

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Danny Werfel, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, N.W., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503 or should be electronically mailed to the internet address DWERFEL@OMB.EOP.GOV. Requests for copies of the proposed information collection requests should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, D.C. 20202-4651, or should be electronically mailed to the internet address [Pat\\_Sherrill@ed.gov](mailto:Pat_Sherrill@ed.gov), or should be faxed to 202-708-9346.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Patrick J. Sherrill (202) 708-8196. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Acting Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment at the address specified above. Copies of the requests are available from Patrick J. Sherrill at the address specified above.

Dated: April 20, 1999.

**William E. Burrow,**

*Acting Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

#### **Office of Postsecondary Education**

*Type of Review:* New.

*Title:* TRIO Dissemination Program.

*Frequency:* Annually.

*Affected Public:* Not-for-profit institutions; State, local or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

*Reporting and Recordkeeping Burden:*

Responses: 50.

Burden Hours: 2,250.

*Abstract:* The TRIO Dissemination Program provides grants to enable TRIO projects to work with other institutions and agencies that serve first-generation, low-income persons in replicating or adapting successful TRIO program components and practices.

The application package is available on the Department's web site: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/OHEP/heps/disssem/>

Comments regarding this package may be submitted to the following electronic mailbox: TRIO@ED.gov.

This information collection is being submitted under the Streamlined Clearance Process for Discretionary Grant Information Collections (1890-0001). Therefore, this 30-day public comment notice will be the only public comment notice published for this information collection.

[FR Doc. 99-10240 Filed 4-22-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

### **Notice of Availability: Revised Draft Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement and Comprehensive Land-Use Plan**

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces the availability of the Revised Draft Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement and Comprehensive Land-Use Plan (HRA-EIS), DOE/EIS-0222D, for public review. The proposed action is to establish a comprehensive land use plan for the next 50 years for the Hanford Site near Richland, Washington. This EIS identifies alternative future land uses for the Hanford Site and discusses the potential associated environmental impacts. Because DOE has significantly revised the scope of the HRA-EIS and alternatives considered in response to comments received on the draft EIS published in August 1996, it is

appropriate to issue this revised draft HRA-EIS. Since land use was an objective of the previous draft EIS, no further scoping meetings are required. The 1996 Draft HRA-EIS focused on developing an overall strategy for remediating the Hanford Site and included a proposed land use plan as an appendix; the revised Draft HRA-EIS focuses only on land use planning. To reflect this reduction in scope, DOE is soliciting comments on changing the name of this EIS to the Hanford Comprehensive Land-Use EIS as well as on the contents of the Revised Draft HRA-EIS. The draft HRA-EIS evaluates five "action alternatives," each of which represents a Federal, State, local agency, or Tribe's preferred land-use alternative, and also evaluates a "no-action alternative" of continuing current land use practices. DOE's preferred alternative for future uses of the Hanford Site includes consolidating waste management operations in the Central Plateau; allowing industrial development in the eastern and southern portions of the site; increasing recreational access to the Columbia River; and expanding the Saddle Mountain National Wildlife Refuge to include all of the Wahluke Slope.

**DATES:** The public comment period begins today and concludes on June 7, 1999. DOE invites Federal agencies, Native American Tribes, State and local governments, and the public to comment on the Revised Draft HRA-EIS. DOE will consider all timely comments in preparing the Final EIS, and will consider comments provided after the close of the comment period to the extent practicable.

Public information meetings and hearings will be held during the comment period.

May 18, 1999: State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon Street, Portland, Oregon. DOE will conduct informal information session from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by a public hearing beginning at 7 p.m.

May 20, 1999: Shilo Inn, 50 Comstock Road, Richland, Washington. DOE will conduct informal information session from 3 to 5 p.m. and from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by a public hearing beginning at 7 p.m.

June 3, 1999: Ridpath Hotel, West 515 Sprague Avenue, Spokane, Washington. DOE will conduct informal information session from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by a public hearing beginning at 7 p.m.

In addition, during the comment period DOE will participate in public involvement activities sponsored by the other cooperating agencies, at times and locations to be determined.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on the Revised Draft HRA-EIS may be mailed to Mr. Thomas W. Ferns, DOE National Environmental Policy Act Document Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, PO Box 550, MSIN HO-12, Richland, Washington 99352-0550. Comments also may be transmitted by fax to 509-376-4360 or by electronic mail to Thomas\_W\_Ferns@rl.gov.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request information about the HRA-EIS and the public meetings and hearings, or to request copies of the document, use any of the methods listed in **ADDRESSES** above. (The Revised Draft HRA-EIS will also be made available on the DOE NEPA Web at <http://tis.eh.doe.gov/nepa/> under DOE NEPA Analyses and at <http://www.hanford.gov/eis/hraeis/hraeis.htm> on the DOE Hanford Web Site.) When requesting copies of the document, please specify whether you wish to receive only the summary (about 100 pages), or the entire document including appendices. For general information about the DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, contact: Carol Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance (EH-42), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0119. Phone: 202-586-4600, or leave a message at: 800-472-2756. Fax: 202-586-7031.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

