

Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs as a significant energy action. Therefore, it does not require a Statement of Energy Effects under Executive Order 13211.

Environment

We have analyzed this rule under Commandant Instruction M16475.ID, which guides the Coast Guard in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)(42 U.S.C. 4321–4370f), and have concluded that there are no factors in this case that would limit the use of a categorical exclusion under section 2.B.2 of the Instruction. Therefore, this rule is categorically excluded, under figure 2–1, paragraph (32)(e) of the Instruction, from further environmental documentation. There are no expected environmental consequences of the proposed action that would require further analysis and documentation.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 117

Bridges.

Regulations

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard proposes to amend 33 CFR part 117 as follows:

PART 117—DRAWBRIDGE OPERATION REGULATIONS

1. The authority citation for part 117 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 499; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 0170.1; 33 CFR 1.05–1(g); section 117.255 also issued under the authority of Pub.L. 102–587, 106 Stat. 5039.

2. From 6:30 a.m. on July 15, 2004, until 9 p.m. on October 15, 2004, in § 117.869, suspend paragraph (a) and add a new paragraph (d) to read as follows:

§ 117.869 Columbia River.

* * * * *

(d) The draws of the Interstate 5 Bridges, mile 106.5, between Portland, OR, and Vancouver, WA, need not open for the passage of vessels from 6:30 a.m. on July 15, 2004, to 9 p.m. on August 6, 2004, and at no other time until 9 p.m. on October 15 except for scheduled openings on signal at 9 p.m. on August 6 and 20 and September 3 and 17 and October 1, 2004.

Dated: August 21, 2003.

Jeffrey M. Garrett,

*Rear Admiral, Coast Guard Commander,
Thirteenth Coast Guard District.*

[FR Doc. 03–22564 Filed 9–4–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–15–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Parts 52 and 70

[NE 190–1190; FRL–7553–1]

Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Operating Permits Program; State of Nebraska

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: EPA proposes to approve a revision to the Nebraska State Implementation Plan (SIP) and Operating Permits Program. On September 5, 2002, the state updated its air program construction and operating permitting rules, its definitions rule, and emission inventory reporting rule. Approval of these revisions will ensure consistency between the state and Federally-approved rules, and ensure Federal enforceability of the state's revised air program rules.

DATES: Comments on this proposed action must be received in writing by October 6, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted either by mail or electronically. Written comments should be mailed to Wayne Kaiser, Environmental Protection Agency, Air Planning and Development Branch, 901 North 5th Street, Kansas City, Kansas 66101. Electronic comments should be sent either to Wayne Kaiser at kaiser.wayne@epa.gov or to <http://www.regulations.gov>, which is an alternative method for submitting electronic comments to EPA. To submit comments, please follow the detailed instructions described in “What action is EPA taking” in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of the direct final rule which is located in the rules section of the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wayne Kaiser at (913) 551–7603 or by e-mail at kaiser.wayne@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the final rules section of the **Federal Register**, EPA is approving the state's SIP revision as a direct final rule without prior proposal because the Agency views this as a noncontroversial revision amendment and anticipates no relevant adverse comments to this action. A detailed rationale for the approval is set forth in the direct final rule. If no relevant adverse comments are received in response to this action, no further activity is contemplated in relation to this action. If EPA receives relevant adverse comments, the direct final rule will be withdrawn and all

public comments received will be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed action. EPA will not institute a second comment period on this action. Any parties interested in commenting on this action should do so at this time. Please note that if EPA receives adverse comment on part of this rule and if that part can be severed from the remainder of the rule, EPA may adopt as final those parts of the rule that are not the subject of an adverse comment. For additional information, see the direct final rule which is located in the rules section of this **Federal Register**.

Dated: August 22, 2003.

Cecilia Tapia,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 7.

