

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[ER-FRL-6637-7]

**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 FR dated April 12, 2002 (67 FR 17992).

**Draft EISs**

*ERP No. D-AFS-H65014-MO Rating EC2, Pineknott Woodland Restoration Project, Open Shortleaf Pine Woodland Restoration, Implementation, Doniphan/ Eleven Point Ranger District, Mark Twain National Forest, Carter County, MO.*

*Summary:* EPA expressed environmental concerns with potential impacts to air and water quality. EPA requests that the final EIS include more detailed information on criteria for assessment of soil and water mitigation measures, compliance of prescribed burns with a smoke/fire management plan and discussion of how the proposed restoration habitat meets old growth habitat as currently defined in the Forest Plan Standard and Guidelines.

*ERP No. D-AFS-J35006-UT Rating EC2, Fox and Crescent Reservoirs Maintenance Project, Dam Structures Operation and Maintenance, Special Use Permit Issuance, High Andes Wilderness, Ashley National Forest, Uinta Basin, Duchesne County, UT.*

*Summary:* EPA supports the proposed action in order to supply existing water rights and commends the USFS for indentifying proposed mitigations. However, EPA expressed environmental concerns about the potential adverse impacts to water quality, fish and aquatic invertebrates, flow regimes and the release of sediment to downstream ecosystems.

*ERP No. D-AFS-J65370-MT Rating EC2, Management Area 11 Snowmobile Use Areas on the Seeley Lake Ranger District, Implementation, Lola National Forest, Missoula and Powell Counties, MT.*

*Summary:* EPA expressed environmental concerns regarding potential snowmobile impacts to grizzly

bear and other wildlife and increased traffic and erosion and rutting of substandard roads that may impair water quality and fisheries, including 303(d) listed streams and threatened bull trout. EPA believes additional information is needed to fully assess and mitigate potential impacts of the proposed management actions.

*ERP No. D-AFS-L65409-AK Rating EC2, Licking Creek Timber Sale, Timber Harvest, Implementation, Tongass National Forest, Ketchikan Misty Fiords Ranger District, Revillagigedo Island, Ketchikan, AK.*

*Summary:* EPA expressed environmental concerns related to indirect and cumulative impacts of proposed silvicultural practices and road construction to water quality and fish resources, the Action Alternatives' reliance on even-aged silvicultural practices, and lack of project level watershed analysis. Also, we recommend the FEIS examine another possible Action Alternative that would address and mitigate for cumulative impacts while maintaining moderate economic efficiencies so that the EIS could include a viable Alternative that is less damaging and yet still provides economic benefits.

*ERP No. D-FHW-F40411-MN Rating EC2, Trunk Highway 371 Corridor Reconstruction, US Truck Highway 10 to County State Aid Highway (CSAH) Highway 48, Funding, Morrison County, MN.*

*Summary:* EPA expressed environmental concerns regarding impacts to aquatic and floodplain habitat. EPA recommended bridging of a stream and its associated floodplain, creation of a wetland site and requested a detailed wetland mitigation plan to be included in the final EIS.

*ERP No. D-MMS-E02012-00 Rating LO, Eastern Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Lease Sales 189 (proposed for 2003) and 197 (proposed for 2005) Leasing Program 2002-2007, Eastern Planning Area, Counties and Parishes of TX, LA, MS, AL and FL.*

*Summary:* While EPA has no objections to the action as proposed, EPA expressed interest in the results of ongoing studies to further define the fate and effects of mercury and other heavy metal pollutants in drilling and production waste discharges. EPA also requested clarification on the construction and operational impacts of future pipeline infrastructure.

*ERP No. DS-AFS-J65349-UT Rating EC2, Griffin Springs Resource Management Project, New Information concerning the Life History and Analysis of Endangered, Threatened,*

*Candidate, Sensitive and Management Indicator Species, Dixie National Forest, Escalante Range District, Garfield County, UT.*

*Summary:* EPA previously identified road maintenance and upgrading, beetle suppression and other management activities as having potential significant impacts to old growth forests, wetlands and wildlife. EPA remains environmentally concerned that discussion of the purpose, need and risk involved with a large scale thinning operation and discussion of the transportation system in the final EIS did not fully address our concerns and could result in adverse impacts from ecosystem alteration and fragmentation.

*ERP No. DS-COE-G36148-TX Rating LO, Dallas Floodway Extension, Flood Damage Reduction and Environmental Restoration, New Information concerning Additional Formulation, Trinity River Basin, Dallas County, TX.*

*Summary:* EPA has no objection to the proposed action since EPA agreed with the conclusions drawn in the cumulative impact supplemental EIS.

**Final EISs**

*ERP No. F-AFS-E60006-KY, Daniel Boone National Forest Land Exchange Project, Two Federal Tracts for 98.17 Acres of Privately Owned Land located in Owsley County, Federal Lands to be Exchanged are Tract 107AB (52.15 acres) located on Langdon Branch in Leslie County and Tract 745 (39.96 acres) located on Spicer Fork in Perry County, KY.*

*Summary:* EPA continues to have environmental concerns about impacts to water quality and aquatic resources associated with subsequent surface mining activities.

*ERP No. F-AFS-K65243-CA, Brown Darby Fuel Reduction Project, Combination of Salvage Harvesting of Trees Killed and Other Fuel Management Activities, Stanislaus National Forest, Calaveras Ranger District, Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties, CA.*

*Summary:* No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

*ERP No. F-NRC-D05124-VA, GENERIC EIS—North Anna Power Station, Units 1 and 2, Supplement 7 to NUREG-1437, License Renewal, VA.*

*Summary:* EPA concurs with the analysis of the environmental impacts as they relate to the alternatives discussed in the report. EPA requests an opportunity to re-examine conclusions should they change as the license expiration date approaches.

*ERP No. FS-NRC-E06012-SC, GENERIC EIS—Catawba Nuclear Station, Unit 1 and 2 (Catawba),*

Renewal of the Operating Licenses (OLs) for an Additional 20-Year Period, Supplement 9 to NUREG-1437, York County, SC.

*Summary:* EPA has no objection to the proposed action since our previous issues were resolved.

Dated: February 11, 2003.

**Joseph C. Montgomery,**

*Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.*

[FR Doc. 03-3692 Filed 2-13-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6560-50-P**

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-6637-6]

### Environmental Impact Statements; Notice of Availability

**AGENCY:** Office of Federal Activities, General Information (202) 564-7167 or <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/>. Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements, filed February 3, 2003, through February 7, 2003, pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

*EIS No. 030049*, Draft EIS, NPS, OH, Cuyahoga Valley National Park Rural Landscape Management Program, Rural Landscape Resources Preservation and Protection, Cuyahoga River, Cuyahoga and Summit Counties, OH, comment period ends: March 31, 2003, contact: John P. Debo (440) 546-5903.

*EIS No. 030050*, Draft Supplement, NPS, KY, TN, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, General Management Plan, implementation, additional information concerning resources, roads and trails, McCreary, KY and Fentress, Morgan, Pickett, and Scott Counties, TN, comment period ends: May 15, 2003, contact: Reed Detring (423) 569-9778.

*EIS No. 030051*, Final EIS, MMS, AK, Beaufort Sea Planning Area multiple sale 186, 195 and 202 oil and gas lease sales, Alaska Outer Continental Shelf, Offshore Marine Environment, Beaufort Sea Coastal Plain, and the North Slope Borough of Alaska, wait period ends: March 17, 2003, contact: George Valiulis (703) 787-1662.

*EIS No. 030052*, Final EIS, FHW, IA, Avenue G viaduct and connecting corridor, access improvement for local emergency services and safety through expanded capacity across the trail corridor, funding and NPDES permit, Pottawattamie County, IA, wait period ends: March 17, 2003, contact: Bobby Blackmon (515) 233-7300.

*EIS No. 030053*, Draft EIS, BLM, WY, Snake River Resource Management Plan, BLM-administrated public land and resources allocation and management, Snake River, Jackson Hole, Teton Counties, WY, comment period ends: May 15, 2003, contact: Joe Patti (307) 775-6101.

*EIS No. 030055*, Draft EIS, FHW, TX, Grand Parkway/TX-99 Improvement Project, IH-10 to U.S. 290, funding, right-of-way grant and U.S. Army COE section 404 permit issuance, Harris County, comment period ends: May 23, 2003, contact: John Mack (512) 536-5960.

*EIS No. 030056*, Draft EIS, AFS, FL, USDA Forest Service and State of Florida Land Exchange Project, assembled exchange of both fee, ownership parcels and partial interest parcels, Baker, Citrus, Franklin, Hernando, Lake, Liberty, Okaloosa, Osceola, Santa Rosa and Sumter Counties, FL, comment period ends: March 31, 2003, contact: Gary Hegg (850) 926-3561.

Dated: February 11, 2003.

**Joseph C. Montgomery,**

*Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.*

[FR Doc. 03-3693 Filed 2-13-03; 8:45 am]

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7452-9]

### Issuance of a Final General Permit to the National Science Foundation for the Ocean Disposal of Man-Made Ice Piers From its Base at McMurdo Sound on Antarctica

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Final permit.

**SUMMARY:** EPA is today issuing a general permit under sections 102(a) and 104(c) of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) to the National Science Foundation (NSF) for the disposal at sea of man-made ice piers from its base at McMurdo Sound on Antarctica. McMurdo Station, which is located on the southern tip of Hut Point Peninsula on Ross Island, is the largest of three stations in Antarctica operated by the National Science Foundation. This station is the logistics hub of the United States Antarctic Program. The majority of personnel and supplies destined for bases and field camps on Antarctica pass through McMurdo Station. In order to unload supplies, ships dock at an ice pier at

McMurdo Station; this man-made pier has a normal life span of three to five years. At the end of its useful life, all transportable equipment, materials, and debris are removed, and the pier is cast loose from its moorings at the base and towed out to McMurdo Sound for disposal, where it melts naturally. Issuance of this general permit is necessary because the pier must be towed out to sea for disposal at the end of its useful life. This final general permit is intended to protect the marine environment by setting forth permit conditions, including operating conditions during use of the pier and clean-up, with which the NSF must comply before the disposal of such ice piers can take place. EPA has determined that only minimal adverse environmental impacts will result from the dumping of ice piers under this general permit.

**DATES:** This permit is effective February 14, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Additional information on this final general permit can be obtained from the person identified in the section **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, which follows below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David Redford, Chief, Marine Pollution Control Branch, Oceans and Coastal Protection Division (4504T), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone (202) 566-1288.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### A. The McMurdo Station Ice Pier

The NSF is the agency of the United States Government responsible for oversight of the United States Antarctic Program. The NSF currently operates three major bases in Antarctica: McMurdo Station on Ross Island, adjacent to McMurdo Sound; Palmer Station, near the western terminus of the Antarctic Peninsula; and Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station, at the geographic South Pole. McMurdo Station is the largest of the three stations, and serves as the primary logistics base for Antarctica.

For most of the year, McMurdo Station is closed in by sea ice. However, in early January, a U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker opens a channel to the harbor at McMurdo Station, allowing a fuel tanker and a supply vessel to replenish the station. The tanker normally arrives in mid-January to unload fuel and unleaded gasoline. In early February, the supply vessel arrives and off-loads the annual provision of supplies for McMurdo Station and other U.S. Antarctic bases. After unloading its