

be assigned to the Department of Health and Human Services for disposal as a public benefit conveyance for public health purposes. Two (2) parcels will be offered for negotiated or public sale. Seven (7) parcels will be offered for public sale. The road network is an integral part of the all parcels and may be conveyed by negotiated sale. The utility systems, such as the electrical, natural gas and telephone systems are planned for either negotiated sales or public sales.

The implementation of the closure and reuse action and associated mitigation measures will proceed with minimal adverse impact to the environment. This action conforms with applicable Federal, State and local statutes and regulations, and all reasonable and practical efforts have been incorporated to minimize harm to the local public and the environment.

Any questions regarding this matter should be directed to Mr. John E.B. Smith or Ms. De Carlo Ciccel at (703) 696-5540. Correspondence should be sent to: AFBCA/SP, 1700 North Moore Street, Suite 2300, Arlington, VA 22209-2802.

Patsy J. Conner,

*Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 95-27212 Filed 11-1-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3910-01-M

## Department of the Army

### Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Proposed Construction of a Rail Connector for Fort Campbell, KY

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, DOD.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** Fort Campbell, Kentucky, requires rail service to deploy rapidly throughout the world. The U.S. Army owns 17 miles of track from Fort Campbell to the town of Hopkinsville, KY, and approximately three miles of track in the town of Hopkinsville. Currently, a lengthy switching procedure is required to move a train, necessary during contingency operations and possible during major exercises, to or from Fort Campbell. Fort Campbell cannot rapidly deploy the 101st Airborne Division and other units with the existing switching restrictions in Hopkinsville.

The Army action analyzed in this Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is the construction of a rail connector between the government-owned line and the CSX line in Christian County, Kentucky. The environmental and socioeconomic

impacts associated with alternative locations for this proposed rail connector are analyzed. Five alternative alignments, including the No-Action Alternative, have been evaluated:

The No-Action Alternative requires no change in the existing configuration or operation of the rail lines, or construction of any new ones. With the No-Action Alternative, trains from Fort Campbell would continue current operations, using the Hopkinsville Beltline and Interchange to switch five cars at a time to the CSX mainline.

The Hopkinsville Interchange Upgrade Alternative (Alternative 1) upgrades the existing connection between the government-owned rail line with the CSX mainline track via the Hopkinsville Beltline. This alignment involves construction of two relatively short rail connectors within the city limits of Hopkinsville and a 2.2 mile siding track parallel to the existing government line south of Hopkinsville.

The Hopkinsville Bypass North Alternative (Alternative 2N) connects the government line directly to the CSX mainline south of Hopkinsville and north of the Hopkinsville Bypass (KY 8546) with approximately 2.7 miles of new track. This alignment also includes the construction of a 2.2 mile siding parallel to the existing government line south of Hopkinsville.

The Hopkinsville Bypass South Alternative (Alternative 2S) connects the government line directly to the CSX mainline south of Hopkinsville and south of the Hopkinsville Bypass (KY 8546) with approximately 2.8 miles of new track. A 2.2 mile siding parallel to the existing government line south of Hopkinsville is also included in this alternative.

Alternative 3, the Masonville-Casky Alternative, connects the government line directly to the CSX mainline approximately six miles south of Hopkinsville with approximately 5.5 miles of track. A 2.2 mile siding for Alternative 3 is included in the alignment corridor. Short-term and long-term potentially significant adverse environmental consequences from all build alternatives evaluated in this document include impacts to cultural resources and water quality. Short-term potentially significant adverse impacts for Alternative 1 include increased traffic congestion and risk to public safety during construction. The No-Action Alternative will not meet mission requirements and will worsen existing traffic congestion and public safety risk in Hopkinsville. All build alternatives would alleviate these existing problems. Federal, State, and local officials; conservation groups; and

interested businesses, groups, and individuals are invited to comment on the DEIS. In order to be considered, comments should be received no later than 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes this Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. Copies of the DEIS may be reviewed at Hopkinsville Community College Library Hopkinsville, Kentucky, phone—(502) 886-3921 and Fort Campbell Library, Building 38, 25th Street, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, phone—(502) 431-4827. In addition, a copy of the DEIS may be obtained by contacting Mr. Keith Rogan at (502) 625-7012.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments may be forwarded to Louisville Army Engineer District, ATTN: CEORL-DL-B (Keith Rogan), P.O. Box 59, Louisville, KY 40201-0059.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions regarding this proposal may be directed to Mr. Rogan at (502) 625-7012.

