

Loconia, NH 03246, or calling (603) 528-8721/TTY (603) 528-8722.

In addition, there will be two Open Houses held that will allow for the opportunity for the public to collect additional information on the project and comment on the DEIS. These forums will be held March 12, 1997 and March 19, 1997 at the Waterville Valley Conference Center, Waterville Valley, NH and at the Pease Public Library, Plymouth, NH, respectively. The Open Houses will be from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. For those individuals who require sign language interpretation for these open houses please contact the Forest Service office in Laconia, NH through their TTY phone number—(603) 528-8721. Please call within three days of the meeting to allow us time to contact an interpreter for the meeting.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to Jerry Perez, Project Coordinator for WV DEIS, Green Mountain National Forest, Rochester, VT 05767.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Please direct questions about the proposed action and DEIS to Jerry Perez, Eastern Region Winter Sports Team Environmental Coordinator, Green Mountain National Forest, Rochester, VT 05767, (phone/TTY 802-767-4261).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DEIS describes four alternatives to the proposed action. The alternatives were developed to respond to issues, concerns and opportunities identified during the analysis. Alternative 2 has been identified as the Preferred Alternative in the DEIS.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice at this early stage of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45-day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully

consider them and respond to them in the final environmental impact statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the DEIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the DEIS or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. (Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.)

After the comment period ends on the DEIS, the comments will be analyzed and considered by the agency in preparing the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

The FEIS is scheduled to be completed and available to the public approximately 6 months following the close of the review period for the DEIS. The responsible Forest Service official will document the decision and the reasons supporting it in a Record of Decision. That decision will be subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215.

The Forest Service official responsible for approving the proposed action is Forest Supervisor Donna Hepp, 719 Main St., Laconia, NH 03245.

Dated: February 18, 1997.
Donna L. Hepp,
Forest Supervisor.
[FR Doc. 97-4455 Filed 2-21-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under Secretary for Technology; National Medal of Technology Nomination Evaluation Committee; Notice of Open Meeting

The National Medal of Technology Nomination Evaluation Committee has scheduled a meeting for March 7, 1997.

The Committee was established to assist the Department in executing its responsibilities under 15 U.S.C. 3711. Under this provision, the Secretary is responsible for recommending to the President prospective recipients of the National Medal of Technology. The Committee's recommendations are made after reviewing all nominations received in response to a public solicitation and based on criteria made available to the public through nomination application forms. From time to time the Committee

convenes to evaluate the criteria and nomination process to ensure continued relevance to the current environment for technological innovation. The Committee is chartered to have twelve members.

TIME AND PLACE: The meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. and end at 2:00 p.m. on March 7, 1997. The meeting will be held in Room 1411 at the U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

Agenda

1. Review existing criteria, categories, and procedures for nominating candidates for the National Medal of Technology.

2. Make recommendations for revisions to the nomination criteria, categories and procedures for the National Medal of Technology to be forwarded to the Under Secretary of Technology.

Public Participation

The meeting will be open to public participation and the last thirty minutes will be set aside for oral comments or questions. Seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Members of the public may submit written comments concerning the committee's affairs at any time before and after the meeting. A copy of the minutes will be available for public inspection and copying in the National Medal of Technology Program Office by April 4, 1997. Inquires should be addressed to the Director of the National Medal of Technology as indicated below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Katie Wolf, Director, National Medal of Technology, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Herbert C. Hoover, Building, Room 4823, Washington, DC 20230, phone: 202/482-5572, email:kwolf@doc.gov.

Dated: February 14, 1997.
Graham R. Mitchell,
Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy.
[FR Doc. 97-4395 Filed 2-21-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510-18-M

Bureau of the Census

Quarterly Financial Report

ACTION: Proposed collection: comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to