DOE published a notice of intent to prepare the HRA-EIS in 1992 (57 FR 37959; August 21, 1992). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology), and DOE, in cooperation with other interested parties, initiated a process to involve stakeholders in the development of a vision for the future of the Hanford Site. A committee consisting of representatives of labor, environmental, governmental, agricultural, economic development, citizen-interest groups, and Tribal governments was established and became known as the Hanford Future Site Uses Working Group (Working Group). The result of the Working Group's efforts, a report titled *The Future for Hanford: Uses and Cleanup; The Final Report of the Hanford Future Site Uses Working Group* was issued in December 1992, and was submitted to DOE as a formal scoping comment for the HRA-EIS.

DOE issued the Draft HRA-EIS in August 1996. DOE received more than 2,000 comments from approximately

230 commenters on the August 1996 Draft HRA-EIS. These comments, as well as transcripts from the public hearing, are included in the Comment and Response Volume of the Revised Draft HRA-EIS. A summary of the Comment-Response Volume is provided as Appendix F of the Revised Draft HRA-EIS, and the entire Comment-Response Volume is being provided for public review in local and regional information repositories. Several commenters, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, urged DOE to change the scope of the EIS to eliminate consideration of remedial action alternatives. DOE revised the 1996 draft EIS in accordance with this recommendation.

**Revised Draft HRA-EIS**

During the public comment period on the August 1996 Draft HRA-EIS, several Federal, State, and local agencies and American Indian Tribes expressed an interest in working with DOE to establish alternative visions for future land uses. In response, DOE invited representatives of other Federal Agencies, American Indian Tribes, and State and local governments to participate in ongoing planning efforts. These groups became cooperating agencies and consulting Tribal governments in the preparation of a Revised Draft HRA-EIS.

**Cooperating Agencies and Consulting Tribal Governments**

The cooperating agencies and consulting Tribal governments helping to prepare the Revised Draft HRA-EIS are: Benton, Franklin, and Grant counties; the City of Richland; and the U.S. Department of Interior (Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Consulting Tribal governments are the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Nez Perce Tribe, Department of Environmental Restoration and Waste Management.

Since March 1997, DOE has worked with these cooperating agencies and consulting Tribal governments to establish a framework for the environmental analyses presented in this Revised Draft HRA-EIS. Substantial agreement was reached among the cooperating agencies and consulting Tribal governments on the development of nine land-use designations and definitions, and on the format for determining the potential environmental impacts associated with the land uses carried forward in this EIS. The nine land-use designations are: Industrial-Exclusive, Industrial,

Agricultural, Research and Development, High-Intensity Recreation, Low-Intensity Recreation, Conservation (Mining and Grazing), Conservation (Mining), and Preservation.

The cooperating agencies and consulting Tribal governments also worked together to develop the proposed policies and procedures in Chapter 6 of the revised draft HRA-EIS for implementing the Comprehensive Land-Use Plan. These policies would manage competing land use and resource use goals and objectives; provide for amendments to the comprehensive land-use plan where necessary; and identify area- and resource-management plans to be developed as part of the land-use plan implementation.

**Revised Draft HRA-EIS Alternatives**

The Revised Draft HRA-EIS presents a set of land-use policies and procedures specific to the Hanford Site. It evaluates six alternatives, including a no-action alternative of continuing current land use practices, DOE's preferred alternative, and four other alternatives, each of which represents a Federal, State, Tribal, or local agency's preferred set of land uses. DOE's preferred alternative for future uses of the Hanford Site includes consolidating waste management operations in the Central Plateau; allowing industrial development in the eastern and southern portions of the site; increasing recreational access to the Columbia River; and expanding the Saddle Mountain National Wildlife Refuge to include all of the Wahluke Slope.

**Public Involvement Opportunities**

DOE has scheduled information meetings and public hearings [see **DATES**] during the comment period that ends on June 7, 1999. Persons interested in speaking at the hearings may register at the hearings and will be called on to speak on a first-come, first-served basis. Written comments will also be accepted at the hearings, and speakers are encouraged to provide written versions of their oral comments for the record. Oral and written comments will be considered equally in preparing the Final EIS. DOE intends to complete the Final HRA-EIS and issue a Record of Decision in November 1999.

**DOE Public Reading Rooms and Information Repositories**

The Revised Draft HRA-EIS and associated reference materials can be found in the following DOE Public Reading Rooms and Information Repositories:

- Suzzallo Library, University of Washington, Government Publications Room, Mail Stop FM-25, Seattle, Washington 98195-2900, phone 206-543-4664;

- Foley Center, Gonzaga University, E 502 Boone Avenue, Spokane, Washington 99258, phone 509-328-4220, ext. 3844;

- U.S. Department of Energy Public Reading Room, Washington State University, Tri-Cities Campus, 100 Sprout Road, Room 130 West, Richland, Washington 99352, (509) 376-8583;

- Branford Price Millar Library, Science and Engineering Floor, Portland State University, SW Harrison and Park, Portland, Oregon 97207, phone 503-725-3690;

- U.S. Department of Energy Freedom of Information Reading Room, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585, phone 202-586-5000.

