

An explanation of the ratings assigned to draft environmental impact statements (EISs) was published in FR dated April 14, 1996 (60 FR 19047).

Draft EISs

ERP No. D-AFS-J65243-MT Rating LO, Castle Mountains Allotment Management Plan, Implementation, Lewis and Clark National Forest, Musselshell and King Hill Ranger Districts, White Sulphur Springs, Meagher County, MT.

Summary: EPA expressed lack of objections and recommended that additional information including improved descriptions of State Water Quality Standards and linkages to State lists of water quality limited streams be included in the FEIS.

ERP No. D-BLM-K67032-NV Rating EO2, Round Mountain Mine Mill and Tailings Facility, Construction and Operation for the Smoke Valley Operation, Plan of Operations Amendment Approval, Nye County, NV.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental objections to the proposed project because it could result in significant adverse cumulative impacts to waterfowl attracted to the pit lake which could exceed water quality standards for wildlife. We also recommended additional information in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) regarding mitigation measures; impacts to soil, vegetation, wildlife, livestock, and springs and seeps; and monitoring.

ERP No. D-SFW-G64012-00 Rating LO, Mexican Wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) Reintroduction within the Historic Range, Implementation, in the Southwestern United States, Catron, Dona Ana, Grant and Lincoln Counties, NM and Apache and Greenlee Counties, AZ.

Summary: EPA had no objections to the proposed action and concurs with the Fish and Wildlife Service's selection of Alternative A as the environmentally preferred alternative.

Final EISs

ERP No. F-NPS-K61128-CA Santa Rosa Island Development Concept Plan, Implementation and Funding, Channel Islands National Park, Santa Barbara County, CA.

Summary: EPA requested that the NEPA Record of Decision contain a commitment to implement the water quality protection measures contained in the FEIS.

Dated: March 18, 1996.

William D. Dickerson,
Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 96-7003 Filed 3-21-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-U

[ER-FRL-5414-5]

Intent To Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Alaska-Juneau (AJ) Mine Project, Juneau, AK

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an SEIS.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Section 511(c)(1) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) EPA has identified a need to prepare an SEIS and publishes this Notice of Intent in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.7.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO SEND

SCOPING COMMENTS: William Riley, Office of Water Mining Coordinator OW-135, EPA, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101, phone (206) 553-1412. Local contact is Steve Torok, EPA's Juneau office, phone (907) 586-7619.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed AJ Mine Project is subject to EPA authorization through CWA Section 402, including the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program. The project is a new source (40 CFR 122.2 and 122.29), and under CWA Section 511(c)(1) is subject to NEPA prior to the NPDES permit decision (40 CFR Part 6, Subpart F). The AJ Mine is an underground gold mine, located south of Juneau, Alaska, which closed in 1944. In 1988, Echo Bay, Alaska (Echo Bay) filed necessary permit applications to reopen the mine and an EIS was completed by the Bureau of Land Management in 1992. During the permitting phase, EPA completed a technical assistance report which concluded there was a high potential for significant degradation of the waters of the United States. Echo Bay proposed modifications to address concerns raised and filed new permit applications. EPA also commenced a rule-making that would allow consideration of submarine tailings disposal. New field studies to characterize marine and other resources are ongoing.

Project Description—The reopened AJ Mine would produce 15,000 tons per day of ore, and 80 million tons during the 13-year project life. Gold recovery

would be by means of gravity separation and froth flotation processes in an underground mill. No cyanide would be used. Surface facilities would be located at the Rock Dump area south of Juneau. The tailings would be pumped through a pipeline in Gastineau Channel for discharge at depth in Stephens Passage. Power would be supplied by diesel-gas turbine generators. Staffing is estimated at 400 personnel.

Project alternatives currently considered include: (1) Douglas Island Dry Tailings—the tailings would be piped across Gastineau Channel, dewatered and conveyed to a dry tailings disposal area on Douglas Island, (2) Sheep Creek Subaqueous Tailings—similar to the proposed action in the 1992 FEIS except the impoundment would hold less tailings, no cyanide would be used, and the flows of Sheep Creek would be partially diverted around the impoundment, (3) Powerline Gulch Subaqueous Tailings—similar to an option in the 1992 FEIS, except the impoundment would hold less tailings, no cyanide would be used, and surface runoff would be diverted around the impoundment, (4) Mine Backfill and Douglas Island Dry Tailings—combining backfilling of cemented tailings with surface disposal at a reduced dry tailings site on Douglas Island, (5) Submarine Tailings Disposal Upland Pipeline—similar to the proposal, except the tailings pipeline would follow an upland route along Gastineau Channel and to Stephens Passage for discharge.

SCOPING MEETING DATE AND COMMENT

DEADLINE: On April 17, 1996, EPA will host an SEIS scoping open house at Centennial Hall in Juneau from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. Scoping comments from the public will be welcomed that day, or they may be submitted to EPA in writing. The scoping period comment deadline is April 30, 1996.

ESTIMATED DATE OF DRAFT SEIS RELEASE: September, 1996.

Dated: March 20, 1996.

