

(FERC Project No. 2493), Relicensing, Snoqualmie River, King County, WA.

Summary: Review of the final EIS has been completed and the project found to be satisfactory. No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

ERP No. F-NPS-L61211-AK Denali National Park and Reserve, "Frontcountry" Entrance Area and Road Corridor, Development Concept Plan, AK.

Summary: Review of the Final EIS was not deemed necessary. No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

Dated: February 25, 1997.

B. Katherine Biggs,

Associate Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 97-5075 Filed 2-27-97; 8:45 am]

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[FRL-5697-5]

Guidance for the Implementation of EPA's Radiation Protection Standards for Management and Storage of Transuranic Waste at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant ("WIPP Subpart A Guidance")

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the amended Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Land Withdrawal Act (WIPP LWA), Pub. L. 102-579 as amended by Public Law 104-201, EPA is required to determine, on a biennial basis, whether the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) complies with 40 CFR Part 191, Subpart A, the standards for management and storage of radioactive waste. EPA has developed guidance for the implementation of the generally applicable standards of Subpart A at the WIPP to evaluate the facility's compliance with radiation dose limits to the public during the receipt and emplacement of waste, and associated activities, if the WIPP is approved for use as a disposal system. EPA is hereby announcing that a revised guidance document, known as the WIPP Subpart A Guidance, is available to the public. In developing the guidance, EPA requested and considered public comments on the draft WIPP Subpart A Guidance that was previously announced on September 5, 1996. (61 FR 46804.)

ADDRESSES: Copies of the revised WIPP Subpart A Guidance are available to the public by calling EPA's WIPP Information Line at 1-800-331-WIPP. Copies of the WIPP Subpart A Guidance and supporting materials are also

available for review at EPA's Office of Radiation and Indoor Air located at 501 3rd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001; and at the following addresses in New Mexico where EPA maintains public information files for the guidance: (1) Government Publications Department of the Zimmerman Library of the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, New Mexico (open from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Sunday); (2) The Fogelson Library of the College of Santa Fe, located at 1600 St. Michael's Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico (open from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight on Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Sunday); and (3) The Municipal Library of Carlsbad, New Mexico, located at 101 South Halegueno (open from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Monday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday). Citizens wishing to review these materials should request to see the EPA "WIPP Subpart A Guidance File."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Betsy Forinash, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Radiation and Indoor Air (6602J), 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460; (202) 233-9310.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The guidance document pertains to the requirements established in the amended WIPP LWA¹ and the federal regulations at 40 CFR Part 191, Subpart A. The document does not establish new binding requirements but will guide EPA's implementation of 40 CFR Part 191, Subpart A at the WIPP. Subpart A is a generally applicable radiation protection standard that limits radiation doses to the public from management of transuranic radioactive waste at disposal facilities operated by the Department of Energy (DOE). The DOE is proposing to use the WIPP, located in Eddy County, New Mexico, as a deep geologic repository for the disposal of transuranic radioactive waste generated by nuclear defense activities. The Subpart A regulations apply to activities associated with receiving and emplacing the waste in the disposal system. (Limitations on radiation doses which may occur after

closure of the disposal system are separately addressed by EPA's disposal regulations at Subparts B and C of 40 CFR Part 191, and by WIPP compliance criteria at 40 CFR Part 194.) The amended WIPP LWA requires EPA to determine, on a biennial basis, whether WIPP complies with Subpart A of 40 CFR Part 191. EPA may also conduct this determination at any other time. If EPA determines that the WIPP does not comply with the Subpart A dose standards at any time after emplacement of waste has begun, the WIPP LWA requires the DOE to submit a remedial plan to EPA describing the actions DOE will take to comply with Subpart A.

This guidance describes the application of Subpart A to activities associated with the approximately 35-year period during which packaged waste would be received at the above ground portion of the WIPP; unloaded and prepared for emplacement in the underground repository; lowered down a mechanical hoist and emplaced in the mined-out repository; and managed during the closure and decommissioning of the facility, if the WIPP is approved for use as a disposal system. During this period, the annual doses from radiation received by members of the public must not exceed the limits specified by Subpart A. The WIPP Subpart A Guidance interprets Subpart A for the WIPP and provides the Agency's recommendations for methods used to demonstrate and document compliance with the standards. The guidance also describes information DOE should report to EPA for the Agency's evaluation of the WIPP's compliance with the Subpart A dose limits.

The guidance does not establish a new radiation dose standard and does not establish binding rights or duties, but will be a non-binding guide for EPA's evaluation of the WIPP's compliance with Subpart A. In a September 5, 1996 Federal Register notice (61 FR 46804), EPA solicited public comment on draft WIPP Subpart A Guidance. The WIPP Subpart A Guidance now available incorporates revisions made in light of those comments. EPA will update the guidance as needed in the future to reflect changes in policy, in radiation science or in the operation of the WIPP site, or as appropriate to respond to issues raised by the public.

Dated: February 20, 1997.

Mary Nichols,

Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation.

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¹The 1992 WIPP Land Withdrawal Act, Pub. L. 102-579, was amended by the "Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Land Withdrawal Act Amendments," Pub. L. 104-201. The 1996 amendments were part of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1997.