

Benefit Information

A determination of "active duty" under Public Law 95-202 is "for the purposes of all laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs" (38 U.S.C. 106). Benefits are not retroactive and do not include such things as increased military or Federal Civil Service retirement pay, or a military burial detail, for example. Entitlement to state veterans benefits vary and are governed by each state. Therefore, for specific benefits information, contact your nearest Veterans Affairs Office and your state veterans service office after you have received your Armed Forces discharge documents.

Janet A. Long,

Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Army****Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Transportable Treatment Systems for Non-Stockpile Chemical Warfare Materiel**

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS) has been prepared by the Army in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, regulations of the President's Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Army Regulation 200-2. The Department of the Army, as Executive Agent for the DoD, is responsible for destroying that portion of the nation's chemical warfare materiel (CWM) referred to as "non-stockpile" CWM. This non-stockpile CWM must be destroyed in order to protect human health and safety, comply with an international treaty, and carry out the requirements of the U.S. Congress. Non-stockpile CWM covered under this DPEIS includes: (1) Munitions containing chemical agent or industrial chemicals, (2) chemical agents or industrial chemicals contained in other than munitions configurations, and (3) chemical agent identification set items containing small quantities of pure or diluted agent used for training purposes.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before February 4, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Questions and written comments regarding the DPEIS, or a request for a copy of the document, should be directed to: Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization, ATTN:

SFAE-CD-NP (Mr. John K. Giesecking/PEIS), Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-4005 or via email at john.giesecking@pmcd.apgea.army.mil. **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. John K. Giesecking at (410) 436-3768 or by fax at (410) 436-8737.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Army's Product Manager for Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel has analyzed the potential environmental and socioeconomic consequences of two alternative courses of action in the DPEIS with respect to the Army's chemical demilitarization responsibilities:

(1) Using transportable chemical treatment systems, under which the Army would use as many as four different types of transportable systems currently being developed to chemically treat non-stockpile CWM.

(2) The no action alternative, under which the Army would discontinue development of the transportable treatment systems currently being developed and continue storage of non-stockpile CWM until other technologies are developed.

Other alternatives that were considered, but not evaluated in detail, are: (1) Using stockpile CWM disposal facilities; (2) using other treatment systems or technologies, none of which have currently been sufficiently developed as part of an integrated system for the treatment of non-stockpile CWM; and (3) using commercial treatment facilities, which would require changes in federal law and Army policy.

The Army has determined, based on the DPEIS, that the no-action alternative could lead to the United States violating the Chemical Weapons Convention timetable requirements for destroying currently stored non-stockpile CWM or CWM recovered in the near future. The Army further concludes that using stockpile disposal facilities, other treatment systems, or commercial treatment facilities are not feasible alternatives given certain legal requirements, in addition to the time restraints of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The Army's preferred alternative course of action is to complete the development of transportable chemical treatment systems and make them available for deployment. Subsequent environmental reviews by the appropriate DoD authorities would address the impacts of actual deployment to specific locations.

A series of public meetings will be held at nine U.S. locations during the comment period to afford the public the

opportunity to provide oral and written comments on the DPEIS. These meetings will tentatively be held in the vicinity of Aberdeen, MD; Alexandria, LA; Anchorage, AK; Huntsville, AL; Indianapolis, IN; Salt Lake City, UT; San Antonio, TX; Santa Rosa, CA; and Tampa, FL. The specific time, locations, and dates of these meetings will be announced in appropriate news media at least 15 days prior to each meeting. Comments made at the public meetings and written comments received during the comment period will be used in the preparation of the Final PEIS.

Copies of the DPEIS have been forwarded to the EPA; other federal state, and local agencies; Native Americans; public officials; and organizations and individuals who previously provided substantive comments during the PEIS scoping process or have expressed interest in the Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Program. Copies of the DPEIS can also be obtained by calling the Public Outreach and Information Office of the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization at 1-800-488-0648 or (410) 436-3445; fax (410) 436-8737 or may be accessed at the following web site: <http://www-pmcd.apgea.army.mil/nscmp/index.html>.

Dated: October 14, 1999.

Raymond J. Fatz,

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health) OASA(I&E).

[FR Doc. 99-27501 Filed 10-20-99; 8:45 am]

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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 an informal conference followed by a public hearing on Wednesday, October 27, 1999. The hearing will be part of the Commission's regular business meeting. Both the conference and business meeting are open to the public and will be held in Courtroom #1 of the Carbon County Courthouse, at 4 Broadway, Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania.

The conference among the Commissioners and staff will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will include reports on the following subjects: hydrologic conditions in the basin; activities of the Flow Management Technical Advisory Committee; status of the Proposed Determination Regarding the Assimilative Capacity of the Tidal Delaware River for Volatile Organics