

Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of State, and appropriate Texas State agencies, including Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Historical Commission, and Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission. The draft environmental assessment, the comments submitted by the agencies, the response to these comments, and all correspondence between the agencies and the Permit applicant addressing the agencies' concerns, together, constitute the final environmental assessment.

Based on the final environmental assessment and information developed during the review of the City of Eagle Pass's application and of the draft environmental assessment, the Department of State has concluded that issuance of the Permit will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment within the United States. In accordance with Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, 40 CFR 1501.4 and 1508.13, and with Department of State Regulations, 22 CFR 161.8(c), an environmental impact statement therefore will not be prepared.

A Finding of No Significant Impact was adopted on April 12, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Finding of No Significant Impact may be obtained from M. Elizabeth Swope, Coordinator, U.S.-Mexico Border Affairs, Office of Mexican Affairs, Room 4258, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520 (Telephone: 202/647-8529).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of State ("the Department") is charged with issuance of Presidential Permits for the construction of international bridges under the International Bridge Act of 1972, 86 Stat. 731; 33 U.S.C. 535 *et seq.*, and Executive Order 11423, 33 Fed. Reg. 11741 (1968), as amended by Executive Order 12847 of May 17, 1993, 58 Fed. Reg. 96 (1993).

The City of Eagle Pass Bridge Board, Texas, has requested from the Department a Permit to build a new bridge (Eagle Pass II) across the Rio Grande River from the City of Eagle Pass, Texas, to Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico. The proposed bridge will be located approximately 0.6 miles south of the existing Eagle Pass International Bridge and immediately north of the international railroad bridge.

The proposed project is comprised of the bridge structure, inspection facilities, and the "Designated Truck Route," and will operate as a 24-hour per day crossing point. The bridge design includes reinforced concrete

design and pre-stressed concrete beam design. The 72-foot bridge roadway will provide six lanes, with sidewalks for pedestrians. The bridge structure will consist of a superstructure and a substructure.

The new bridge will:

- Provide an alternative route for 100 percent of commercial traffic from the existing Eagle Pass International bridge;
- Accommodate projected population growth and economic growth in both Eagle Pass and Piedras Negras;
- Provide for a "Designated Truck Route" that will direct commercial through-traffic out of downtown areas; the "Designated Truck Route" will begin at the GSA Import/Export facilities, ending at El Indio Highway (Hwy 1021), with five lanes, two in each direction, with a single turn lane. Traffic would be routed under the proposed new bridge and under the existing railroad bridge. The El Indio Highway tie-in will direct access to the Loop 431/FM3443 loop system, and thus to State Highway 57 and the Del Rio Highway (Hwy 277).
- Enhance Eagle Pass/Piedras Negras' position as the primary port of entry for the State of Coahuila, Mexico.
- Provide for temporary facilities lasting between five and ten years if GSA cannot immediately finance the general services building. This temporary facility would have between five and ten commercial truck docks, serving approximately 150 to 300 trucks a day.

Dated: May 1, 1996.

M. Elizabeth Swope,
Coordinator, U.S.-Mexico Border Affairs,
Office of Mexican Affairs.

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[Public Notice 2377]

New International Bridge, Eagle Pass, Texas: Issuance of Presidential Permit

SUMMARY: The Department of State is announcing the issuance to the City of Eagle Pass International Bridge Board of a Presidential Permit for a new international bridge between the City of Eagle Pass, Texas, and Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico. The Permit was signed on April 12, 1996, and issued on May 1, 1996, pursuant to the International Bridge Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 535 *et seq.*) and E.O. 11423, 33 FR 11741 (1968) as amended by E.O. 12847, 58 FR 29511 (1993). No objections were received to the issuance of the Presidential Permit after April 12, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Presidential Permit may be obtained from M. Elizabeth Swope, Coordinator, U.S.-Mexico Border Affairs, Office of Mexican Affairs, Room 4258, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520 (Telephone 202-647-8529).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice of the application by the City of Eagle Pass International Bridge Board for a permit to build a new international bridge across the Rio Grande between the City of Eagle Pass, Texas, and Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico was published in the Federal Register on November 1, 1990, at 55 FR 46125. The new bridge will be located approximately 0.6 miles south of the existing Eagle Pass International Bridge and immediately north of the international railroad bridge. The bridge will carry pedestrian and commercial vehicular traffic, and is intended to relieve the traffic burden on the existing bridge and downtown area.

The application for the Presidential Permit was reviewed and approved by over two dozen federal, state, and local agencies. The final application and environmental assessment were reviewed and approved or accepted by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Customs Service, the Food and Drug Administration, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the General Services Administration, the International Boundary and Water Commission-U.S. Section, the Department of Defense, the Department of Transportation, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Federal Highway Administration, the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Commerce, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of State, and appropriate Texas State agencies, including Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Historical Commission, and Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission.

Dated: May 1, 1996.

M. Elizabeth Swope,
Coordinator, U.S.-Mexico Border Affairs,
Office of Mexican Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Notice of Extension of Comment Period

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.