DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Notice of Intent/NEPA Scoping Meeting and Public Comment Period for the Grand River Habitat Restoration and Invasive Species Control Project, Grand Rapids, Michigan

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Detroit District, announces its intent to conduct public scoping and solicit public comments to gather information to prepare a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on behalf of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) related to the proposed Grand River Habitat Restoration and Invasive Species Control Project in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The project must provide a means to block sea lamprey from moving upstream, as this invasive species is currently blocked by the existing 6th Street Dam in the Grand River, must maintain or reduce the current risk of flooding upstream, and must provide for fish passage into upstream areas. If implemented, the project is expected to adversely impact existing healthy mussel population, which includes the federally-listed endangered shellscale and snuffbox mussels as well as a number of state-listed mussel species.

DATES: Comments for consideration in the development of the scope of the NEPA draft EIS are due no later than May 15, 2019. Comments may also be made at the public scoping meeting as noted below. All comments and materials received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and may be released to the public.

ADDRESSES: The public is invited to submit written comments at the meeting and/or to Mr. Charles A. Uhlarik, Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, Environmental Analysis Branch, 477 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, MI 48226 or via email to: Comments-Grand-River@usace.army.mil.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Charles A. Uhlarik, 313–226–2476.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the GLFC are tasked with protecting federally endangered species and managing invasive sea lamprey populations in the Great Lakes, respectively. These agencies approached the USACE, Detroit District to assist with the evaluation of the proposed project due to the potential for constructing a new sea lamprey control structure on the Grand River and potential for modifications of the existing barrier to sea lamprey at 6th Street Dam. Therefore, the USACE, Detroit District is preparing this draft EIS on behalf of the GLFC, and is a cooperating agency in the NEPA process based on the Detroit District’s expertise in flood risk management and in sea lamprey barrier design. The USFWS is also a cooperating agency because of the anticipated impacts to federally-listed endangered mussels. While USACE, Detroit District will be conducting the public scoping associated with the draft EIS and the preparation of the draft and final EIS, the GLFC will ultimately be responsible for signing a Record of Decision at the end of this process as the lead agency for this effort.

Proposed Project: A draft EIS is being proposed for a multipurpose restoration project in the Grand River, in downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan. The intent of the project is to restore, enhance, and maintain the rapids in the Grand River from upstream of Ann Street to Fulton Street, and may include habitat, recreation and invasive species control features.

Proposed Project Purpose and Need: The ecosystem processes and recreational functions of the Grand River have been degraded by channelization, dredging, and urban development in the reach that flows through the city of Grand Rapids. A series of five low-head dams and more than a mile of floodwalls on both sides of the river have constrained the physical, chemical, and biological processes of the river ecosystem within this highly urbanized reach of the river. Only one percent of riparian areas in the lower peninsula of Michigan is comprised of rapids-type habitat, which is critical to the lifecycle of many aquatic species. Furthermore, the rapids have significant economic benefit associated with outdoor recreation.

Alternatives: There is a vested interest by local stakeholders in restoring the rapids habitat in this stretch of the Grand River in downtown Grand Rapids. A healthy mussel population, that includes the federally-listed endangered shellscale and snuffbox mussels as well as number of state-listed mussel species, is expected to be adversely impacted by this project, based on mussel surveys conducted in 2016 and informal consultation with the USFWS. Project alternatives must take into account the impacted mussels as well as providing a means to block sea lamprey from moving upstream, as this invasive species is currently blocked by the existing 6th Street Dam in the Grand River, must maintain or reduce the current risk of flooding upstream, and must provide for fish passage into upstream areas. An outcome of the NEPA public scoping process is the formulation/development of a range of project alternatives based on public input and agency expertise so that the project can be developed in a manner that is consistent with sound engineering practice and meets all applicable environmental laws and regulations. The draft EIS will consider the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of alternatives on affected resources that are identified during the scoping process, including, but are not limited to: Water quality, stream flows, air quality, fish and wildlife (including federally-listed endangered species and their designated critical habitat), floodplains, wetlands, climate, cultural resources, and social and economic resources such as noise, aesthetics, environmental justice.

