

of dual tract would be eliminated and rehabilitated.

### Environmental Consequences

In general, the Proposed Action would involve trade-offs between long term, adverse affects on desert resources as a result of cable removal activities and permanent gains or benefits associated with removal of structures and rehabilitation actions at the repeater hut sites and along the access corridor. Removal and rehabilitation activities would result in unavoidable, long term adverse effects on desert vegetation, animal species of concern, soil productivity, and visual aesthetics. Construction activities would also result in temporary adverse air quality and noise impacts. Removal of marker posts along 220 miles would enhance desert tortoise habitat by eliminating predator perches and removal of repeater huts would enhance desert aesthetics. Rehabilitation actions along the access corridor would have an unavoidable, permanent adverse effect on recreational access to open desert areas on federal land. Rehabilitation action along the access corridor and at the repeater hut sites, overall, would have a beneficial impact on desert resources. Alternative B would result in long term losses of desert vegetation and desert tortoise habitat due to 113.7 fewer miles of cable removal activities, but would affect 61 fewer miles than the Proposed action. The enhancement of desert tortoise habitat by eliminating predator perches would be the same as the proposal. Elimination of 12 more miles of the access corridor would result in a greater permanent gain to desert tortoise habitat by eliminating the vehicle related impacts, but would have greater impacts on recreation access than the proposal. The permanent enhancement of habitat values at the repeater hut sites would be the same as the proposal. The permanent visual enhancement associated with removal of aboveground structures would be the same as the proposal. Impacts of Alternative C would result in long term loss of desert vegetation and desert tortoise habitat due to 72.3 fewer miles of cable removal, but would affect 102 miles less than the proposal. The enhancement of desert tortoise habitat by eliminating predator perches along 220 miles would be the same as the proposal. Eliminating 34 fewer miles of the access corridor as compared with the proposal would result in a smaller permanent gain to desert tortoise habitat but would avoid the recreational access impacts of the proposal. The permanent enhancement of habitat values at the repeater hut sites would be the same as the proposal. The

permanent visual enhancement associated with removal of the aboveground structures would be the same as the proposal.

The DEIS was prepared in order to evaluate a range of alternatives, assess the impacts of these alternatives and to provide the public with an opportunity to comment. This document will be on public review for at least 60 days. The NPS and the BLM would appreciate any comments on the project.

**DATES:** Comments on the Draft EIS should be received no later than March 27, 1998. Two public meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, January 14, 1998 (10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.) at the Hole-in-the-Wall Visitor Center within the Mojave National Preserve; and (7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.) at the Holiday Inn, 1511 E. Main Street, in Barstow, California. Further information can be obtained by contacting Joan DeGraff of the NPS at (303) 969-2464.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on the Draft EIS should be submitted to Joan DeGraff National Park Service, Denver Service Center, P.O. BOX 25287, Denver, CO. 80225-0287.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Copies of the DEIS are available on the Internet at the NPS web site <http://www.nps.gov/planning/index.html>. Public reading copies of the DEIS are available for review at local NPS and BLM Offices and at local public libraries. For information on these locations contact: Joan DeGraff at (303) 969-2464.

Dated: December 19, 1997.

**Willie R. Taylor,**

*Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

#### Acadia National Park Advisory Commission; Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770, 5 U.S.C. App. 1, Sec. 10), that the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission will hold a meeting on Monday, January 12, 1998.

The Commission was established pursuant to Public Law 99-420, Section 103. The purpose of the commission is to consult with the Secretary of the Interior, or his designee, on matters relating to the management and development of the park, including but not limited to the acquisition of lands

and interests in lands (including conservation easements on islands) and termination of rights of use and occupancy.

The meeting will convene at park Headquarters, McFarland Hill, Bar Harbor, Maine, at 1:00 p.m. to consider the following agenda:

1. Review and approval of minutes from the meeting held October 27, 1997.
2. Committee reports.
3. Old business.
4. Superintendent's report.
5. Public comments.
6. Proposed agenda and date of next Commission meeting.

The meeting is open to the public. Interested persons may make oral/written presentations to the Commission or file written statements. Such requests should be made to the Superintendent at least seven days prior to the meeting.

Further information concerning this meeting may be obtained from the Superintendent, Acadia National Park, P.O. Box 177, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609, tel: (207) 288-3338.

Dated: December 18, 1997.

**Len Bobinchock,**

*Acting Superintendent, Acadia National Park.*

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## INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 332-288]

### Ethyl Alcohol for Fuel Use: Determination of the Base Quantity of Imports

**AGENCY:** United States International Trade Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of determination.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** December 19, 1997.

**SUMMARY:** Section 7 of the Steel Trade Liberalization Program Implementation Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2703 note), which concerns local feedstock requirements for fuel ethyl alcohol imported by the United States from CBI-beneficiary countries, requires the Commission to determine annually the U.S. domestic market for fuel ethyl alcohol during the 12-month period ending on the preceding September 30. The domestic market estimate made by the Commission is to be used to establish the "base quantity" of imports that can be imported with a zero percent local feedstock requirement. The base quantity to be used by the U.S. Customs Service in the administration of the law is the greater of 60 million gallons or 7 percent of U.S. consumption as