

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE****Immigration and Naturalization Service**

[INS No. 2084-00]

**Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Installation, Operation, and Maintenance of a Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) System in Whatcom County, WA****AGENCY:** Immigration and Naturalization Service, Justice.**ACTION:** Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment (EA).**SUMMARY:****Proposed Action**

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Installation, Operation, and Maintenance of a Remote Video Surveillance (RVS) system in Whatcom County, Washington. The RVS system would consist of 45.5 miles of underground fiber optic line and 32 camera sites mounted on poles ranging in height from 50 to 80 feet. The proposed action would involve construction of an underground fiber optic line inside a 2-inch diameter (maximum) conduit by use of trenching, plowing, or directional boring equipment. The observation poles would be placed within augured holes and reinforced where necessary. All line and pole locations have been surveyed to identify wetlands, streams, endangered species habitat, or cultural resources. Where such resources were identified, the line would be relocated or installed via directional boring to avoid potential adverse impacts. Based upon the findings of this analysis, no significant adverse environmental impacts would result from the proposed action. Positive socioeconomic benefits would result from increased capabilities to interdict terrorist activity and illegal drug or alien trafficking.

**Alternatives to the Proposed Action**

The "No Action" alternative would reduce the effectiveness of the Border Patrol in performing counter drug and alien interdictions. The "Microwave" alternative would be more obtrusive, less flexible, and more expensive. The "increased staffing" alternative would be prohibitively expensive and would place an increased surveillance burden on Border Patrol staff.

A copy of the final EA/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) can be obtained from the INS at the following location: Ramon Garcia, Program Officer, Immigration and Naturalization

Service Facilities and Engineering 425 I Street, NW, Room 2060, Washington, DC, 20536, Telephone: (202) 616-2588, Fax: (202) 514-0579 e-mail: ramon.garcia@usdoj.gov.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Richard Diefenbeck, Director of Facilities and Engineering Division, 425 I Street, NW, Washington, DC 20536, telephone (202) 514-3099.

Dated: September 26, 2000.

**Doris Meissner,***Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service.*

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[OJP (NIJ)-1302]

**Eleventh Meeting of the National Commission on the Future of DNA Evidence Held in Conjunction With a DNA Conference Co-Hosted by the Kennedy School of Government; Notice of Meeting****AGENCY:** Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice, Justice.**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Announcement of the eleventh meeting of the National Commission on the Future of DNA Evidence held in conjunction with a DNA Conference co-hosted with the Kennedy School of Government.

**DATES:** The eleventh meeting of the National Commission on the Future of DNA Evidence will take place on Sunday, November 19, 2000, from 12:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m., ET. The Commission meeting will be followed by a three-day conference on "DNA and the Criminal Justice System" co-hosted by the Center for Business and Government at John F. Kennedy School of Government and the Department of Justice (please see "Supplementary Information" for details).

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will take place at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Malkin Penthouse, 79 John F. Kennedy Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Phone: (617) 495-1446.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information about the Commission Meeting, contact Christopher H. Asplen, AUSA, Executive Director; Phone (202) 616-8123. To register for the Conference, please call Robin Wilson of the National Institute of Justice at (202) 307-5847.

Reservations for the Conference must be made by October 27, 2000.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Authority**

This action is authorized under the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, 201-03, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 3721-23 (1994).

**Commission Background**

The purpose of the National Commission on the Future of DNA Evidence is to provide the Attorney General with recommendations on the use of current and future DNA methods, applications and technologies in the operation of the criminal justice system, from the crime scene to the courtroom. Over the course of its Charter, the Commission will review critical policy issues regarding DNA evidence and provide recommended courses of action to improve its use as a tool of investigation and adjudication in criminal cases.

**Commission Meeting**

The National Commission on the Future of DNA Evidence, established pursuant to Section 3(2)A of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. 2, will meet on Sunday, November 19, 2000, from 12:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m., ET., at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, to carry out its advisory functions under Sections 201-202 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended. This meeting will be open to the public.

**DNA Conference**

The Commission meeting will be followed by a conference on "DNA and the Criminal Justice System" co-hosted by the Center for Business and Government at John F. Kennedy School of Government and the Department of Justice. The conference will be held on:

1. Sunday, November 19, 2000, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., ET,
2. Monday, November 20, 2000, from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., ET, and
3. Tuesday, November 21, 2000, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., ET.

Because space is limited for the conference, a firm registration deadline has been set for October 27, 2000. If you would like to register for the conference, please contact Robin Wilson at (202) 307-5847. A registration fee is required.

Dated: October 4, 2000.

**Doug Horner,***Acting Assistant Director, National Institute of Justice.*

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