Issued this 19th day of April 1999.

**James J. Fiore,**

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Restoration.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 11659-000]

#### Gustavus Electric Company of Gustavus, Alaska; Notice of Scoping Meetings, Site Visit, and Soliciting Additional Comments on the Request to Use Alternative Licensing Procedures

April 19, 1999.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC or Commission) Regulations provide applicants with the option of preparing their own Environmental Assessment (EA) for hydropower projects, and filing this applicant prepared environmental assessment (APEA) with their application as part of an alternative licensing procedure (ALP).<sup>1</sup> On February 17, 1999, the Commission received a request from Gustavus Electric Company (GEC) to use the ALP in the preparation of a license application for the proposed Kahtaheena River (Falls Creek) Project, No. 11659. On March 9, 1999, the Commission issued a notice requesting comments on the applicant's use of this process. A Commission decision

regarding the use of this process is still pending; however, contingent on subsequent Commission approval of the use of this process, we are proceeding with scoping, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, at this time.

The alternative procedures include provisions for the distribution of an initial information package, and for the cooperative scoping of environmental issues and needed studies. On December 1, 1998, GEC distributed their initial information document (ICD). On January 19 and 20, 1999, GEC held two public meetings to discuss the ICD and conducted a visit of the proposed project site. On April 5, 1999, GEC distributed their Scoping Document 1 (SD1).<sup>2</sup> As part of scoping, GEC has scheduled two public meetings to discuss the information presented in SD1, primarily the alternatives and issues to be evaluated in any APEA which may be prepared by GEC if it is subsequently approved to use the ALP in preparation of a license application. In addition to participating in the scoping meetings and site visit, Commission staff will use this opportunity to answer questions and take comments about the use of the ALP. Participation in these meetings will not prejudice any rights or future participation by the Department of the Interior or any of its subsidiary agencies.

#### Scoping Meetings

GEC will hold public scoping meetings on May 6 and 7, 1999, pursuant to NEPA. At the scoping meetings, GEC will: (1) Summarize the environmental issues tentatively identified for analysis in the EA; (2) outline any resources they believe would not require a detailed analysis; (3) identify reasonable alternatives to be addressed in the EA; (4) solicit from the meeting participants all available information, especially quantitative data, on the resources at issue; and (5) encourage statements from experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the EA.

GEC has requested to use the ALP and prepare an APEA for inclusion in its application; however, there is the possibility that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be required. If the Commission subsequently approves the applicant's request to use the ALP, these meetings would serve to satisfy the NEPA scoping requirements, regardless of whether an EA or EIS is issued by the Commission

and/or any other participating federal agencies.<sup>3</sup>

The times and locations of the scoping meeting are:

Evening scoping meeting	Morning scoping meeting
May 6, 1999, 7:00 p.m. Multipurpose Room, Gustavus School, Gustavus, Alaska.	May 7, 1999, 1:00 p.m., King Conference Room, Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game, 802 Third Street, Douglas Alaska.

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited and encouraged to attend any or all of the meetings to assist in identifying and clarifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA.

#### Scoping Meeting Procedures

These scoping meetings will be conducted consistent with the procedures used at Commission scoping meetings. Commission staff will attend the meetings on May 6 and 7, 1999. These meetings would serve to address the Commission's scoping requirements under NEPA if the applicant is subsequently approved to use the ALP. Regardless of whether the applicant's request to use the ALP is approved, the Commission may reconvene scoping during the post-filing period if it is needed.

#### Commenting Deadline

Both scoping meetings will be recorded and the transcripts will become part of the formal record of the proceedings for this project. Those who choose not to speak during the scoping meetings may instead submit written comments on the project. Written comments should be mailed to: Mr. Richard Levitt, Gustavus Electric Company, P.O. Box 102, Gustavus, AK 99826.

All correspondence should be postmarked no later than July 7, 1999. Comments should show the following caption on the first page: Scoping Comments, Kahtaheena River (Falls Creek) Project, Project No. 11659.

#### Site Visit

GEC has scheduled a tour of the proposed project site on Thursday, May 6, 1999. This site visit will require

<sup>3</sup> The Glacier Bay National Park Boundary Adjustment Act of 1998 designates the National Park Service (NPS) as a joint lead agency with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in the preparation of any environmental document under NEPA for this project. FERC and NPS have initiated discussions to address how this joint lead designation would be coordinated.

<sup>1</sup> 81 FERC ¶ 61,103 (1997).

<sup>2</sup> Copies of the ICD and SDI can be obtained by calling Lani Joslin at 907-697-2299.