

Expiration Date: To be requested.

Type of Request: Request for new clearance.

Description of Need: NPS needs information concerning park visitor demographics and visitor opinions about the services that the National Park Service provides. For Project (1), Hopewell Culture National Historical Park Visitor and Community Survey, NPS also needs information about the perceptions of people who do not visit the park to help the park be more responsive to community needs. For Projects 2&3, Canyonlands National Park (Green and Colorado Rivers) Visitor Study, and Voyageurs National Park Visitor Study, NPS also needs information about visitor perceptions of standards for achieving quality visitor experiences. For Project 4, Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial Visitor Study, NPS also needs information about how visitors are reacting to changes made in park management based on past research in the park. For Project 5, Great Plains Prairie Cluster Visitor Studies at 7 parks, NPS also needs information about visitor perceptions of standards for achieving quality visitor experiences. The information proposed to be collected from visitors in these parks and from community residents to meet these needs is not available from existing records, sources, or observations.

Automated Data Collection: At the present time, there is no automated way to gather this information, since it includes asking visitors to react to management and services at the parks they are visiting. The intrusion on visitors is minimized by contacting them only once during their visit to the park.

Description of Respondents: Project 1: A sample of visitors to the park and a sample of individuals from Ross County, Ohio. Projects 2&3: A sample of visitors on the Green and Colorado Rivers and at Voyageurs National Park. Projects 4&5: A sample of visitors to each park.

Estimated Average Number of Respondents: Project 1: 400 visitors contacted at the park and 400 residents of Ross county. Projects 2&3: 600 at each location. Project 4: 400. Project 5: 250 at each park.

Estimated Average Number of Responses: Each respondent will respond only one time, so the number of responses will be the same as the number of respondents.

Estimated Average Burden Hours Per Response: Projects 1, 4, and 5: 20 minutes. Projects 2&3: 30 minutes.

Frequency of Response: 1 time per respondent.

Estimated Annual Reporting Burden: Project 1: 270 hours. Projects 2&3: 900 hours. Project 4: 135 hours. Project 5: 85 hours at each park for a total of 595 hours.

Diane M. Cooke,

*Information Collection Clearance Officer,
WASO Administrative Program Center,
National Park Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[DES 97-46]

Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the AT&T Corporation P140 Coaxial Cable Removal Project, Socorro County, New Mexico, Clark County, Nevada, and Kern and San Bernardino Counties, California

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 the National Park Service announces the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The Superintendent of Mojave National Preserve, is the Department of the Interior's designated lead federal agency official in accordance with 516 DM 2.4(A), the Bureau of Land Management, Riverside District Office, is the designated cooperating agency; and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Ventura Office, is a coordinating agency. This notice also announces public meetings for the purpose of receiving public comments on the DEIS.

The National Park Service (NPS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received a request from AT&T Corp. to remove portions of a telecommunications system, that is non-supportive to their fiber optic network and to relinquish associated rights-of-way easements. As jurisdictional agencies of federal lands crossed by the project, the NPS and the BLM are responsible for determining terms and conditions of any removal activity and rehabilitation actions to promote restoration of the land. AT&T owns and maintains approximately 709 miles of coaxial communications cable and equipment generally between Mojave, California and Socorro, New Mexico known as the P140 cable system consisting of underground cable, repeater huts, manholes, cable markers, other electronic equipment and access corridor. The project addresses a 220

mile portion of the system including 7.7 miles in New Mexico, 7.4 miles in Nevada, and 205.2 miles in California.

Alternatives

The DEIS describes and analyzes four alternatives in response to AT&T's request to remove cable and to terminate the associated rights-of-way. The original right-of-way grants for public and state lands in New Mexico and private and state lands in California provide AT&T a right to remove cable and equipment; so it was necessary to assume cable and equipment removal in these areas. The proposed action, and two additional action alternatives have been developed to reduce or avoid adverse effects on desert vegetation, wilderness, the desert tortoise and recreational access. The No Action alternative is included as a baseline for comparison of the action alternatives. To varying degrees all action alternatives include cable and structure removal along with rehabilitation of the access corridor and repeater hut sites.

The No Action Alternative includes no cable or structural removal nor any rehabilitation action. AT&T would retain its right-of-way easements and would continue to patrol and maintain the access corridor. The Proposed Action-Alternative A, includes the removal of 174.5 miles of cable, repeater huts and manholes along 220 miles of the right-of-way. Removal of marker posts along 174.2 miles and elimination of 39.8 miles of the access corridor and 4 miles of dual track. In addition, the proposed action includes rehabilitation actions to promote restoration and habitat recovery at the repeater hut sites and along portions of the access corridor. Alternative B, was developed to protect desert tortoise critical habitat on federal lands by not removing cable from these areas and eliminating more of the access corridor within critical habitat. Cable would be removed along 113.7 miles outside of critical habitat on federal lands, repeater huts and manholes would be removed along 174.7 miles, and 51.6 miles of the access corridor and 4 miles of dual track would be eliminated and rehabilitated. Alternative C, was developed to minimize construction related impacts on desert vegetation and desert tortoise on federal lands by not removing any cable on federal lands and by eliminating the access corridor in wilderness areas only. Cable would be removed along 72.3 miles on primarily state and private lands. Repeater huts and manholes would be removed along 220 miles, marker posts would be removed along 174.7 miles, and 5.4 miles of the access corridor and 4 miles

of dual tract would be eliminated and rehabilitated.