Dated: October 27, 1995.

Raymond J. Fatz,

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health) OASA (IL&E).*

[FR Doc. 95-27170 Filed 11-1-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-M

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Floodplain Statement of Findings for Remedial Action at the Uranium Mill Tailings Sites Located Near Maybell and Naturita, CO

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of Floodplain Statement of Findings.

**SUMMARY:** This Floodplain Statement of Findings is prepared pursuant to Executive Order 11990 and 10 CFR Part 1022, Compliance with Floodplain/Wetlands Environmental Review Requirements. Under authority granted by the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA) of 1978, the Department of Energy (DOE) plans to clean up residual radioactive mill tailings and other contaminated materials at the former uranium mill tailings processing sites near Maybell and Naturita, Colorado. Contaminated material occurs in the 100-year floodplains of rivers and streams at and near these processing sites, and the 100-year floodplain of the San Miguel River at the Naturita site is contaminated. Remedial action activities to remove contaminated material would result in the temporary disturbance of the 100-

year floodplain. Contamination occurs along Johnson Wash and Lay Creek at the Maybell site; these areas may qualify for supplemental standards and would therefore remain mostly undisturbed.

Copies of the floodplain/wetlands assessments for the Maybell and Naturita sites are available from: National Technical Information Service, Department of Commerce, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161, (703) 487-4650.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE NEPA PROCESS, CONTACT:** Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Oversight, EH-25, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20585, (202) 586-4600 or 1-800-472-2756.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### Background

The Floodplain and Wetlands Involvement Notification for remedial action in the floodplains and wetlands at the Maybell and Naturita sites was published in the Federal Register in 1988 (53 FR 5033). The final environmental assessments (EA) were published in 1994 and 1995 for the Maybell (DOE/EA-0347) and Naturita (DOE/EA-0464) sites. In addition, the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for each of these sites was signed. Floodplain/Wetlands Assessments were prepared for each site and are attached to the EAs.

##### Project Descriptions

###### *Maybell Site*

The Maybell site is 25 miles (mi) west of the city of Craig, in a rural area of Moffat County in northwestern Colorado. The Maybell site was established by Trace Elements Corporation in 1955, and Umetco assumed control in 1957. A total of 2.6 million tons of ore was processed before the mill shut down in 1964. The tailings pile and most of the surrounding land contaminated with windblown tailings are in upland areas. However, water erosion has contaminated nearby Johnson Wash and a portion of Lay Creek; approximately 61,000 cubic yards (yd<sup>3</sup>) of contaminated material are in these two drainages.

Johnson Wash begins in the sagebrush and pinon-juniper dominated land northeast of the Maybell site and extends south about 1.5 mi to Lay Creek. The wash is ephemeral and dry much of the year except at two springs that create a surface flow that floods 600 to 900 feet (ft) of the wash. Heavily grazed riparian vegetation occurs along 1 mi of the wash, indicating that ground water is near the surface. Most of Johnson

Wash traverses a steep-sided valley, and sagebrush and/or pinon-juniper plant communities occur along its entire length.

Lay Creek is a meandering stream with a flat, broad floodplain. The creek contains water all year; ground water discharge is the source of this water during dry parts of the year.

Various species of aquatic plants form a dense growth along the stream, while higher areas are dominated by black greasewood and big sagebrush. The area is heavily grazed by sheep and cattle.

The proposed action at the Maybell site is to stabilize the contaminated material in place at the existing tailings pile. In addition, a supplemental standards application will be prepared for most of the contaminated areas along Johnson Wash and Lay Creek. The rationale for supplemental standards at these two drainages is based on ecological, radiological, geomorphological, socioeconomic, and engineering criteria (see the Floodplain/Wetlands Assessment for more details). Two areas of contamination, totaling about 12 acres (ac), will be cleaned up along Johnson Wash and Lay Creek; one is in the upper portion of the wash, in the windblown contaminated area, and the other is in the lower portion of the wash, near its confluence with Lay Creek. Currently, additional radiological characterization is taking place along Johnson Wash and Lay Creek to verify the levels of contamination along these two drainages. These surveys may identify additional areas that need to be cleaned up. At this time, it is anticipated that any additional clean-up along Johnson Wash and Lay Creek will be minimal and that most of these two drainages will continue to qualify for supplemental standards. Land disturbed in the 100-year floodplains of Johnson Wash and Lay Creek would be recontoured, covered with topsoil, and revegetated with native plant species.

