

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Availability of a Draft Plan for U.S. Navy Submarine Solid Waste Management for MARPOL Annex V Special Areas, an Addendum to the Report to Congress on U.S. Navy Ship Solid Waste Management Plan for MARPOL Annex V Special Areas of November 1996

SUMMARY: The Department of the Navy (DON) announces the availability of a document providing the proposed management plan for solid waste aboard Navy submarines. This document discusses the results of studies designed to determine the practicability of various options for solid waste management aboard submarines pursuant to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), Annex V Special Areas, as required by the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships. As an addendum report to the U.S. Navy's November 1996 Report to Congress, "U.S. Navy Ship Solid Waste Management Plan for MARPOL Annex V Special Areas," this document provides additional information on submarines that was not previously available.

Copies of the U.S. Navy Submarine Solid Waste Management Plan for MARPOL Annex V Special Areas may be obtained from, and written comments on the Plan may be submitted to, Mr. Cartwright at the address provided below.

DATES: Written comments on the Plan will be considered if received by October 17, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David Cartwright NAVSEA 92TE, Assistant for Submarine Environmental and Occupational Safety Affairs, Department of the Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command, 2531 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22242-5160 [(703) 602-8096 (Ext. 475)].

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The U.S. Navy Submarine Solid Waste Management Plan is being prepared pursuant to Section 1003(c)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994, Public Law 103-160, codified at 33 U.S.C. 1902(2)-(4). That statute required the Secretary of the Navy to submit, by 30 November 1996, a plan for compliance by all ships owned or operated by the DON with the requirements of regulation 5 of Annex V of MARPOL. The Navy's 1996 report stated that an addendum would be prepared for submarine solid waste management. MARPOL establishes rules

pertaining to the discharge of shipboard solid waste from vessels operating in designated "special areas" of the world, of which three are currently in effect: the Baltic Sea, the North Sea and the Antarctic Region.

The development of the U.S. Navy Submarine Solid Waste Management Plan has been coordinated with the public through meetings held in September, 1994, and March, 1997; with the Department of State, Department of Commerce, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, and other Federal agencies. A Notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact, resulting from an Environmental Assessment on the Plan, appears in this **Federal Register**.

The Submarine Solid Waste Management Plan addresses six solid waste management options. The proposed action is: the discharge of non-plastic, non-hazardous, negatively buoyant, compacted solid waste, other than grindable food wastes in special areas beyond 25 nautical miles (nm) from land, or between 12nm and 25nm only when the depth of water is greater than 6,000 feet; use of source reduction, non-plastic "wet bags," and compaction technology, which will enable submarines to retain all plastics for shore disposal by December 31, 2008; and processing food wastes through a garbage grinder and discharging the wastes greater than 3nm from land. Implementation of the proposed action satisfies MARPOL's "reasonable and practicable" standard for warships, but will require an amendment to the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships to allow the discharge of compacted, negatively buoyant, non-plastic solid wastes by submarines in Special Areas.

Dated: September 12, 1997.

Darse E. Crandall,

LCDR, JAGC, USN, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Notice of Commission Meeting and Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Delaware River Basin Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, September 24, 1997. The hearing will be part of the Commission's regular business meeting which is open to the public and scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. in the Goddard Conference Room of the Commission's offices at 25 State Police Drive, West Trenton, New Jersey.

An informal conference among the Commissioners and staff will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the same location and will open with a presentation and discussion of the results of the Commission's recently completed Delaware River Basin Commission Survey to Assess its Management of the Basin's Water Resources. The survey results are also available by calling (609) 883-9500 ext. 215 and leaving your name and address, or may be downloaded from the Commission's web site at: <http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/drbc.htm>. The conference will also include a presentation on the New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan's cross-acceptance process and a discussion of depletive water use above Commission reservoirs.

The subjects of the hearing will be as follows:

Applications for Approval of the Following Projects Pursuant to Article 10.3, Article 11 and/or Section 3.8 of the Compact:

1. *Town of Middletown-Arkville Water District D-86-77 CP RENEWAL* 2. An application for the renewal of a ground water withdrawal project to supply up to 4.5 million gallons (mg)/30 days of water to the applicant's distribution system from Well Nos. 3 and 4. Commission approval on August 12, 1992 was limited to five years. The applicant requests that the total withdrawal from all wells remain limited to 4.5 mg/30 days. The project is located in the Town of Middletown, Delaware County, New York.

2. *Playtex Family Products Corporation D-90-106 RENEWAL*. An application for the renewal of a ground water withdrawal project to supply up to 12 mg/30 days of water to the applicant's product processing facility from Well Nos. 1-NE and 2-SE. Commission approval on May 20, 1992 was limited to five years. The applicant requests that the total withdrawal from all wells remain limited to 12 mg/30 days. The project is located in the City of Dover, Kent County, Delaware.

3. *Montague Water Company D-91-75 CP RENEWAL*. An application for the renewal of a ground water withdrawal project to supply up to 8.0 mg/30 days of water to the applicant's distribution system from Well Nos. 1 through 5. Commission approval on March 25, 1992 was limited to five years. The applicant requests that the total withdrawal from all wells remain limited to 8.0 mg/30 days. The project is located in Montague Township, Sussex County, New Jersey.

4. *Hewlett-Packard Company D-97-15 (D)*. An application for the discharge of wastewater resulting from a ground