[FR Doc. 03–22540 Filed 9–4–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 194

[FRL–7553–2]

Central Characterization Project Waste Characterization Program Documents Applicable to Transuranic Radioactive Waste From the Hanford Site Proposed for Disposal at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of availability; opening of public comment period.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA, or “we”) is announcing an inspection for the week of September 8, 2003, at the Hanford Site in Washington. With this action, we also announce availability of Department of Energy (DOE) documents in the EPA Docket, and solicit public comments on the documents available in the docket for a period of 30 days. The following DOE documents, entitled “CCP–PO–001—Revision 6, 6/11/03—CCP Transuranic Waste Characterization Quality Assurance Project Plan” and “CCP–PO–002—Revision 6, 6/11/03—CCP Transuranic Waste Certification Plan,” are available for review in the public dockets listed in **ADDRESSES**. We will consider public comments received on or before the due date mentioned in **DATES**. In accordance with EPA's WIPP Compliance Criteria, we will conduct an inspection of the Central Characterization Project (CCP) at Hanford to verify that, using the systems and processes developed as part of the DOE Carlsbad Office's CCP, DOE can

characterize TRU waste consistent with the Compliance Criteria.

DATES: EPA is requesting public comment on the documents. Comments must be received by EPA's official Air Docket on or before October 6, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted by mail to: EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC), Air and Radiation Docket, Environmental Protection Agency, EPA West, Mail Code 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460. Attention Docket ID No. OAR-2003-0144. Comments may also be submitted electronically, by facsimile, or through hand delivery/courier. Follow the detailed instructions as provided in Unit I.B of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Ed Felcorn, Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, (202) 564-9422. You can also call EPA's toll-free WIPP Information Line, 1-800-331-WIPP or visit our website at <http://www.epa.gov/radiation/wipp>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. How Can I Get Copies of This Document and Other Related Information ?

1. *Docket.* EPA has established an official public docket for this action under Docket ID No. OAR-2003-0144. The official public docket consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, any public comments received, and other information related to this action. Although a part of the official docket, the public docket does not include Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. The official public docket is the collection of materials that is available for public viewing at the Air and Radiation Docket in the EPA Docket Center, (EPA/DC) EPA West, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. The EPA Docket Center Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the Air and Radiation Docket is (202) 566-1742. These documents are also available for review in paper form at the official EPA Air Docket in Washington, DC, Docket No. A-98-49, Category II-A2, and at the following three EPA WIPP informational docket locations in New Mexico: in Carlsbad at the Municipal Library, Hours: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-9

p.m., Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sunday 1 p.m.-5 p.m.; in Albuquerque at the Government Publications Department, Zimmerman Library, University of New Mexico, Hours: vary by semester; and in Santa Fe at the New Mexico State Library, Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. As provided in EPA's regulations at 40 CFR part 2, and in accordance with normal EPA docket procedures, if copies of any docket materials are requested, a reasonable fee may be charged for photocopying.

2. *Electronic Access.* You may access this **Federal Register** document electronically through the EPA Internet under the "**Federal Register**" listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>.

An electronic version of the public docket is available through EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, EPA Dockets. You may use EPA Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket/> to submit or view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the official public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically. Once in the system, select "search," then key in the appropriate docket identification number.

Certain types of information will not be placed in the EPA Dockets. Information claimed as CBI and other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute, which is not included in the official public docket, will not be available for public viewing in EPA's electronic public docket. EPA's policy is that copyrighted material will not be placed in EPA's electronic public docket but will be available only in printed, paper form in the official public docket. To the extent feasible, publicly available docket materials will be made available in EPA's electronic public docket. When a document is selected from the index list in EPA Dockets, the system will identify whether the document is available for viewing in EPA's electronic public docket. Although not all docket materials may be available electronically, you may still access any of the publicly available docket materials through the docket facility identified in Unit I.B. EPA intends to work towards providing electronic access to all of the publicly available docket materials through EPA's electronic public docket.

For public commenters, it is important to note that EPA's policy is that public comments, whether submitted electronically or in paper, will be made available for public viewing in EPA's electronic public docket as EPA receives them and without change, unless the comment

contains copyrighted material, CBI, or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. When EPA identifies a comment containing copyrighted material, EPA will provide a reference to that material in the version of the comment that is placed in EPA's electronic public docket. The entire printed comment, including the copyrighted material, will be available in the public docket.

