

FR 1179). FACOSH will meet on September 24, 1998, starting at 2:00 p.m., in Room S-4215 A&B, of the Francis Perkins Department of Labor Building, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20210. The meeting will adjourn at approximately 4:30 p.m., and will be open to the public.

Agenda items will include:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Vision for FACOSH
- III. Federal Worker 2000
- IV. Federal Agency Occupational Safety and Health Programs Partnerships and Evaluations
- V. Department of Energy's Zero Tolerance for Serious Accidents that Results in Life-Threatening Injuries or Major Environmental Contamination
- VI. 53rd Annual Federal Safety and Health Conference in Los Angeles
- VII. Status of Annual Reports for FY 1997
- VIII. New Business
- IX. Adjournment

Written data, views or comments may be submitted, preferably with 20 copies, to the Office of Federal Agency Programs, at the address provided below. All such submissions, received by September 16, 1998, will be provided to the members of the Council and will be included in the record of the meeting. Anyone wishing to make an oral presentation should notify the Office of Federal Agency Programs by close of business September 18, 1998. The request should state the amount of time desired, the capacity in which the person will appear and a brief outline of the content of the presentation. Persons who request the opportunity to address the Advisory Council may be allowed to speak, as time permits, at the discretion of the Chairperson of the Advisory Council. Individuals with disabilities who wish to attend the meeting should contact John E. Plummer at the address indicated below, if special accommodations are needed.

For additional information please contact John E. Plummer, Director, Office of Federal Agency Programs, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Room N3112, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20210, telephone: (202) 219-9329. An official record of the meeting will be available for public inspection at the Office of Federal Agency Programs.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 28th day of August 1998.

Charles N. Jeffress,

Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health.

[FR Doc. 98-23705 Filed 9-2-98; 8:45 am]

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INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION, UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

United States Section; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the El Paso-Las Cruces Regional Sustainable Water Project Sierra and Doña Ana Counties, New Mexico and El Paso County, TX

AGENCY: United States Section, International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the United States Section, International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) in conjunction with the El Paso Water Utilities/Public Service Board (EPWU/PSB) proposes to gather information necessary to analyze and evaluate the impacts of the proposed El Paso-Las Cruces Regional Sustainable Water Project in Sierra and Doña Ana counties, New Mexico and El Paso County, Texas and prepare an EIS to document those effects. This notice is being provided as required by the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1501.7) and the USIBWC's Operational Procedures for Implementing Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, published in the **Federal Register** September 2, 1981 (46 FR 44083-44094) to obtain suggestions and information from other agencies and the public on the scope of issues to be addressed in the EIS. Public meetings and workshops will be held to obtain community input to ensure all concerns are identified and addressed in the EIS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Douglas Echlin, Environmental Protection Specialist, Environmental Management Division, USIBWC, 4171 North Mesa Street, C-310, El Paso, Texas 79902 or call 915/832-4150 extension 2. E-mail: dougechlin@ibwc.state.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Proposed Action

One of the most important challenges the El Paso-Las Cruces region faces is the long-term supply of drinking water. Rapid growth within the region has resulted in greater use of the local aquifers, a major regional source of drinking water, which are now experiencing net depletions. The New Mexico-Texas Water Commission (Commission) was established in 1991 to help meet the region's water resource challenges, and the El Paso-Las Cruces Regional Sustainable Water Project was conceived.

The proposed project's primary mission is to provide a sustainable water supply for the El Paso-Las Cruces region. The overall objectives established by the Commission are: (1) improve and protect surface and ground water quality; (2) preserve the Hueco and Mesilla ground water basins; (3) implement year-round delivery of surface water which will enhance agricultural and municipal water supplies and the riverine ecosystem; (4) increase supplies through more efficient delivery, water conservation, and water treatment means; and (5) continue to meet treaty, compact, and contract requirements for water deliveries of Rio Grande Project waters.

The proposed project would provide nearly 230 million gallons per day (MGD) year-round surface water to communities and other water users in southern New Mexico and far west Texas. The communities expected to benefit from the proposed project would include but are not limited to Hatch, Las Cruces, and Anthony, New Mexico and Anthony, Canutillo, and El Paso, Texas. Surface deliveries of year-round waters would be accomplished through acquisition of agricultural water rights and conversion to municipal and industrial (M&I) uses. A series of alternative approaches have been developed that would convey the water through use of the river channel and include construction of new conveyance facilities and treatment plants, upgrading and using existing conveyance facilities and treatment plants, or a combination of these means.

2. Alternatives

The USIBWC as lead agency in conjunction with the EPWU/PSB proposes to gather information necessary for the preparation of an EIS to analyze alternatives for the proposed El Paso-Las Cruces Regional Sustainable Water Project. The EIS will consider a range of alternatives, including the no action alternative, based on issues and concerns associated with the project.

Significant issues which have been identified to be addressed in the EIS include but are not limited to impacts to water and air quality, surface and ground water resources, land use, prime and unique farmlands, public health, cultural and biological resources, threatened and endangered species, recreation, and environmental justice.

