

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-6247-3]

Environmental Impact Statements and Regulations; Availability of EPA Comments

Availability of EPA comments prepared October 4, 1999 Through October 8, 1999 pursuant to the Environmental Review Process (ERP), under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act as amended. Requests for copies of EPA comments can be directed to the Office of Federal Activities at (202) 564-7167.

An explanation of the ratings assigned to draft environmental impact statements (EISs) was published in the **Federal Register** dated April 10, 1999 (63 FR 17856).

Draft EISs

ERP No. D-APH-A82125-00 Rating EC2, Fruit Fly Cooperative Control Program, Eradication Program, Implementation.

Summary: EPA had environmental concerns with the control program. To address these concerns EPA suggested that the integrated approach be updated, that the risk assessment be more comprehensive, and that mitigation measures be developed for non-target species and sensitive resources.

ERP No. D-DOE-A08031-00 Rating EC1, Transmission System Vegetation Management Program, Implementation, Managing Vegetation, Site Specific, Right-of-Way Grant, CA, ID, MT, OR, UT, WA and WY.

Summary: EPA supported the management approach, but expressed concerns with its application. EPA requested that DOE take steps to minimize adverse ecological impacts from the use of herbicides to control vegetation beneath transmission lines and at electric substations.

ERP No. D-JUS-E81038-AL Rating EC2, Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), Expand Training for State and Local Emergency First Responders, Located at Fort McClellan, Calhoun, Cleburne, Randolph, Clay, Talladega, St. Clair, Etowah and Cherokee Counties, AL.

Summary: EPA expressed concern regarding potential air quality and hazardous waste disposal impacts and requested that these issues be further discussed in the Final EIS.

Final EISs

ERP No. F-FHW-F40353-WI, US 12 Highway Improvement, Sauk City to Middleton, Funding and COE Section

404 Permits Issuance, Sauk and Dane Counties, WI.

Summary: EPA has expressed concerns based on the project's potential impacts to Baraboo Hills National Natural Landmark Area. EPA was also concerned with the methodology used to analyze secondary impacts.

ERP No. RF-NOA-B91025-00, American Lobster Fishery Management Plan, Implementation, To Prevent Overfishing of American Lobster and to Rebuild Lobster Stocks, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off the New England and Mid-Atlantic.

Summary: EPA had no comment on the project.

Dated: October 19, 1999.

William D. Dickerson,

Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6463-3]

Science Advisory Board; Notification of Public Advisory Committee Meeting: Environmental Economics Advisory Committee

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given that several committees of the USEPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) will meet on the dates and times noted below. All times noted are Eastern Time. All meetings are open to the public, however, seating is limited and available on a first come basis. Important Notice: Documents that are the subject of SAB reviews are normally available from the originating EPA office and are not available from the SAB Office—information concerning availability of documents from the relevant Program Office is included below.

1—Environmental Economics Advisory Committee (EEAC)

The Environmental Economics Advisory Committee (EEAC) of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) will meet on Friday, November 12, 1999, at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Building—North, Room 6013, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC (the entrance to the building is adjacent to the Federal Triangle Metro stop on 12th Street). The SAB main telephone number is (202) 564-4533. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end no later than 3:00 p.m.

Purpose of the Meeting

The EEAC is meeting to consider and to provide advice and comment to EPA on its report *Induced Travel: A Review of Recent Literature with a Discussion of Policy Issues*. The EEAC will also receive a briefing by Agency personnel on the status of its efforts to develop an Economic Research Strategy and the committee will discuss its plans for additional meetings during Fiscal Year 2000.

Background Information

(a) *Induced Travel:* The Environmental Economics Advisory Committee has been asked to conduct an advisory review of the EPA report, *Induced Travel: A Review of Recent Literature with a Discussion of Policy Issues*. This follows a briefing on the subject at its April 20, 1999 meeting (see 64 FR 14232-14233). The theory of induced growth in vehicle travel hypothesizes that increases in the carrying capacity of a specific highway corridor or road network will result in an increased level of vehicle traffic. The increase in road capacity results in a decrease in the generalized cost of travel (especially the time costs of travel) and hence an increase in the demand for travel. This issue is a contentious issue among traffic engineers, transportation planners, and the environmental community. A common engineering approach assumes that demand for travel is derived from exogenous growth in economic activities, generally neglecting the inter-relationships between highway capacity, relative travel times, and overall regional accessibility.

The background document developed on this issue by EPA outlines the behavioral relationships underlying the theory of induced travel and reviews recent research that documents and empirically measures induced travel effects. The Agency believes that this research provides a strong case for the existence of induced travel effects, and in some cases suggests that a large fraction of growth in vehicle miles of travel (VMT) is directly attributable to increases in road capacity. The paper concludes with a discussion of the relevant research needs in this area and the implications for EPA policies and regulations.

(b) *Economic Research Plan:* The EEAC was asked at its April 9, 1998 meeting to provide the Agency with its advice on a list of topics proposed for inclusion in the EPA economic research program (see 63 FR 14112). The committee sent an Advisory to the EPA Administrator on September 22, 1998