Public comments submitted on computer disks that are mailed or delivered to the docket will be transferred to EPA's electronic public docket. Public comments that are mailed or delivered to the Docket will be scanned and placed in EPA's electronic public docket. Where practical, physical objects will be photographed, and the photograph will be placed in EPA's electronic public docket along with a brief description written by the docket staff.

For additional information about EPA's electronic public docket visit EPA Dockets online or see 67 FR 38102, May 31, 2002.

B. How and to Whom Do I Submit Comments?

You may submit comments electronically, by mail, by facsimile, or through hand delivery/courier. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, identify the appropriate docket identification number in the subject line on the first page of your comment. Please ensure that your comments are submitted within the specified comment period. Comments received after the close of the comment period will be marked "late." EPA is not required to consider these late comments. However, late comments may be considered if time permits.

1. *Electronically.* If you submit an electronic comment as prescribed below, EPA recommends that you include your name, mailing address, and an e-mail address or other contact information in the body of your comment. Also include this contact information on the outside of any disk or CD ROM you submit, and in any cover letter accompanying the disk or CD ROM. This ensures that you can be identified as the submitter of the comment and allows EPA to contact you in case EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties or needs further information on the substance of your comment. EPA's policy is that EPA will not edit your comment, and any identifying or contact information provided in the body of a comment will be included as part of the comment that is placed in the official public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket. If EPA cannot read your

comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment.

i. EPA Dockets. Your use of EPA's electronic public docket to submit comments to EPA electronically is EPA's preferred method for receiving comments. Go directly to EPA Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket>, and follow the online instructions for submitting comments. To access EPA's electronic public docket from the EPA Internet Home Page, select "Information Sources," "Dockets," and "EPA Dockets." Once in the system, select "search," and then key in Docket ID No. OAR-2003-0144. The system is an "anonymous access" system, which means EPA will not know your identity, e-mail address, or other contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment.

ii. E-mail. Comments may be sent by electronic mail (e-mail) to a-and-r-docket@epa.gov, Attention Docket ID No. OAR-2003-0144. In contrast to EPA's electronic public docket, EPA's e-mail system is not an "anonymous access" system. If you send an e-mail comment directly to the Docket without going through EPA's electronic public docket, EPA's e-mail system automatically captures your e-mail address. E-mail addresses that are automatically captured by EPA's e-mail system are included as part of the comment that is placed in the official public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket.

2. By Mail. Send your comments to: EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC), Air and Radiation Docket, Environmental Protection Agency, EPA West, Mail Code 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460. Attention Docket ID No. OAR-2003-0144.

3. By Hand Delivery or Courier. Deliver your comments to: Air and Radiation Docket, EPA Docket Center, (EPA/DC) EPA West, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC, Attention Docket ID No. OAR-2003-0144. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation as identified in Unit I.A.1.

4. By Facsimile. Fax your comments to: (202) 566-1741, Attention Docket ID. No. OAR-2003-0144.

C. What Should I Consider as I Prepare My Comments for EPA?

You may find the following suggestions helpful for preparing your comments:

1. Explain your views as clearly as possible.

2. Describe any assumptions that you used.

3. Provide any technical information and/or data you used that support your views.

4. If you estimate potential burden or costs, explain how you arrived at your estimate.

5. Provide specific examples to illustrate your concerns.

6. Offer alternatives.

7. Make sure to submit your comments by the comment period deadline identified.

8. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, identify the appropriate docket identification number in the subject line on the first page of your response. It would also be helpful if you provided the name, date, and **Federal Register** citation related to your comments.

II. Background

DOE is operating the WIPP near Carlsbad in southeastern New Mexico as a deep geologic repository for disposal of TRU radioactive waste. As defined by the WIPP Land Withdrawal Act (LWA) of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-579), as amended (Pub. L. 104-201), transuranic (TRU) waste consists of materials containing elements having atomic numbers greater than 92 (with half-lives greater than twenty years), in concentrations greater than 100 nanocuries of alpha-emitting TRU isotopes per gram of waste. Much of the existing TRU waste consists of items contaminated during the production of nuclear weapons, such as rags, equipment, tools, and sludges.