Environmental Consequences

In general, the Proposed Action would involve trade-offs between long term, adverse affects on desert resources as a result of cable removal activities and permanent gains or benefits associated with removal of structures and rehabilitation actions at the repeater hut sites and along the access corridor. Removal and rehabilitation activities would result in unavoidable, long term adverse effects on desert vegetation, animal species of concern, soil productivity, and visual aesthetics. Construction activities would also result in temporary adverse air quality and noise impacts. Removal of marker posts along 220 miles would enhance desert tortoise habitat by eliminating predator perches and removal of repeater huts would enhance desert aesthetics. Rehabilitation actions along the access corridor would have an unavoidable, permanent adverse effect on recreational access to open desert areas on federal land. Rehabilitation action along the access corridor and at the repeater hut sites, overall, would have a beneficial impact on desert resources. Alternative B would result in long term losses of desert vegetation and desert tortoise habitat due to 113.7 fewer miles of cable removal activities, but would affect 61 fewer miles than the Proposed action. The enhancement of desert tortoise habitat by eliminating predator perches would be the same as the proposal. Elimination of 12 more miles of the access corridor would result in a greater permanent gain to desert tortoise habitat by eliminating the vehicle related impacts, but would have greater impacts on recreation access than the proposal. The permanent enhancement of habitat values at the repeater hut sites would be the same as the proposal. The permanent visual enhancement associated with removal of aboveground structures would be the same as the proposal. Impacts of Alternative C would result in long term loss of desert vegetation and desert tortoise habitat due to 72.3 fewer miles of cable removal, but would affect 102 miles less than the proposal. The enhancement of desert tortoise habitat by eliminating predator perches along 220 miles would be the same as the proposal. Eliminating 34 fewer miles of the access corridor as compared with the proposal would result in a smaller permanent gain to desert tortoise habitat but would avoid the recreational access impacts of the proposal. The permanent enhancement of habitat values at the repeater hut sites would be the same as the proposal. The

permanent visual enhancement associated with removal of the aboveground structures would be the same as the proposal.

The DEIS was prepared in order to evaluate a range of alternatives, assess the impacts of these alternatives and to provide the public with an opportunity to comment. This document will be on public review for at least 60 days. The NPS and the BLM would appreciate any comments on the project.

DATES: Comments on the Draft EIS should be received no later than March 27, 1998. Two public meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, January 14, 1998 (10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.) at the Hole-in-the-Wall Visitor Center within the Mojave National Preserve; and (7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.) at the Holiday Inn, 1511 E. Main Street, in Barstow, California. Further information can be obtained by contacting Joan DeGraff of the NPS at (303) 969-2464.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the Draft EIS should be submitted to Joan DeGraff National Park Service, Denver Service Center, P.O. BOX 25287, Denver, CO. 80225-0287.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Copies of the DEIS are available on the Internet at the NPS web site <http://www.nps.gov/planning/index.html>. Public reading copies of the DEIS are available for review at local NPS and BLM Offices and at local public libraries. For information on these locations contact: Joan DeGraff at (303) 969-2464.

Dated: December 19, 1997.

Willie R. Taylor,

Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Acadia National Park Advisory Commission; Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770, 5 U.S.C. App. 1, Sec. 10), that the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission will hold a meeting on Monday, January 12, 1998.

The Commission was established pursuant to Public Law 99-420, Section 103. The purpose of the commission is to consult with the Secretary of the Interior, or his designee, on matters relating to the management and development of the park, including but not limited to the acquisition of lands

and interests in lands (including conservation easements on islands) and termination of rights of use and occupancy.

The meeting will convene at park Headquarters, McFarland Hill, Bar Harbor, Maine, at 1:00 p.m. to consider the following agenda:

1. Review and approval of minutes from the meeting held October 27, 1997.
2. Committee reports.
3. Old business.
4. Superintendent's report.
5. Public comments.
6. Proposed agenda and date of next Commission meeting.

The meeting is open to the public. Interested persons may make oral/written presentations to the Commission or file written statements. Such requests should be made to the Superintendent at least seven days prior to the meeting.

Further information concerning this meeting may be obtained from the Superintendent, Acadia National Park, P.O. Box 177, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609, tel: (207) 288-3338.

Dated: December 18, 1997.

Len Bobinchock,

Acting Superintendent, Acadia National Park.

[FR Doc. 97-33721 Filed 12-24-97; 8:45 am]

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 332-288]

Ethyl Alcohol for Fuel Use: Determination of the Base Quantity of Imports

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice of determination.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 19, 1997.

SUMMARY: Section 7 of the Steel Trade Liberalization Program Implementation Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2703 note), which concerns local feedstock requirements for fuel ethyl alcohol imported by the United States from CBI-beneficiary countries, requires the Commission to determine annually the U.S. domestic market for fuel ethyl alcohol during the 12-month period ending on the preceding September 30. The domestic market estimate made by the Commission is to be used to establish the "base quantity" of imports that can be imported with a zero percent local feedstock requirement. The base quantity to be used by the U.S. Customs Service in the administration of the law is the greater of 60 million gallons or 7 percent of U.S. consumption as