

*coral.researchplan@noaa.gov*. For comments who do not have access to a computer, comments on the document may be submitted in writing to: NOAA Research, c/o Kimberly Puglise, NOAA's Undersea Research Program, 1315 East-West Highway R/NURP, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kimberly Puglise by mail at NOAA's Undersea Research Program, 1315 East-West Highway R/NURP, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910 or phone (301) 713-2427 ext. 199 or e-mail at *coral.researchplan@noaa.gov*.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** NOAA is publishing this notice to announce the availability of the Draft NOAA Coral Ecosystem Research Plan Part II: Regional Priorities for public comment. The draft plan will be posted for public comment on April 7, 2006. All interested parties are encouraged to provide comments. The Draft NOAA Coral Ecosystem Research Plan Part II: Regional Priorities is being issued for comment only and is not intended for interim use. Suggested changes will be incorporated, where appropriate, in the final version.

The Draft NOAA Coral Ecosystem Research Plan is being developed by the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program to set priorities and guide NOAA-supported coral ecosystem research for fiscal years 2006 to 2010, including research conducted through extramural partners, grants, and contracts. The Draft NOAA Coral Ecosystem Research Plan covers all coral reef ecosystems under the jurisdiction of the United States and the Pacific Freely Associated States; and is written for a broad audience, including resource managers, scientists, policy makers, and the public.

The Draft NOAA Coral Ecosystem Research Plan consists of two sections: (1) Part I: National Priorities; and (2) Part II: Regional Priorities. At this time, we are requesting your comments solely on the Part II: Regional Priorities Draft.

Part I of the Plan is national in scope and identifies: the role of research in management, including a review of the major stressors and threats facing coral reef ecosystems and an overview of stressor-associated research priorities; the role of mapping and monitoring in management-driven research programs; a discussion of the tools and technologies necessary to conduct research and to manage ecosystems; a discussion of the importance of transferring science and technology into operations; and the importance of using strategic outreach and education to

translate research results to improve management decisions.

Part II of the Plan is regional in scope and reviews the major stressors for coral ecosystems in each region under the jurisdiction of the United States and the Pacific Freely Associated States; identifies key management objectives specific to each region; and the research priorities for fiscal years 2006 to 2010 to help address the stated management objectives in each region. Part II is divided into the following regions: Florida with subsections for the Florida Keys, Southeast Florida, and the West Florida Shelf (also known as the Eastern Gulf of Mexico); Flower Garden Banks; Puerto Rico; the U.S. Virgin Islands; Navassa Island; the Hawaiian Islands with subsections for the Main and Northwestern Hawaiian Islands; American Samoa; the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands; Guam; the U.S. Pacific Remote Insular Areas, which includes Midway Atoll, Rose Atoll, Wake Atoll, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, Palmyra Atoll, Jarvis Island, Howland Island, and Baker Island; and the Pacific Freely Associated States with subsections for the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

NOAA welcomes all comments on the content of the Draft NOAA Coral Ecosystem Research Plan Part II: Regional Priorities. We also request comments on any inconsistencies perceived within the document, and possible omissions of important topics or issues. For any shortcoming noted within the draft documents, please propose specific remedies.

Please adhere to the instructions detailed below for preparing and submitting your comments on the Draft NOAA Coral Ecosystem Research Plan Part II: Regional Priorities. Using the format guidance described below will facilitate the processing of reviewer comments and assure that all comments are appropriately considered. Please format your comments into the following three sections: (1) Background information about yourself (optional); (2) overview or general comments; and (3) specific comments. Section one may include background information about yourself including: your name(s), organization(s), area(s) of expertise, and contact information, such as mailing address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address(s). Section two should consist of overview or general comments on the document and should be numbered. Section three should consist of comments that are specific to particular pages, paragraphs, or lines in the document and should identify the

page and line numbers to which they apply. Please number and print identifying information at the top of all pages.

Public comments may be submitted from April 7, 2006, through May 8, 2006.

Dated: April 3, 2006.

**David Kennedy,**

*Manager, Coral Reef Conservation Program.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-JE-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

[No. DoD-2006-OS-0060]

### Proposed collection: Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Defense Finance and Accounting Service, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service announces the proposed extension of a public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**DATES:** Consideration will be given to all comments received by June 6, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by docket number and title, by any of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: *http://www.regulations.gov*. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- Mail: Federal Docket Management System Office, 1160 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-1160.

*Instructions:* All submissions received must include the agency name and docket number for this **Federal Register** document. The general policy for comments and other submissions from members of the public is to make these submissions available for public viewing on the Internet at

<http://www.regulations.gov> as they are received without change, including any personal identifiers or contact information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instruments, please write to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service-Cleveland, DFAS-CL/PDS, ATTN: Addie E1-Amin or Brenda Pope, 1240 E. 9th Street, Cleveland, OH 44199, or call Addie E1-Amin or Brenda Pope, 216-522-6096.

*Title, Associated Form, and OMB Number:* Physician Certificate for Child Annuitant, DD Form 2828, OMB Number 0730-0011.

*Needs and Uses:* This form is required and must be on file to support an incapacitation occurring prior to page 18. The form provides the authority for the Directorate of Annuity Pay, Defense Finance and Accounting Service—Cleveland (DFAS-CL/PD) to establish and pay a Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan (RSFPP) or Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity to the incapacitated individual.

*Affected Public:* Incapacitated child annuitants, and/or their legal guardians, custodians and legal representatives.

*Annual Burden Hours:* 240.

*Number of Respondents:* 120.

*Responses Per Respondents:* 1.

*Average Burden Per Response:* 2 hours.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Summary of Information Collection**

The form will be used by the Directorate of Annuity Pay, Defense Finance and Accounting Service—Cleveland (DFAS-CL/PD), in order to establish and start the annuity for a potential child annuitant. When the form is completed, it will serve as a medical report to substantiate a child's incapacity. The law requires that an unmarried child who is incapacitated must provide a current certified medical report. When the incapacity is not permanent a medical certification must be received by DFAS-CL/PD every two years in order for the child to continue receiving annuity payments.

Dated: March 30, 2006.

**Patricia L. Toppings,**

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.*

[FR Doc. 06-3346 Filed 4-6-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 5001-06-M**

## **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

### **Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers**

#### **Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed TransAlta Pit 7 Mine Completion Project at Centralia, Washington**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Seattle District (Corps) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) will serve as joint lead agencies in the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) to evaluate proposed approaches to TransAlta Centralia Mining LLC's (TCM) completion of mining in Pit 7, a current mining operation at its Centralia Mine. The Corps will use the EIS in making its decision whether to issue a Section 404 permit under the Clean Water Act. Ecology will use the EIS in making its decision whether to issue a Section 401 Water Quality Certification under the Clean Water Act.

**DATES:** Submit comments by May 8, 2006. An agency scoping meet for this project will be held on April 18, 2006 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Washington Department of Ecology 300 Desmond Drive SE., Lacey, Washington. A public scoping meeting will be held on April 18, 2006 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Chehalis Courthouse, 351 NW., North Street, Chehalis, Washington.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on the scope of the EIS or requests for information should be sent to Mr. Jonathan Smith at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle Regulatory Branch, Post Office Box 3755, Seattle, Washington 98124-3755, or sent via e-mail to [Jonathan.Smith@nws02.usace.army.mil](mailto:Jonathan.Smith@nws02.usace.army.mil).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Jonathan Smith at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle Regulatory Branch, 4735 E. Marginal Way South, Seattle, Washington 98134, (206) 764-6910, or e-mail [Jonathan.Smith@nws02.usace.army.mil](mailto:Jonathan.Smith@nws02.usace.army.mil). Mr. Mark Cline, at the Washington Department of Ecology, 300 Desmond Drive SE, Lacey, Washington 98503, or e-mail [mcli461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:mcli461@ecy.wa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Centralia Mine is a surface coal mine that has been operating in Lewis and Thurston Counties near Centralia,

Washington since 1970. TCM currently operates the mine under permit WA-0001E, which was last renewed in 2005, from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM). TCM's previous Pit 7 mining was authorized by the Corps and Ecology under the Clean Water Act by Nationwide Permit 21 (Surface Coal Mining Activities).

#### **Proposed Action**

TCM proposes to complete mining activities at its existing Pit 7 mine by removing an estimated 9.58 million tons of coal during the period of 2007 through 2010. The proposed action would involve continued mining coal at Pit 7 in areas of previous coal extraction, as well as completion of Pit 7 mining activities through an approximately 108-acre area across portions of Packwood Creek to access 6.34 million tons of coal reserves. Coal extracted at the Pit 7 mine would provide much of the fuel for the adjacent power plant operated by TransAlta Centralia Generating (TCG). TCM's sole customer is TCG's 1,404-megawatt (MW) power plant. According to TCM, the facility is capable of providing electricity equivalent to the amount consumed by 750,000 households in the greater Washington region (8% of the power produced in Washington).

As part of its mining activities, TCM proposes to reclaim the site, which would replace and restore impacted streams and wetland acreage and functions. In addition, TCM proposes to provide any additional wetland and stream mitigation that would be needed to replace any lost functions not addressed by the reclamation plan.

#### **Preliminary Alternatives to the Proposed Action**

In addition to the Proposed Action, the EIS will evaluate a range of alternatives, including a No Action Alternative (Restrict Mining to Currently Permitted Mine Pits), as well as other alternative sources of coal to provide fuel for the adjacent power plant. The EIS will consider alternatives that may result from comments received during the agency and public scoping period. The EIS will also discuss alternatives considered and eliminated from further detailed study.

#### **EIS Scoping Process**

The EIS process begins with the publication of this Notice of Intent. The scoping period will continue for 30 days after publication of this Notice of Intent and will close on May 8, 2006. During the scoping period the Corps and