

inspection in the Public Reference Room.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

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[Project No. 11530-000 Iowa]

**Mitchell County Conservation Board;
Notice of Availability of Draft
Environmental Assessment**

October 30, 1996.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) regulations, 18 CFR Part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 F.R. 47897), the Office of Hydropower Licensing has reviewed the application for initial license for the Mitchell Mill Dam Hydroelectric Project, located on the Cedar River, in Mitchell County, Iowa, and has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the project.

Copies of the DEA are available for review in the Public Reference Branch, Room 2-A, of the Commission's offices at 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

Comments should be filed within 30 days from the date of this notice and should be addressed to Lois D. Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Room 1-A, Washington, D.C. 20426. Please reference Project No. 11530-000 to all comments. For further information, please contact Nancy Beals at (202) 219-2178.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY**

[FRL-5647-6]

**Announcement of Application Deadline
for the Competition for the 1997
National Brownfields Assessment
Demonstration Pilots**

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of Application Deadlines and Revised Guidelines.

SUMMARY: The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will begin to accept proposals for the National Brownfields Assessment Pilots. The brownfields assessment pilots (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years)

test assessment, models in the context of cleanup and redevelopment planning, direct special efforts toward removing regulatory barriers without sacrificing protectiveness, and facilitate coordinated environmental cleanup and redevelopment efforts at the federal, state, and local levels. EPA expects to select 25 additional National Brownfields Assessment Pilots by March 1997. The deadline for new applications for the 1997 assessment pilots is January 13, 1997. Previously unsuccessful applicants are advised that they must revise and resubmit their applications. Applications submitted before November 1, 1996, will *not* be considered for the 1997 National Brownfields Assessment Pilots.

The National Brownfields Assessment Pilots are administered on a competitive basis. To ensure a fair selection process, evaluation panels consisting of EPA Regional and Headquarters staff and other federal agency representatives will assess how well the proposals meet the selection criteria outlined in the newly revised application booklet *The Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative: Application Guidelines for Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots* (October 1996).

DATES: Applications will be accepted as of November 1, 1996 through January 13, 1997. All proposals must be postmarked or sent to EPA via registered or tracked mail by January 13, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Application booklets can be obtained by calling the Superfund Hotline at the following numbers: Washington, DC metro area at 703-412-9810; outside Washington, DC metro area at 1-800-424-9346; TDD for the Hearing Impaired at 1-800-553-7672.

Booklets may also be obtained by writing to: U.S. EPA—Brownfields Application, Superfund Document Center (5201G), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460. Copies of the Booklet are available via the Internet: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Superfund Hotline at 1-800-424-9346 or contact Katherine Dawes, U.S. EPA, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, 202-260-8394.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As a part of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative, the Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots are designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse brownfields. EPA has awarded cooperative agreements to States, cities,

towns, counties and Tribes for demonstration pilots that test brownfields assessment models, direct special efforts toward removing regulatory barriers without sacrificing protectiveness, and facilitate coordinated public and private efforts at the Federal, State and local levels. To date, the Agency has funded 76 Brownfields Assessment Pilots. Of those pilots, 39 are National Pilots selected under criteria developed by EPA Headquarters and 37 are Regional Pilots selected by EPA Regions under criteria developed by their offices.

EPA's goal is to select a broad array of assessment pilots that will serve as models for other communities across the nation. EPA seeks to identify applications that demonstrate the integration or linking of brownfields assessment pilots with other federal, state, tribal, and local sustainable development, community revitalization, and pollution prevention programs. Special consideration will be given to Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities (EZ/ECs) and communities with populations of under 100,000. (EPA will conduct a special outreach effort to address the unique needs of Indian Tribes.) These pilots focus on EPA's primary mission—protecting human health and the environment. However, it is an essential piece of the nation's overall community revitalization efforts. EPA works closely with other federal agencies through the Interagency Working Group on Brownfields, and builds relationships with other stakeholders on the national and local levels to develop coordinated approaches for community revitalization.

Funding for the brownfields assessment pilots is authorized under Section 104(d)(1) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (CERCLA or Superfund), 42 U.S.C. 9604(d)(1). States, cities, towns, counties, U.S. Territories, and Indian Tribes are eligible to apply. EPA welcomes and encourages applications from coalitions of such entities, but a single eligible entity must be identified as the legal recipient. Cooperative agreement funds will be awarded only to a state or to an officially recognized political subdivision of a state. For non-state applicants, please include statement verifying that entity has been authorized by the state to exercise governmental powers.

Through a brownfields cooperative agreement, EPA authorizes an eligible state, political subdivision, Territory, or Indian Tribe to undertake activities that