the

subject line on the first page of your response. It would also be helpful if you provided the name, date, and **Federal Register** citation related to your comments.

Dated: June 30, 2003.

Thomas C. Voltaggio,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region III.

[FR Doc. 03-19740 Filed 8-4-03; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 63

[FRN-7539-6]

RIN 2060-AK71

Amendments to Project XL Site-Specific Rulemaking for Georgia-Pacific Corporation's Facility in Big Island, VA

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: EPA is publishing this site-specific rule to implement a project under the Project eXcellence and Leadership (Project XL) program, an EPA initiative which encourages regulated entities to achieve better environmental results at decreased costs at their facilities. EPA is taking direct final action to amend a site-specific rulemaking for the Georgia-Pacific Corporation facility in Big Island, Virginia. The amendments concern revision of a compliance date for certain combustion sources at the facility that are subject to a hazardous air pollutant standard. EPA is proposing these amendments to accommodate delay in construction of the first commercial scale installation of black liquor gasification in the United States.

In the "Rules and Regulations" section of today's **Federal Register**, EPA is issuing the amendments as a direct final rule without prior proposal because we view this as a noncontroversial revision and anticipate no adverse comment. We have explained our reasons for the amendments in the preamble to the direct final rule. If EPA receives no adverse comment, we will not take further action on this proposal. If EPA receives adverse comment, we will withdraw the direct final rule and it will not take effect. EPA will address all public comments in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. We will not institute a second comment period on this action. Any parties

interested in commenting must do so at this time.

DATES: Comments on this rulemaking must be received on or before September 4, 2003. All comments should be submitted in writing or electronically according to the directions below in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section.

Public Hearing. Commenters may request a public hearing no later than August 19, 2003. Commenters requesting a public hearing should specify the basis for their request. If EPA determines that there is sufficient reason to hold a public hearing, it will be held on September 8, 2003, at 10 a.m. Requests to present oral testimony must be made by August 25, 2003. Persons interested in requesting a hearing, attending a hearing, or presenting oral testimony at a hearing should call Mr. David Beck at (919) 541-5421.

ADDRESSES: To make comments by mail, send (two) 2 copies of your comments to the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mailcode: 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC, 20460, Attention Docket ID No. A-2002-0072. Comments also may be submitted electronically, or through hand delivery/courier. Follow the detailed instructions as provided in I.C. of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section in the related direct final action that is located in the "Rules and Regulations" section of this **Federal Register**.

If a public hearing is held, it will take place at the Big Island Elementary School, 1114 Schooldays Road, Big Island, Virginia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David Beck, Office of Environmental Policy Innovation (E-143-02), U.S. EPA, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711. Mr. Beck can be reached at (919) 541-5421 (or by e-mail at: beck.david@epa.gov). Further information on today's action may also be obtained on the World Wide Web at <http://www.epa.gov/projectxl/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document concerns an "Amendment to Project XL Site-Specific Rulemaking for Georgia-Pacific Corporation's Facility in Big Island, Virginia." For further information, please see the related direct final action that is located in the "Rules and Regulations" section of this **Federal Register** publication.

Dated: July 28, 2003.

Marianne L. Horinko,
Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 03-19920 Filed 8-4-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AI77

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Proposed Designation of Critical Habitat for *Astragalus magdalenae* var. *peirsonii* (Peirson's milk-vetch)

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), propose to designate critical habitat pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), for the federally threatened *Astragalus magdalenae* var. *peirsonii* (Peirson's milk-vetch). We propose to designate a total of approximately 52,780 acres (ac) (21,359 hectares (ha)) of critical habitat in Imperial County, California.

Critical habitat identifies specific areas that are essential to the conservation of a listed species, and that may require special management considerations or protection. If this proposal is made final, section 7(a)(2) of the Act requires that Federal agencies ensure that actions they fund, authorize, or carry out are not likely to result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. The regulatory effect of the critical habitat designation does not extend beyond those activities funded, permitted, or carried out by Federal agencies. State or private actions, with no Federal involvement, are not affected.

Section 4 of the Act requires us to consider the economic and other relevant impacts of specifying any area as critical habitat. We will conduct an analysis of the economic impacts of designating these areas, in a manner that is consistent with the ruling of the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in *N.M. Cattle Growers Ass'n v. USFWS*. We hereby solicit data and comments from the public on all aspects of this proposal, including data on economic and other impacts of the designation. We may revise this proposal prior to final designation to incorporate or address new information received during public comment periods.

DATES: We will accept comments until October 6, 2003. Public hearing requests must be received by September 19, 2003.

ADDRESSES: If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments and

materials concerning this proposal by any one of several methods:

1. You may submit written comments and information to the Field Supervisor, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 6010 Hidden Valley Road, Carlsbad, CA 92009.

2. You may hand-deliver written comments and information to our Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office, at the above address, or fax your comments to 760-731-9618.

3. You may send your comments by electronic mail (e-mail) to FW1PMV@r1.fws.gov. For directions on how to submit electronic filing of comments, see the "Public Comments Solicited" section.

All comments and materials received, as well as supporting documentation used in preparation of this proposed rule, will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Bartel, Field Supervisor, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Service (telephone (760) 431-9440; facsimile (760) 431-9618).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Public Comments Solicited

It is our intent that any final action resulting from this proposal will be as accurate as possible. Therefore, we solicit comments or suggestions from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, or any other interested party concerning this proposed rule. Based on public comment, in developing the final rule we may find that areas proposed are not essential, appropriate for exclusion under section 4(b)(2), or not appropriate for exclusion, in which case, they would be made part of the final designation. We particularly seek comments concerning:

(1) The reasons why any areas should or should not be determined to be critical habitat as provided by section 4 of the Act, including whether the benefits of designation will outweigh any threats to the species resulting from the designation;

(2) Specific information on the amount and distribution of *Astragalus magdalenae* var. *peirsonii* and its habitat, and which habitat or habitat components are essential to the conservation of this species and why;

(3) Land use designations and current or planned activities in or adjacent to the areas proposed and their possible impacts on proposed critical habitat;

(4) Any foreseeable economic or other potential impacts resulting from the