Richard E. Sanderson,

Director, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 96-7004 Filed 3-21-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-U

[FRL-5445-6]

Underground Injection Control Program Hazardous Waste Land Disposal Restrictions; Petition for Exemption—Class I Hazardous Waste Injection Well, American Ecology Environmental Services Corporation (AEESC)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of Final Decision on Exemption Modification.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a petition for modification to an exemption to the land disposal restrictions under the 1984 Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act has been granted to AEESC, for the Class I injection wells located at the Winona, Texas facility. As required by 40 CFR Part 148, the company has adequately demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Agency by petition and supporting documentation that, to a reasonable degree of certainty, there will be no migration of hazardous constituents from the injection zone for as long as the waste remains hazardous. This final decision allows the underground injection by AEESC of the specific restricted hazardous waste identified in the petition modification, into the Class I hazardous waste injection wells at the Winona, Texas facility specifically identified in the petition for as long as the basis for granting an approval of this petition remains valid, under provisions of 40 CFR 148.24. As required by 40 CFR 124.10, a public notice was issued on May 17, 1995. The public comment period ended on July 7, 1995, was reopened on August 10, 1995 and closed on September 8, 1995. This decision constitutes final Agency action and there is no Administrative appeal.

DATES: This action is effective as of March 14, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the petition for modification and all pertinent information relating thereto are on file at the following location: Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6, Water Quality Protection Division, Source Water Protection Branch (6WQ-S), 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Larry Wright, Chief, Ground Water/UIC Section, EPA—Region 6, telephone (214) 665-7165.

William B. Hathaway,
Director, Water Quality Protection Division.
[FR Doc. 96-7034 Filed 3-21-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6565-50-P

[OPP-50816; FRL-5352-7]

Receipt of a Notification to Conduct Small-Scale Field Testing of a Genetically-Engineered Microbial Pesticide

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA has received from American Cyanamid Company of New Jersey a notification (241-NMP-G) of intent to conduct small-scale field testing involving a baculovirus *Autographa californica* Multiple Nuclear Polyhedrosis Virus (AcMNPV) which has been genetically engineered to contain a gene which encodes for an insect-specific protein toxin from the venom of the scorpion *Androctonus australis*. American Cyanamid intends to test this microbial pesticide on cotton, tobacco, and leafy vegetables in 12 states. Target pests for these field trials include the cabbage looper (*Trichoplusia ni*) and the tobacco budworm (*Heliothis virescens*). The Agency has determined that the application may be of regional and national significance. Therefore, in accordance with 40 CFR 172.11(a), the Agency is soliciting public comments on this application.

DATES: Written comments should be submitted to EPA by April 22, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments in triplicate, must bear the docket control number OPP-50816 and be submitted to: Public Docket and Freedom of Information Section, Field Operations Division (7506C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington DC 20460.

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically by sending electronic mail (e-mail) to: opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov. Electronic comments must be submitted in ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Comments and data will also be accepted on disks in WordPerfect in 5.1 file format or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form must be identified by docket number OPP-50816. No CBI should be submitted through e-mail. Electronic comments on this action may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries. Additional information on electronic submissions can be found under the SUPPLEMENTARY unit of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Linda Hollis, Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (7501W), Office of Pesticide Programs,

Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location, telephone number, and e-mail address: 5th Floor, CS #1, 2805 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA, (703)308-8733; e-mail: hollis.linda@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A notification of intent to conduct small-scale field testing pursuant to EPA's Statement of Policy entitled, "Microbial Products Subject to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and the Toxic Substances Control Act," published in the Federal Register of June 26, 1986 (51 FR 23313), has been received from American Cyanamid Company of New Jersey (NMP No. 241-NMP-E). The proposed small-scale field trial involves the introduction of a genetically-engineered isolate of the baculovirus *Autographa californica* Multiple Nuclear Polyhedrosis Virus (AcMNPV). The strain to be tested (vEGTDEL-AaIT) has been genetically modified with approximately 1 kilobase internal deletion in the ecdysteroid UDP-glucosyltransferase gene and an inserted gene which encodes an insect-specific toxin protein from the venom of the scorpion *Androctonus australis*.

The purpose of the proposed testing will be to evaluate the efficacy of this genetically-altered AcMNPV (relative to the gene-deleted construct and a commercial *Bacillus thuringiensis* insecticide) against certain lepidopteran species (*Trichoplusia ni* (cabbage looper) and *Heliothis virescens* (tobacco budworm) on tobacco, cotton and leafy vegetables.

The proposed program consists of a total of 20 field trials to be conducted in spring 1996 thru fall 1996. Testing will occur in 12 states: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, North Carolina, Texas, and Virginia. For each crop to be treated, the following number of trials and treatments are proposed: Leafy vegetables/6 trials, 5 total treatments; cotton/11 trials, 10 total treatments; and tobacco/3 trials, 6 total treatments. All sites will be located on secured research or commercial farmland with limited public access.

There will be a maximum of four plots per treatment and a maximum of six applications per treatment. The maximum size of a given treatment plot in each test will be 0.02 acres (4 rows wide x 75ft. long). The total acreage treated with the genetically modified construct will consist of 7.4 acres. The total amount of active ingredient to be used will be 98.25g.

Treated plots will be buffered on either side by an untreated row.