

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. EL01-47-000]

Hydroelectric Power Component—Removing Obstacles to Increased Electric Generation and Natural Gas Supply in the Western United States; Notice of Public Meetings

March 26, 2001.

In light of the recent and potential future severe electric energy shortages in the western states, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) issued a March 14, 2001 Order Removing Obstacles To increased Electric Generation and Natural Gas Supply in The Western United States. In this Order, the Commission announces certain actions it is taking within its regulatory authorities under the Federal Power Act to help increase electric generation supply at non-Federal hydroelectric projects in the Western United States. The Commission set forth a number of proposals that would be taken into consideration until December 31, 2001.

The Commission urges all non-Federal hydroelectric licensees in the Western Systems Coordinating Council to immediately examine their projects and propose any efficiency modifications that may increase generation. The licensees are asked to detail to the Commission any environmental impacts, including impacts from changes to discretionary operations, that could occur if there are changes resulting from proposed efficiency modifications.

Where operations of hydroelectric facilities would affect flow-dependent environmental resources, the Commission's licenses include operating constraints, such as requirements for minimum stream flow, minimum reservoir fluctuation, run-of-river operating mode, ramping rates, and flood control. While these operating constraints act to reduce the energy production, peaking capacity, and other power benefits, they also serve to protect resources including resident and anadromous fish, water quality, recreation, municipal and industrial water supplies, and agricultural resources. Modification of these operational constraints has the potential to increase generation from existing hydroelectric facilities and provide additional power during peak-load periods.

Any proposal to increase generation would need to be reviewed to minimize impacts to environmental resources and

the level of inconvenience that users of hydropower facilities may experience. Before making changes to specific project licenses, the Commission would need to work closely with licensees, resource agencies and other to identify opportunities for increased power generation while minimizing impacts.

In order to explore ways to expedite review of the licensees' proposals for increased generation, Commission staff will conduct two public meetings in Oregon and California. These meetings will take place at the following dates and locations:

Meeting Dates and Addresses.

- (1) Monday, April 9, 2001, at Airport Holiday Inn, 8439 NE Columbia Boulevard, Portland, Oregon
- (2) Tuesday, April 10, 2001, at Vagabond Executive, 2030 Arden Way, Sacramento, California

Both meetings will commence at 9 a.m. The objective of each meeting would be to develop methods for expeditiously processing proposals to increase power generation consistent with environmental protection.

For further information, please contact Lon Crow at the Commission, 202-219-2651.

David P. Boergers,*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 01-7850 Filed 3-29-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-6616-8]

Environmental Impact Statements and Regulations; Availability of EPA Comments

Availability of EPA comments prepared 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 14, 2000 (65 FR 20157).

Draft EISs

ERP No. D-FHW-F40391-MI Rating EC2, M-24 Reconstruction Project, From One Mile North of the Oakland County Line to I-69, Funding, Lapeer County, MI.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns regarding the

evaluation of the alternatives and wetland mitigation, and requested the additional information be included in the final EIS.

ERP No. D-NPS-L65368-WA Rating LO, Mount Rainier National Park General Management Plan, Implementation, Pierce and Lewis Counties, WA.

Summary: EPA expressed lack of concerns, however we provided comments which may help in addressing the goals of the Class I airshed and maintaining and preserving the Park's interior forest integrity.

Final EISs

ERP No. F-FHW-C40148-NY, Miller Highway Project (P.I.N. 103.27), Relocation of Miller Highway between West 59th Street to West 72nd Streets, on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, Funding and COE Section 404 Permit, New York County, NY.

Summary: The plan to characterize more adequately the nature and extent of contamination at the site and apply the appropriate remediation measure to contaminated excavated soil in consultation with the EPA and NYSDEC prior to the implementation of the project addressed the concern expressed in EPA's the comments on the draft EIS. EPA recommended that the commitment be included in the Record of Decision.

ERP No. FS-NPS-E61073-MS, Natchez Trace Parkway, Update Information on the Construction of Section 3P13 (Old Agency Road), City of Ridgeland, Madison County, MS.

Summary: EPA continues to express environmental concerns with wetland impact mitigation, compensation plan and plan implementation.

Dated: March 27, 2001.

Joseph C. Montgomery,*Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.*

[FR Doc. 01-7945 Filed 3-29-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-6616-7]

Environmental Impact Statements; Notice of Availability

Responsible Agency: Office of Federal Activities, General Information (202) 564-7167 or <http://www.epa.gov/oeca/ofa>

Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements
Filed March 19, 2001 Through March 23, 2001

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

EIS No. 010094, Draft EIS, NRS, WV, Upper Tygart Valley River Watershed Plan, Water Supply Project, Approval and Funding, Randolph and Pocahontas Counties, WV, Comment Period Ends: May 14, 2001, Contact: William J. Hartman (304) 284-7545.
EIS No. 010095, Draft EIS, AFS, CO, Nucla-Telluride Transmission Line Project, Permit Approval and Funding for Construction and Operation of a 115 kV Transmission Line between the Nucla Substation in Montrose County and either the Tulluride or Sunshine Substations in Miguel County, CO, Comment Period Ends: May 14, 2001, Contact: Steve Wells (970) 327-4261.

EIS No. 010096, Final EIS, FHW, VA, Hampton Roads Crossing Study, Improvements to Relieve Congestion at the I-64 Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel, I-64 & I-664 Interchange, Hampton; I-64 and I-564 Interchange, Norfolk; VA-164 near Coast Guard Boulevard, Portsmouth; & I-66, I-264 and I-664 Interchange, Chesapeake, Funding, Coast Guard/COE Permits, Isle of Wight & York Cos. VA, Wait Period Ends: April 30, 2001, Contact: Ed Sunda (804) 775-3338.

EIS No. 010097, Draft Supplement, DOE, SC, Savannah River Site Salt Processing Alternatives, Evaluation for Separating High-Activity and Low-Activity Fractions of Liquid High-Level Radio-active Waste and Potential Environmental Impacts of Alternatives to the In-Tank-Precipitation Process (ITP), Aiken and Barnwell Counties, SC, Comment Period Ends: May 14, 2001, Contact: Andrew R. Grainger (800) 881-7292.

Dated: March 27, 2001.

Joseph C. Montgomery,

Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 01-7946 Filed 3-29-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

Designation of Two (2) High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice lists two (2) new High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTAs) designated by the Director of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). The newly designated HIDTAs are the Nevada HIDTA consisting of Clark County and the North Florida HIDTA consisting of Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns and Marion

Counties. These new HIDTAs are designated pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 1706(b), to promote more effective coordination of drug control efforts. In considering whether to designate an area under this section as a high intensity drug trafficking area, the Director considered, in addition to such other criteria the Director considers to be appropriate, the extent to which: (1) The area is center of illegal drug production, manufacturing, importation, or distribution; (2) state and local law enforcement agencies have committed resources to respond to the drug trafficking problem in the area, thereby indicating a determination to respond aggressively to the problem; (3) drug-related activities in the area are having a harmful impact in other areas of the country; and (4) a significant increase in allocation of Federal resources is necessary to respond adequately to drug-related activities in the area.

This action will support local, state and Federal law enforcement officers in assessing regional drug threats, designing strategies to combat the threats, developing initiatives to implement the strategies, and evaluating the effectiveness of their coordinated efforts.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Comments and questions regarding this notice should be directed to Mr. Kurt F. Schmid, National HIDTA Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, Washington, DC 20503; (202) 395-6692.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In Fiscal Year 2000, 1242 agencies participated in 462 HIDTA-funded initiatives within the 26 previously designated HIDTA regions throughout the country. The HIDTA Programs strengthens local, state and Federal drug trafficking and money laundering task forces, bolsters drug enforcement information networks, and improves integration of law enforcement, drug treatment and drug abuse prevention programs, where appropriate.

Signed at Washington, DC this 9th day of March, 2001.

Edward H. Jurith,

Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 01-7903 Filed 3-29-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3180-02-M

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Federal Emergency Management Agency, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the proposed collection of information. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), this notice seeks comments concerning the Capability Assessment for Readiness (CAR) which collects data on the capabilities of States to effectively respond to major disasters and emergencies.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The CAR program was established based on the requirement recognized by both the U.S. Congress and FEMA that an assessment of State capabilities was needed to determine the States' readiness to effectively respond to major disasters, and secondarily that FEMA financial assistance to the States is being effectively utilized. The answers to these questions are provided in the CAR assessment that involves detailed programmatic questions on mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activities.

Section 313 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Public Law 93-288, as amended) requires the President to "conduct annual reviews of activities of Federal agencies and State and local governments in major disaster and emergency preparedness and in providing major disaster and emergency assistance in order to assure maximum coordination and effectiveness of such programs. * * *"

Section 613 of the Stafford Act concerning financial contributions to States for necessary and essential State and local emergency preparedness personnel and administrative expenses provides that the State "shall make such reports in such form and content as the Director may require."

Collection of Information

Title: Capability Assessment for Readiness (CAR).

Type of Information Collection: Extension of a currently approved collection.

OMB Number: 3067-0272.