Alternatives considered include no action and clean-up of all the contaminated material along Johnson Wash and Lay Creek. Implementation of no action would not be consistent with UMRCA and would not be protective of human health and the environment since it would not meet Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards (40 CFR 192). Clean-up of all the contaminated material would cause more environmental harm than good, given the occurrence of wetlands and other sensitive habitats along these drainages and the relatively low levels of contamination.

###### *Naturita Site*

The Naturita site is 2 mi northwest of the unincorporated town of Naturita in Montrose County, Colorado. The Naturita mill site was constructed in 1930. It became operational in 1939, when it was modified for the recovery of vanadium. Uranium milling began in 1942 and continued until 1963, when the mill was shut down. The tailings were removed from the site in 1979 for reprocessing at a facility in the hills about 3 mi south of the site. There is an estimated 542,400 yd<sup>3</sup> of contaminated material on 244 acres of land. Approximately 263,000 yd<sup>3</sup> of this contaminated material covers 31 ac in the 100-year floodplain of the San Miguel River.

The San Miguel River originates in the San Juan Mountains near Telluride, Colorado, and joins the Dolores River 20 mi downstream from the Naturita site. In the vicinity of the Naturita site, the river has a drainage area of 1209 square miles. Flow in the river varies seasonally with the average maximum and minimum flows of 2000 and 330 cubic feet per second. A vegetated riparian zone occurs along the river with plant communities growing in distinct zones. The zone nearest the river consists of vegetation growing on the frequently flooded rocky bars; cottonwood and willow seedlings are common here. Further back and a bit higher in elevation, thick growths of cottonwood and willow saplings are typically encountered. Mature cottonwood stands frequent higher terraces along the river and generally give way to upland plant communities.

The proposed action is to remove the contaminated material from the floodplain of the river and upland areas and stabilize it in an off-site disposal cell. This clean-up effort will disturb 31 contaminated acres in the 100-year floodplain of the river. The average depth of the excavation in this area would be 3 ft. The removal of contaminated material from the upper and lower mill yard terraces would increase the width of the 100-year floodplain. Clean fill material would be backfilled into excavated areas as the contaminated material is removed to minimize any increase in the width of the 100-year floodplain. After completion of remedial action, all disturbed areas would be recontoured to promote surface drainage and the man-made upper and lower mill yard terraces would be replaced with a gentle slope. As a result of this, it is anticipated that the 100-year floodplain will increase from 31 to 38 ac after the completion of this work. The restoration

of the floodplain following remedial action is not expected to affect the path or flow regime of the San Miguel River. All disturbed areas would be revegetated as soon as possible after completion of remedial action to minimize erosion.

Alternatives considered were on-site stabilization of the contaminated material, no action, and other off-site disposal sites. The impacts to the 100-year floodplain would be the same as described above for other off-site disposal locations. The disposal of the contaminated material on-site would also result in the disturbance of the 100-year floodplain as described for the proposed action. No action would result in leaving the contaminated material in the floodplain of the San Miguel River and would not result in a reduction in public health effects. In addition, the contaminated material would continue to be susceptible to erosion, particularly during periods of high water, which could result in negative impacts to the environment. In addition, no action would not be consistent with the intent of UMTRCA and would not result in compliance with the EPA environmental protection standards.

#### Findings

##### *Maybell Site*

Little of Johnson Wash and Lay Creek, would be disturbed if supplemental standards were successfully applied to these areas. It is likely that a supplemental standards application would be successful, given that the areas are ecologically sensitive, are remote from human habitation, and that they contain relatively low levels of contamination.