Accordingly, specific purposes were developed to focus water supply scenarios and to establish criteria to be used by decision-makers in judging the alternatives during the NEPA process. Project alternatives considered for the environmental impact studies should protect and maintain sustainability of the Mesilla aquifer, and extend the longevity of the Hueco aquifer by limiting ground water depletions and by implementing aquifer storage.

Project alternatives should provide year-round drinking water supply from the Rio Grande Project of sufficient quantity and quality to meet anticipated municipal needs. Alternatives considered in the NEPA process should meet year 2030 M&I needs of Hatch, Las Cruces, northern and southern Doña Ana County, Anthony/Canutillo area, northwest and northeast El Paso, and areas served by the Canal and expanded Jonathan Rogers Water Treatment Plants. They should also attempt to provide raw drinking water supply with total dissolved solids (TDS) less than 1,000 parts per million (ppm) and sulfates less than 300 ppm since water with higher quantities cannot be conventionally treated. Additionally, project alternatives should also protect and enhance riverine ecosystems, specifically aquatic and riparian habitats; and should facilitate the efficient conveyance of agricultural water and water conservation.

Coordination with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service will ensure compliance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Cultural resources reconnaissance for the project area will be coordinated with both the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer and the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer. Other federal and state agencies, as required, will also be consulted to ensure compliance with federal and state laws and regulations.

3. Scoping Process

The USIBWC and EPWU/PSB will conduct scoping meetings and workshops to obtain information on which to base alternatives to be analyzed in the NEPA process. The USIBWC is the federal lead agency in the NEPA process and development of

the EIS. The United States Bureau of Reclamation and United States Fish and Wildlife Service have indicated that they will participate as cooperating agencies pursuant to 40 CFR 1501.6, to the extent possible. Other federal and state agencies may also become cooperators as they are identified during the scoping process.

Three public scoping meetings and workshops for the proposed project will be conducted from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. MDT on Wednesday, September 16, 1998 at the Gadsden Middle School Cafeteria, 1325 West Washington, Anthony, New Mexico; on Wednesday, September 23, 1998 at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, Las Cruces, New Mexico; and on Thursday, September 24, 1998 at Jefferson High School Cafeteria, 4700 Alameda, El Paso, Texas. Comments are encouraged to be sent to the address given in this notice and will be accepted for 60-days following the date of this notice.

The environmental review of this project will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of NEPA, CEQ Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500–1508), other appropriate federal regulations, and the USIBWC procedures for compliance with those regulations. Copies of the EIS will be transmitted to federal and state agencies and other interested parties for comments and will be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency in accordance with 40 CFR Parts 1500–1508 and USIBWC procedures.

The USIBWC anticipates the Draft EIS will be made available to the public by March, 2000.

Dated: August 20, 1998.

William A. Wilcox, Jr.,

Legal Advisor.

[FR Doc. 98-23804 Filed 9-1-98; 8:45 am]

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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice (98-114)]

National Environmental Policy Act; Mars Surveyor 1998 Missions

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Finding of no significant impact (FONSI).

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40

CFR Parts 1500–1508), and NASA policy and procedures (14 CFR Part 1216 Subpart 1216.3), NASA has made a FONSI with respect to the proposed Mars Surveyor 1998 missions, which would involve two flights to Mars. The baseline plan calls for each of the two spacecraft to be launched aboard a separate Delta II 7425 from Cape Canaveral Air Station (CCAS), Florida, between December 1998 and January 1999.

DATES: Comments on the FONSI must be provided in writing to NASA on or before October 5, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments in response to this FONSI should be addressed to Dr. William L. Piotrowski, NASA Headquarters, Code SD, 300 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20546. The Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for the Mars Surveyor 1998 missions which supports this FONSI may be reviewed at the following locations:

(a) NASA Headquarters, Library, room 1J20, 300 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20546 (202-358-0167).

(b) NASA, Spaceport USA, Room 2001, John F. Kennedy Space Center, Florida 32899. Please call Lisa Fowler beforehand at 407-867-2497 so that arrangements can be made.

(c) Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Visitors Lobby, Building 249, 4800 Oak Grove Drive, Pasadena, CA 91109 (818-354-5179).

The EA may also be examined at the following NASA locations by contacting the pertinent Freedom of Information Act Office:

(d) NASA, Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA 94035 (650-604-4191).

(e) NASA, Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, CA 93523 (805-258-2663).

(f) NASA, Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD 20771 (301-286-0730).

(g) NASA, Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX 77058 (281-483-8612).

(h) NASA, Langley Research Center, Hampton, VA 23665 (757-864-2497).

(i) NASA, Lewis Research Center, 21000 Brookpark Road, Cleveland, OH 44135 (216-433-2755).

(j) NASA, Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, AL 35812 (256-544-5549).

(k) NASA, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529 (228-688-2164).

A limited number of copies of the EA are available, on a first request basis, by contacting Dr. William L. Piotrowski, at the address or telephone number indicated herein.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. William L. Piotrowski, 202-358-0316.