Scoping Process/Public Involvement: The USACE, Detroit District is issuing this notice, on behalf of the GLFC to: (1) Inform other Federal and state agencies, tribes, and the public of their plan to analyze effects related to implementation of the Grand River Habitat Restoration and Invasive Species Control Project in Grand Rapids, Michigan; (2) obtain suggestions and information that may inform the scope of issues and range of alternatives to evaluate in the draft EIS; (3) request input on potential effects to federally-listed endangered species and their critical habitat in accordance with the Endangered Species Act; and (4) provide notice and request input on potential effects on historic properties in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

The scoping process will help identify reasonable prudent alternatives, facilitate the evaluation of potential effects to the human and natural environments and key issues of concern to be analyzed in the draft EIS. The USACE, Detroit District, on behalf of the GLFC, intends to comply with the requirements of the Endangered Species Act by undergoing formal Section 7 Consultation with the USFWS. Additionally, the USACE Detroit District, on behalf of the GLFC, intends to comply with the requirements of the
Section 106 of the NHPA in parallel with the NEPA process. The USACE, Detroit District invites federal, state, and local agencies, federally-recognized Native American Tribes, the State Historic Preservation Office, other interested parties, and the general public to participate in the NEPA scoping process for the preparation of this draft EIS by attending meetings and/or submitting written comments.

The NEPA Public Scoping open house style meeting will be held at the DeVos Place Convention Center, 303 Monroe Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 on Monday, April 8, 2019 from 3:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. to provide information to the public, serve as a mechanism to solicit agency and public input to develop alternatives and issues of concern, and ensure full and open participation in scoping of the draft EIS. A short, informal presentation will be held at 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to provide more detail on the project. Written comments will also be requested. Additional information related to the public scoping process will be provided through news releases to the media, advertisements placed in regional/local newspapers of general circulation, Public Notice, and/or on the project website at: https://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental-Services/.

Upon completion of the scoping process, the draft EIS will be developed and circulated for public review and comment. The USACE Detroit District expects to release the draft EIS for public review and comment in late 2019. The USACE Detroit District will issue a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register announcing the release of the draft EIS for public comment through news releases to the media, advertisements placed in regional/local newspapers of general circulation, Public Notice, and/or on the project website listed above.

Charles A. Uhlarik,
Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch, USACE, Detroit District.

[FR Doc. 2019–04864 Filed 3–14–19; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3720–58–P

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

Sunshine Act Meetings

TIME AND DATE: 2 p.m.–4 p.m., March 19, 2019.

STATUS: Closed. During the closed meeting, the Board Members will discuss issues dealing with potential Recommendations to the Secretary of Energy. The Board is invoking the exemptions to close a meeting described in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(3) and (9)(B) and 10 CFR 1704.4(c) and (h). The Board has determined that it is necessary to close the meeting since conducting an open meeting is likely to disclose matters that are specifically exempted from disclosure by statute, and/or be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of a proposed agency action. In this case, the deliberations will pertain to potential Board Recommendations which, under 42 U.S.C. 2286d(h) and (h)(3), may not be made publicly available until after they have been received by the Secretary of Energy or the President, respectively.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: The meeting will proceed in accordance with the closed meeting agenda which is posted on the Board’s public website at www.dnfspb.gov. Technical staff may present information to the Board. The Board Members are expected to conduct deliberations regarding potential Recommendations to the Secretary of Energy.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Glenn Sklar, General Manager, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20004–2901, (800) 788–4016. This is a toll-free number.

Dated: March 12, 2019.
Bruce Hamilton,
Chairman.

First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214). Anyone filing a motion to intervene or protest must serve a copy of that document on the Applicant.

Notice is hereby given that the deadline for filing protests with regard to the applicant’s request for blanket authorization, under 18 CFR part 34, of future issuances of securities and assumptions of liability, is April 1, 2019.

The Commission encourages electronic submission of protests and interventions in lieu of paper, using the FERC Online links at http://www.ferc.gov. To facilitate electronic service, persons with internet access who will eFile a document and/or be listed as a contact for an intervenor must create and validate an eRegistration account using the eRegistration link. Select the eFiling link to log on and submit the intervention or protests.

Persons unable to file electronically should submit an original and 5 copies of the intervention or protest to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426.

The filings in the above-referenced proceeding are accessible in the Commission’s eLibrary system by clicking on the appropriate link in the above list. They are also available for electronic review in the Commission’s Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. There is an eSubscription link on the website that enables subscribers to receive email notification when a document is added to a subscribed docket(s). For assistance with any FERC Online service, please email FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or call (866) 208–3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502–8659.

Dated: March 11, 2019.
Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2019–04846 Filed 3–14–19; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER19–1230–000]

TRS Fuel Cell, LLC; Supplemental Notice That Initial Market-Based Rate Filing Includes Request for Blanket Authorization Section 204 Authorization

This is a supplemental notice in the above-referenced proceeding of TRS Fuel Cell, LLC’s application for market-based rate authority, with an accompanying rate tariff, noting that such application includes a request for blanket authorization, under 18 CFR part 34, of future issuances of securities and assumptions of liability.

Any person desiring to intervene or to protest should file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888