On May 13, 1998, EPA announced its final compliance certification decision to the Secretary of Energy (published May 18, 1998, 63 FR 27354). This decision stated that the WIPP will comply with EPA's radioactive waste disposal regulations at 40 CFR part 191, subparts B and C.

The final WIPP certification decision includes conditions that (1) Prohibit shipment of TRU waste for disposal at WIPP from any site other than the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) until the EPA determines that the site has established and executed a quality assurance program, in accordance with §§ 194.22(a)(2)(i), 194.24(c)(3), and 194.24(c)(5) for waste characterization activities and assumptions (Condition 2 of appendix A to 40 CFR part 194); and (2) prohibit shipment of TRU waste for disposal at WIPP from any site other than LANL until the EPA has approved the procedures developed to comply with the waste characterization requirements of § 194.22(c)(4) (Condition 3 of appendix A to 40 CFR part 194). The EPA's approval process for waste generator sites is described in

§ 194.8. As part of EPA's decision-making process, the DOE is required to submit to EPA appropriate documentation of quality assurance and waste characterization programs at each DOE waste generator site seeking approval for shipment of TRU radioactive waste to WIPP. In accordance with § 194.8, EPA will place such documentation in the official Air Docket in Washington, D.C., and informational dockets in the State of New Mexico for public review and comment.

EPA will perform an inspection of the TRU waste characterization activities performed by the DOE's Central Characterization Project (CCP) staff at the Hanford Site in accordance with Condition 3 of the WIPP certification. The CCP is a mobile characterization facility that DOE is developing to assist small TRU waste generator sites with complex waste characterization activities. We will evaluate the adequacy, implementation, and effectiveness of the CCP technical activities contracted by Hanford for characterization of the disposal of retrievably-stored debris waste at the WIPP. The overall program adequacy and effectiveness of CCP/Hanford documents will be based on the following DOE-provided documents: (1) CCP-PO-001—Revision 6, 6/11/03—CCP Transuranic Waste Characterization Quality Assurance Project Plan and (2) CCP-PO-002—Revision 6, 6/11/03—CCP Transuranic Waste Certification Plan. EPA has placed these DOE-provided documents pertinent to the Hanford inspection in the public docket described in **ADDRESSES**. They can be found online in EDOCKET ID No. OAR-2003-0144 and also in hard copy form as item II-A2-47 in Docket A-98-49. In accordance with 40 CFR 194.8, EPA is providing the public 30 days to comment on these documents. The inspection is scheduled to take place the week of September 8, 2003.

EPA will inspect the following technical elements for characterizing retrievably-stored TRU debris and solid waste: data validation and verification, acceptable knowledge (AK), nondestructive assay (NDA-WIT and APNEA), Digital Radiography/Computed Tomography, visual examination (VE), and data tracking and reporting via the WIPP Waste Information System (WWIS).

If EPA determines as a result of the inspection that the proposed CCP waste characterization processes and programs used at Hanford adequately control the characterization of transuranic waste, we will notify DOE by letter and place the letter in the official Air Docket in

Washington, DC, as well as in the informational docket locations in New Mexico. A letter of approval will allow DOE to ship transuranic waste from Hanford to the WIPP. The EPA will not make a determination of compliance prior to the inspection or before the 30-day comment period has closed.

Information on the certification decision is filed in the official EPA Air Docket, Docket No. A-93-02 and is available for review in Washington, DC, and at three EPA WIPP informational docket locations in New Mexico. The dockets in New Mexico contain only major items from the official Air Docket in Washington, DC, plus those documents added to the official Air Docket since the October 1992 enactment of the WIPP LWA.

Dated: August 28, 2003.

Jeffrey R. Holmstead,

Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation.

[FR Doc. 03-22638 Filed 9-4-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Parts 13 and 21

RIN 1018-A164

Migratory Bird Permits; Eiderdown From Iceland

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (we or us) proposes changes in the regulations governing the import into the United States of parts of protected migratory birds. We propose to specify the requirements for importing down of nesting common eiders that breed in Iceland and list the procedures required to harvest, import, possess, and manufacture finished eiderdown products. We are requesting comments on information collection associated with the proposed rule.

