

Carolyn A. Lunsford.

Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.
[FR Doc. 97-7904 Filed 3-27-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3910-01-P

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers**Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement to Evaluate a Permit Application by Empire, Ltd.**

AGENCY: Corps of Engineers, DoD.
ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: Empire, Ltd., of Wood-Ridge, New Jersey, has submitted an application for a Department of the Army permit to discharge 2.5 million cubic yards of dredged and/or fill material into 206 acres of waters of the United States, including wetlands, to facilitate the construction of a commercial mall with retail and office space, hotel, light industrial facilities, roads, and infrastructure. The discharge of dredged and/or fill materials into waters of the United States requires a Department of the Army Permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process will assist the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in determining whether to issue or deny a permit for the project under these authorities. This action is taking place in accordance with the USACE procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (33 CFR Parts 230 and 325).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Joseph J. Seebode, Chief, Regulatory Branch, New York District Corps of Engineers, 26 Federal Plaza, Room 1937, New York, New York 10278-0090, Telephone (212) 264-3996.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**1. Project Description**

Empire, Ltd. submitted an application for a Department of the Army permit to discharge approximately 2.5 million cubic yards of dredged and/or fill material into 206 acres of waters and wetlands, to create dry land to facilitate the construction of a major commercial development project. The project, known as Meadowlands Mills, would include a shopping mall, entertainment center, office complex, hotel, mass transit center, light industrial facilities, and associated parking structures and roadways. The project is proposed to be developed by Empire, Ltd., and the Mills Corporation of Arlington, Virginia. The work is proposed on a 592 acre site

containing wetlands and open waters adjacent to the Hackensack River within the Hackensack Meadowlands District in the Townships of Carlstadt, Moonachie, and South Hackensack, Bergen County, New Jersey. The applicant has submitted a wetlands mitigation plan with the application proposing enhancement, creation, and preservation activities, to establish approximately 380 acres of higher value wetlands onsite.

On February 6, 1997, USACE completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the Corps of Engineers and Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA. The EA was prepared utilizing information made available through the public interest process until that date, including the issuance of a public notice and the conduct of two public hearings in the vicinity of the project. The EA concluded that USACE will require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement to process the application.

2. Reasonable Alternatives

In addition to the no action alternative, reasonable alternatives to be considered include the following:

- a. Off-site alternatives to construction as proposed
- b. On-Site alternatives to construction as proposed
- c. Construction Techniques

3. EIS Scoping

As part of the EIS scoping process, comments on the proposed scope of the EIS will be accepted until 45 days after the publication of this Notice of Intent in the **Federal Register**; all comments should be addressed to the contact person indicated above. In addition to receiving written comments, the USACE will receive oral comments during a public scoping meeting scheduled for the latter part of the scoping period. Notice of the public scoping meeting will be made through mailings and/or legal notices in local newspapers.

4. Public Participation in the EIS Process

The EIS process will provide opportunities for full participation by interested federal, state, and local agencies, as well as other interested organizations and the general public. All interested parties are encouraged to submit their names and addresses to the contact person indicated above for inclusion on the distribution list for the draft and final EIS and any related public notices.

5. Federal Agency Participation in the EIS Process

Federal agencies with an interest in this EIS effort are requested to participate as cooperating agencies pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1501.6. All interested federal agencies are requested to submit a letter of intent to Colonel Gary Thomas, Corps of Engineers, District Engineer.

John R. Hartmann,

Chief, Operations Division.

[FR Doc. 97-7906 Filed 3-27-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-06-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[Docket No. EA-142]

Application To Export Electric Energy; Eastern Power Distribution, Inc.

AGENCY: Office of Fossil Energy, DOE.

AGENCY: Notice of application.

SUMMARY: Eastern Power Distribution, Inc. (EPD), a power marketer, has submitted an application to export electric energy to Canada pursuant to section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act.

DATES: Comments, protests or requests to intervene must be submitted on or before April 28, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments, protests or requests to intervene should be addressed as follows: Office of Coal & Power Im/Ex (FE-52), Office of Fossil Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585 (FAX 202-287-5736).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Xavier Puslowski (Program Office) 202-586-4708 or Michael Skinker (Program Attorney) 202-586-6667.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Exports of electricity from the United States to a foreign country are regulated and require authorization under section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act (FPA) (16 U.S.C. 824a(e)).

On March 7, 1997, EPD filed an application with the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) for authorization to export electric energy to Canada as a power marketer, pursuant to section 202(e) of the FPA. Specifically, EPD has proposed to transmit to Canada electric energy purchased from suppliers in the United States and Mexico.

EPD would arrange for the exported energy to be transmitted to Canada, over the international transmission facilities owned by Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Bonneville Power Administration, Citizens Utilities,