capacities at their home ports and sail without a full load.

Gregory D. Showalter,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 97–6155 Filed 3–11–97; 8:45 am]

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Corps of Engineers

Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Limited Reevaluation Study for Deepening of the Kill Van Kull and Newark Bay Navigation Channels

AGENCY: Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: A Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Kill Van Kull and Newark Bay Channel Deepening Project was prepared and the project was authorized in the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1985. A decision was made to deepen the channels in two phases and a Supplemental EIS was prepared to address disposal and sediment contamination issues and finalized in 1987. Phase I, the deepening to −40 feet mean low water (MLW) has been completed. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Phase II deepening of the channels to their authorized depth of −45 feet MLW. The proposed project extends from the confluence of the Kill Van Kull and Anchorage Channels to Station 139+20N, the northern edge of the Port Elizabeth reach, approximately eight miles. The non-federal sponsor prefers to defer portions of the original project including the Port Newark Channel, and a portion of the Newark Bay Channel north of Station 139+20N. This segment was included in the economic, engineering, and environmental analyses, but is not being recommended for construction at this time. The New York District has initiated a Limited Reevaluation Study to reaffirm the recommended plan. An EA is being prepared to update the NEPA process.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For more information regarding this notice, please contact Ms. Mary M. Browning, ATTN: CENAN–PL–EA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, 26 Federal Plaza, New York, NY 10278–0090, or phone (212) 264–2198.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Kill Van Kull and Newark Bay is a component of the Hudson-Raritan Estuarine System which lies below the confluence of the Hackensack and Passaic Rivers. The channel is situated between New Jersey and Staten Island, New York, and is northwest of the Upper Bay of New York Harbor.

Currently, navigation in the project area is severely constrained. The existing depth of the Kill Van Kull and Newark Bay Channels are not sufficient to allow the safe and efficient passage of fully loaded container and liquid bulk (tankers) vessels still willing to call on terminals in the channel. The current mode of operation calls for tankers to lighter-off in anchorages and enter the Kill Van Kull and Newark Bay Channels during high tides. Container ships calling on terminals must be loaded to less than their design capacities at their home ports and sail without a full load. This is inefficient, costly, and results in unnecessary navigational and environmental risks. Deepening the channels to their authorized depth of −45 feet MLW will provide for more economically efficient and safe utilization of these channels by vessels with drafts greater than 40 feet.

Gregory D. Showalter,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[Docket No. ETEC–023]

Certification of the Radiological Condition of Building 023 at the Energy Technology Engineering Center Near Chatsworth, CA

AGENCY: Office of Environmental Restoration, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of certification.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) has completed radiological surveys and taken remedial action to decontaminate Building 023 located at the Energy Technology Engineering Center (ETEC) near Chatsworth, California. This property previously was found to contain radioactive materials from activities carried out for the Atomic Energy Commission and the Energy Research and Development Administration (AEC/ERDA), predecessor agencies to DOE. Although DOE owns the majority of the buildings and equipment, a subsidiary of Rockwell International, Rocketdyne, owned the land. Rocketdyne has recently been sold to Boeing North American Incorporated.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Don Williams, Program Manager, Office of Northwestern Area Programs, Office of Environmental Restoration (EM–44), U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, D.C. 20585.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DOE has implemented environmental restoration projects at ETEC (Ventura County, Map Book 3, Page 7, Miscellaneous Records) as part of DOE's Environmental Restoration Program. One objective of the program is to identify and clean up or otherwise control facilities where residual radioactive contamination remains from activities carried out under contract to AEC/ERDA during the early years of the Nation's atomic energy program.

ETEC is comprised of a number of facilities and structures located within Administrative Area IV of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory. The work performed for DOE at ETEC consisted primarily of testing of equipment, materials, and components for nuclear and energy related programs. These nuclear energy research and development programs conducted by Atomics International under contract to AEC/ERDA began in 1946. Several buildings and land areas became radiologically contaminated as a result of facility operations and site activities. An ETEC area that has been designated for cleanup under the DOE Environmental Restoration Program is Building 023. Other areas undergoing decontamination will be released as they are completed and verified to meet established cleanup criteria and standards for release without radiological restrictions as established in DOE Order 5400.5.

Building 023 is located within the central portion of ETEC and is situated on B Street near 12th Street among several adjacent buildings on paved ground. It is approximately 20 feet below the general grade of 12th Street. The facility consists of galvanized steel walls and roof on a concrete slab floor with various types of internal walls and partitions. It is a single floor structure which was constructed in two phases: the first section (circa 1962), ''023'', has been used for the storage and operation of a small sodium loop for studies of radioactive contamination transport; the second section (circa 1976), ''023A'', consists of a storage and setup room and a well-equipped analytical chemistry laboratory.

The first Radiological User Permit for Building 023, Authorization No. 105, was issued by AEC in November 1976. This authorization related to the use of a small section (or sections) of activated stainless steel Experimental Boiler Reactor fuel cladding to be used in a small sodium test loop. The purpose of this test was to gather data on the