

generated from the widening project; and

f. Approximately 300,000 cubic yards of dredged material will be used beneficially for beach nourishment on Quintana Beach and the remainder of the dredged material will be placed offshore approximately 2.5 miles off Quintana in approximately 40 feet of water.

2. *Scoping and Public Involvement Process:* A scoping meeting to gather information on the subjects to be studied in detail in the DEIS will be conducted on (see **DATES**). An informal open house, allowing for review of the proposed project and questions and answers, will be conducted between 5 and 7 p.m., prior to the scoping meeting.

3. *Significant Issues:* Issues associated with the proposed project to be given significant analysis in the DEIS are likely to include, but may not be limited to, the potential impacts of the proposed dredging, dredged material placement, the beneficial uses of dredged material, water quality, fish and wildlife values including threatened and endangered species; air quality; environmental justice; socioeconomic environment; archaeological and cultural resources; recreation and recreational resources; energy supply and natural resources; hazardous waste and materials; aesthetics; public health and safety; navigation; shoreline erosion and accretion; cumulative impacts, and the needs and welfare of the people.

4. *Technical Review and Consultation:* Several State and Federal Agencies will be invited to provide technical review of the DEIS. Those agencies include: The Environmental Protection Agency, National Marine Fisheries Service, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the United States Coast Guard, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas General Land Office, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Department of Transportation.

5. *Additional Review and Consultation:* Additional review and consultation that will be incorporated into the preparation of this DEIS will include: Compliance with the Texas Coastal Management Program; protection of cultural resources under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act; protection of navigation under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899; protection of water quality under section 401 of the Clean Water Act; protection of air quality under the Clean Air Act; and protection of endangered and threatened species under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

6. *Availability of the DEIS:* The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is projected to be available in September 2006. At this time the Galveston District plans to conduct a Public Hearing following the release of the DEIS.

Brenda S. Bowen,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Surface Mining

Fish and Wildlife Service

Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Mountaintop Mining and Valley Fills

AGENCIES: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, DOD; Environmental Protection Agency; Office of Surface Mining and Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior; and West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection.

ACTION: Announcement of availability of Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (FPEIS).

SUMMARY: The above agencies announce the availability of the FPEIS that considers developing policies, guidance, and coordinated agency decision-making processes to minimize, to the maximum extent practicable, the adverse environmental effects to waters of the United States and to fish and wildlife resources affected by mountaintop mining operations, and to environmental resources that could be affected by the size and location of excess spoil-disposal sites in valley fills within the Appalachian study area in West Virginia, Kentucky, Virginia, and Tennessee. This FPEIS was prepared as part of a settlement agreement that resolved the Federal claims brought in *Bragg v. Robertson, Civ. No. 2:98-0636 (S.D.W.Va.)*.

This FPEIS was prepared consistent with the provision set forth in 40 CFR 1503.4(c) of the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA, which allow the agencies to attach an errata sheet to the statement instead of rewriting the draft statement and to circulate the errata,

comments, responses, and the changes, rather than the entire document. The agencies are filing the entire statement with a new cover sheet as the FPEIS. The FPEIS is being made available by mail and can be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/region3/mntntop/index.htm>. The FPEIS can also be viewed at local offices of the above agencies and at selected local libraries. Copies of the FPEIS may be obtained by writing to the address listed below.

ADDRESSES: Send written requests for copies of the FPEIS to John Forren, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (3EA30), 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Forren, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, at (215) 814-2705; Katherine Trott, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at (202) 761-5542; Mike Robinson, U.S. Office of Surface Mining, at (412) 937-2882; Cindy Tibbott, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, at (814) 234-4090; or Russell Hunter, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, at (304) 926-0499.

Dated: October 20, 2005.

Gerald W. Barnes,

Chief, Operations, Directorate of Civil Works.

David Evans,

Director, Wetlands Division, Environmental Protection Agency.

Glenda H. Owens,

Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining.

Marshall P. Jones, Jr.

Deputy Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Public Hearings for a Draft Overseas Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Statement for the Undersea Warfare Training Range

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DOD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Executive Order 12114, Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions, and Section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), the Department of the Navy (Navy) has prepared and filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency a Draft Overseas Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft