

wave impacts and coastal erosion. Under the SRIPP, NASA will extend an existing seawall and implement an initial beach fill in late 2011 with re-nourishment projects about every 5 years. The goal of SRIPP is to provide long-term protection of essential assets, including facilities and infrastructure on the WFF (such as rocket launch pads, runways, and launch control centers) valued at over \$1 billion. The purpose of BOEMRE's connected action is to respond to a request for use of OCS sand in the initial beach fill, under the authority granted to the Department of the Interior by the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) (43 U.S.C. 1337(k)(2)). Under OCSLA, BOEMRE can convey, on a noncompetitive basis, the rights to use OCS sand, gravel, or shell resources for use in a program for shoreline protection or beach restoration undertaken by a Federal, State, or local government agency (43 U.S.C. 1337(k)(2)). The Proposed Action is necessary because BOEMRE has a directive to authorize the use of OCS sand resources for the purpose of shore protection and beach restoration. The Secretary of the Interior delegated the authority granted in the OCSLA to BOEMRE.

#### Record of Decision

BOEMRE's decision is supported by the comprehensive analysis presented in NASA's Final PEIS, which was published in October 2010. NASA published their ROD in December 2010. BOEMRE and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) served as cooperating agencies in preparing the PEIS. Due to the specialized expertise of the USACE, USACE is acting as a technical partner for NASA.

The PEIS assessed the physical, biological, and social/human impacts of the proposed project and considered a wide range of structural and non-structural alternatives, including a no-action alternative, as well as impacts from proposed mitigation. The PEIS was developed cooperatively to fulfill all three Federal agencies' obligations under NEPA and the environmental impacts of their connected actions were encompassed in the analysis. As NASA is the lead agency and BOEMRE is a cooperating agency for the proposed action, BOEMRE independently reviewed and adopted the PEIS prepared by NASA (43 CFR 46.120).

The ROD summarizes the alternatives considered by BOEMRE, the decision BOEMRE made, the basis for the decision, the environmentally preferred alternative, required mitigation measures, and the process NASA, as the lead Federal agency, and the USACE

and BOEMRE as cooperating agencies, undertook to involve the public and other Federal and State agencies. The decision identifies and adopts mitigation measures and monitoring requirements enforceable by BOEMRE and deemed practicable to avoid or minimize the environmental harm that could result from the project. In NASA's ROD, NASA and USACE committed to implement the mitigation measures and monitoring requirements also identified in BOEMRE's ROD. This action is taken with the understanding that any proposed use of OCS sand in future beach re-nourishment activities by NASA will require a new negotiated agreement and an updated environmental analysis.

#### Availability of the ROD

To obtain a printed copy of the ROD, you may contact BOEMRE, Environmental Division (MS 4042), 381 Elen Street, Herndon, Virginia 20170. An electronic copy of the ROD is available at BOEMRE's Web site at: [<http://www.boemre.gov/sandandgravel/MarineMineralProjects.htm>].

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James F. Bennett, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, Environmental Division, 381 Elen Street, MS 4042, Herndon, Virginia 20170, (703) 787-1660, [jfbennett@boemre.gov](mailto:jfbennett@boemre.gov).

Dated: March 10, 2011.

#### Robert P. LaBelle,

*Acting Associate Director for Offshore, Energy and Minerals Management.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### U.S. Geological Survey

**[Billing Code: 2011-GX11GG009950000]**

#### National Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council (NEPEC)

**AGENCY:** U.S. Geological Survey, Interior.

#### ACTION: Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Public Law 96-472, the National Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council (NEPEC) will hold a 1-day meeting on April 16, 2011. The meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza Memphis Downtown, 300 North Second Street, Memphis, Tennessee 38105. The Council is comprised of members from academia and the Federal Government. The Council shall advise the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey on proposed earthquake

predictions, on the completeness and scientific validity of the available data related to earthquake predictions, and on related matters as assigned by the Director. Additional information about the Council may be found at: <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/aboutus/nepec/>.

At the meeting, the Council will receive a report from the Independent Expert Panel on New Madrid Seismic Zone Earthquake Hazards, a subcommittee charged with commenting on the level of hazard posed by future large earthquakes in the region and on priorities for future research to better constrain that hazard. The Council may also receive briefings on other topics relating to earthquakes in the Central U.S., on earthquake swarms recently active in Arkansas, on communication of seismic hazard in the Pacific Northwest, on the project intended to deliver an updated Uniform California Earthquake Rupture Forecast (UCERF3) in summer 2012, on the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan, and on other topics.

Workshops and meetings of the NEPEC are open to the public. A draft workshop agenda is available on request (contact information below). In order to ensure sufficient seating and hand-outs, it is requested that visitors pre-register by April 13. Members of the public wishing to make a statement to the Council should provide notice of that intention by April 13 so that time may be allotted in the agenda.

**DATES:** April 16, 2011, commencing at 8:30 a.m. and adjourning at 5:30 p.m. Times are approximate; guests are encouraged to contact the Executive Secretary for a copy of the agenda.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Michael Blanpied, Executive Secretary, National Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council U.S. Geological Survey, MS 905, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 20192, (703) 648-6696, E-mail: [mblanpied@usgs.gov](mailto:mblanpied@usgs.gov).

Dated: March 30, 2011.

#### David J. Newman,

*USGS Federal Register Liaison.*

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