DATES: Comments on this proposed rule will be accepted through December 4, 2003 to the address below.

Comments on the information collection aspects of this proposed rule will be considered if received by November 4, 2003. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove information collection but may respond after 30 days. Therefore, to ensure maximum consideration, your

comments should be received by OMB by October 6, 2003.

ADDRESSES: You may mail or deliver written comments on this proposal to: RIN 1018-A164, Division of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, MS MBSP 4107, Arlington, Virginia 22203-1610. Alternatively, you may submit your comments via the Internet: eiderdown@fws.gov.

You may submit comments on the information collection aspects of the proposed rule to the Desk Officer for the Department of Interior at the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, via facsimile or e-mail using the following fax number and e-mail address: 202/395-6566 (fax);

OIRA_DOCKET@omb.eop.gov (e-mail). Please provide a copy of your comments to the Fish and Wildlife Service's Information Collection Clearance Officer, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, MS 222 ARLSQ, Arlington, Virginia 22203; 703/358-2269 (fax); or Anissa_Craghead@fws.gov (e-mail).

In your written comments to the Division of Migratory Bird Management, please reference "RIN 1018-A164" at the top of your letter. Include your name and return address. Anonymous comments will not be accepted. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Include your name and return address in your e-mail message. If you do not receive a confirmation that we have received your message, contact us directly at 703/358-1714.

The complete file for this proposed rule, including electronic and written comments received, will be available for public inspection by appointment, during normal business hours at the Division of Migratory Bird Management address listed above. You may call 703/358-1714 to make an appointment to view the files.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian Millsap, Chief, Division of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 703/358-1714.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the Federal agency with the primary responsibility for managing migratory birds. We propose changes in the regulations governing the import into the United States of parts of protected migratory birds. We propose to specify the requirements for importing down of nesting common eiders that breed in Iceland and list the procedures required

to harvest, import, possess, and manufacture finished eiderdown products. Our authority is based on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA) (16 U.S.C. 703 *et seq.*), which implements conventions with Great Britain (for Canada), the United Mexican States (=Mexico), Japan, and the Soviet Union (=Russia). Sea ducks including the common eider are afforded Federal protection by the Convention for the Protection of Migratory Birds and Game Animals, February 7, 1936, United States—Mexico; the Convention Between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics [=Russia] Concerning the Conservation of Migratory Birds and Their Environment, November 26, 1976; and the Protocol Amending the 1916 Convention for the Protection of Migratory Birds, August 2, 1996.

The MBTA requires that any regulations authorizing activities otherwise prohibited by 16 U.S.C. 703 are "[s]ubject to the provisions and in order to carry out the purposes of the conventions." 16 U.S.C. 704. This rule is consistent with each of the applicable treaties. Most importantly, this rule is consistent with the conservation intent of the treaties, as it builds in sufficient safeguards to ensure that the activities it allows will not have a negative impact on the conservation of common eiders or other birds protected by the conventions. It is also consistent with the expressed intent of the parties that migratory birds be conserved, in part, to allow their economic utilization. *See* Canada treaty, Article II ("migratory bird populations shall be managed * * * [t]o ensure a variety of sustainable uses."); Mexico treaty, Article I (migratory birds shall be protected so as to "permit, in so far as the * * * parties may see fit, the utilization of such birds rationally for purposes of sport, food, commerce, and industry"); Japan treaty ("Considering that birds constitute a natural resource of great value for * * * economic purposes, and that this value can be increased with proper management"); Russia treaty ("Considering that migratory birds are a natural resource of great * * * economic * * * value and that this value can be increased under proper management"). This rule is likewise consistent with the particular operative language of each of the conventions.

First, the treaty with Canada (as amended by the 1995 Protocol) prohibits, with some exceptions not relevant here, the sale of "migratory birds, their nests, or eggs." Article II, para. 2. However, this prohibition does