The clean-up of contaminated material of Johnson Wash and Lay Creek would provide a long-term benefit by preventing impacts to human health and the environment. Potential impacts to the 100-year floodplain that may result from the excavation of contaminated material from Johnson Wash would be mitigated by the following measures:

- Erosion control measures would be implemented to minimize erosion during clean-up activities along Johnson Wash and Lay Creek.

- The 12 ac of land within the 100-year floodplain of Johnson Wash and Lay Creek that would be disturbed would be recontoured and revegetated following the completion of remedial action.

The excavation of contaminated material from the floodplain of Johnson Wash and Lay Creek is designed to conform to applicable federal and state regulations. Permits required under

these regulations will be obtained before the start of remedial action. Wetlands along Johnson Wash and Lay Creek have been delineated; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has agreed with this delineation. Consultation is ongoing with other federal agencies, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and with the state of Colorado.

Based on the above, it was determined that the impacts to the floodplain along Johnson Wash and Lay Creek would be insignificant.

##### *Naturita Site*

The clean-up of contaminated material from the floodplain of the San Miguel River in the area of the Naturita site would be a long-term benefit because of the reduction of impacts to potential human health and the environment. Potential impacts due to excavation of contaminated material from the floodplain of the San Miguel River would be mitigated by the following measures.

- All excavated areas would be backfilled with clean fill as soon as clean-up was completed.

- Riparian vegetation along the river not subject to excavation would be left intact as much as possible to reduce river velocities and associated erosion during flood events.

- All excavated areas would be regraded to a gentle slope to promote positive drainage.

- The upper and lower mill yard terraces would be given a gentle slope to promote positive drainage.

- All areas would be revegetated as soon as possible following clean-up to minimize erosion into the river.

The excavation of contaminated material from the floodplain of the San Miguel River is designed to conform to applicable federal and state regulations. Permits required under these regulations will be obtained before the start of remedial action. Wetlands along the river have been delineated, USACE has agreed with this delineation, and a 404 Permit is being prepared. Consultation is ongoing with other federal agencies, such as FWS and BLM, as well as with the state of Colorado and local government agencies.

Based on the above, it was determined that the impacts to the floodplain along the San Miguel River would be insignificant.

Issued at Albuquerque, New Mexico, on July 21, 1995.

W. John Arthur III,

*Acting Assistant Manager for Environmental/Project Management.*

[FR Doc. 95-27231 Filed 11-1-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

#### **Advisory Committee on External Regulation of Department of Energy Nuclear Safety; Open Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of Open Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770), notice is hereby given of the eighth and final meeting of the Advisory Committee on External Regulation of Department of Energy Nuclear Safety.

**DATE AND TIMES:** The Committee session will be held at the Hyatt Regency Dallas/Fort Worth, East Tower, Dallas/Fort Worth Airport, Texas. The session will begin on Monday, November 27 at 1:00 pm and adjourn at 6:00 pm. The Committee session will continue at the same location on Tuesday, November 28, beginning at 8:00 am and adjourning at 12:00 pm.

**ADDRESSES:** Hyatt Regency Dallas/Fort Worth—East Tower, Enterprise Ballroom—Sector 2, International Parkway, Dallas/Fort Worth Airport, Texas 75261, (214) 453-1234.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thomas H. Isaacs, Executive Director, Advisory Committee on External Regulation of Department of Energy Nuclear Safety, 1726 M Street, NW, Suite 401, Washington, DC 20036, (202) 254-3826.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the Committee is to provide the Secretary of Energy, the White House Council on Environmental Quality, and the Office of Management and Budget with advice, information, and recommendations on how new and existing Department of Energy (DOE) nuclear facilities and operations, except those operations covered under Executive Order 12344 (Naval Propulsion Program), might best be regulated with regard to safety. The Department currently self-regulates many aspects of nuclear safety, pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended. The Committee consists of members drawn from Federal and State government and the private sector, and is co-chaired by John F. Ahearne, Lecturer in Public Policy, Duke University, and Director, The Sigma Xi Center, and Gerard F. Scannell, President of the National Safety Council. Members were chosen with environment, safety, and health backgrounds, balanced to represent different public, Federal, State, Tribal, regulatory, and industry interests and experience.

*Purpose of the Meeting:* The Committee will discuss a draft of its