

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Major Sandy Lewis, ARNG, or GySgt Brenad L. Warren, USMC, DACOWITS and Military Women Matters, OASD (Force Management Policy), 4000 Defense Pentagon, Room 3D769, Washington, DC 20301-4000; telephone (703) 697-2122 or E-Mail: warrenb@pr.osd.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following rules will govern the participation by members of the public at the conference:

(1) Members of the public will not be permitted to attend the OSD Luncheon, OSD Reception and Dinner and Conference Field Trip.

(2) The Opening Session, General Session, all Subcommittee Sessions, Tri-Committee Review, Final Review and the Voting Session will be open to the public.

(3) Interested persons may submit a written statement for consideration by the Committee and/or make an oral presentation of such during the conference.

(4) Persons desiring to make an oral presentation or submit a written statement to the Committee must notify the point of contact listed above no later than April 10, 1998.

(5) Length and number of oral presentations to be made will depend on the number of requests received from members of the public.

(6) Oral presentations by members of the public will be permitted only on Sunday, April 26, 1998, before the full Committee.

(7) Each person desiring to make an oral presentation must provide the DACOWITS office with one (1) copy of the presentation by April 10, 1998 and bring 175 copies of any material that is intended for distribution at the conference.

(8) Persons submitting a written statement for inclusion in the minutes of the conference must submit to the DACOWITS staff one (1) copy of the statement by the close of the conference on Sunday, April 26, 1998.

(9) Other new items from members of the public may be presented in writing to any DACOWITS member for transmittal to the DACOWITS Chair or Military Director, DACOWITS and Military Women Matters, for consideration.

(10) Members of the public will not be permitted to enter oral discussions conducted by the Committee members at any of the sessions; however, they will be permitted to reply to questions directed to them by the members of the Committee.

(11) After the official participants have asked questions and/or made

comments to the scheduled speakers, members of the public will be permitted to ask questions if recognized by the Chair and if time allows.

(12) Non-social agenda events that are not open to the public are for administrative matters unrelated to substantive advice provided to the Department of Defense and do not involve DACOWITS deliberations or decision-making issues before the Committee. Conference sessions will be conducted according to the following agenda:

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Conference Registration

Military Representatives Meeting
(Senior Military Representatives Only)

Executive Committee Rules and
Procedures Meeting (DACOWITS
Members Only)

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Opening Session and General Session
(Open to Public)

Luncheon (Paid Registered Conference
Participants Only)

Subcommittee Session (Open to Public)

Friday, April 24, 1998

Subcommittee Session (Open to Public)

OSD Luncheon (Invited Guests Only)

Subcommittee Session (Open to Public)

Executive Committee Rules and
Procedures Meeting (DACOWITS
Members Only)

OSD Reception and Diner (Invited
Guests Only)

Saturday, April 25, 1998

Subcommittee Session (Open to Public)

Tri-Committee Review (Open to Public)

Subcommittee Session (Open to Public)

Field Trip (DACOWITS Members and
Senior Military Representatives Only)

Executive Committee Rules and
Procedures Meeting (DACOWITS
Members Only)

Sunday, April 26, 1998

Final Review (Open to Public)

Voting Session (Open to Public)

Dated: March 17, 1998.

L.M. Bynum,

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

[FR Doc. 98-7508 Filed 3-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5000-04-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Pilot Testing of Neutralization/Biotreatment of Mustard Agent at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of availability (NOA).

SUMMARY: This announces the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) which assesses the potential environmental impacts of the design, construction, systemization and operation of a facility to pilot test the neutralization/biotreatment process of mustard agent using water at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Maryland. The proposed facility will be used to demonstrate, as part of a research and development program, the feasibility of adopting the neutralization process using water, followed by biotreatment, to destroy mustard agent currently stored in two containers at APG.

The alternatives considered in this DEIS are no action (i.e., continued storage of mustard agent at APG) and locating the pilot facility at one of two potential sites within APG. Although the no action alternative is not viable under Public Law 99-145, the Department of Defense Authorization Act of 1986, it was analyzed to provide a comparison with the proposed action. In addition, the no action alternative is considered to be deferral of research and development of the neutralization process as an alternative technology.

DATES: The public comment period for the DEIS will end 45 days after publication of the NAO in the Federal Register by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Public comments received on the DEIS will be considered and addressed in the final EIS and considered by the Army in its Record of Decision.

ADDRESSES: To obtain copies of the DEIS, contact Ms. Nancy Hoffman at Edgewood Community Outreach Office at (410) 676-6800 or write to: Woodbridge Station, 1011 Woodbridge Center Way, Edgewood, Maryland 21040.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Office of the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization, ATTN: SFAE-CD-P (Ms. Catherine Herlinger), Building E4585, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21010-5401; telephone: (800) 488-0648 or (410) 671-1479; e-mail: cherling@cdra.apgea.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DEIS concludes that mustard stored in bulk containers can be pilot tested at APG using the neutralization (hydrolysis) process with water, followed by biotreatment, in a safe and environmentally acceptable manner. At one time, the option of sending the hydrolysate to an off-site biotreatment facility was under consideration by the Army. However, the Army has been unable to identify a suitable off-site biotreatment facility that would accept the neutralization hydrolysate, and also conform to the safety and environmental protection requirements of the proposed action. Therefore, off-site biotreatment is not addressed further in this DEIS.

Dated: March 18, 1998.

Richard E. Newsome,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health) OASA (I, L&E).

[FR Doc. 98-7597 Filed 3-23-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Notice of Closed Meeting

In accordance with Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), announcement is made of the following Committee Meeting:

Name of Committee: Army Science Board (ASB).

Date of Meeting: 24 March 1998.

Time of Meeting: 0800-1700.

Place: MIT Lincoln Laboratory—Lexington, MA.

Agenda: The Army Science Board's (ASB) Independent Assessment Panel on "Hit-to-Kill Interceptor Lethality—Phase II" will meet to receive briefings on biological defense from the staff of the Lincoln Laboratory of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with Section 552b(c) of Title 5, U.S.C., specifically subparagraphs (1) and (4) thereof, and Title 5, U.S.C., Appendix 2, subsection 10(d). The classified and unclassified matters to be discussed are so inextricably intertwined so as to preclude opening any portion of this meeting. For further information, please contact our office at (703) 604-7490.

Wayne Joyner,

Program Support Specialist, Army Science Board.

[FR Doc. 98-7637 Filed 3-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the New York and New Jersey Harbor Navigation Study: Feasibility Phase

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The New York District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to ascertain compliance with and lead to production of a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document in accordance with the President's Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) Rules and Regulations, as defined and amended in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500-1508, Corps' Principles and Guidelines as defined in Engineering Regulation (ER) 1105-2-100 and ER 1105-1-200 and other applicable Federal and State environmental laws for the proposed deepening and navigation improvements to the New York and New Jersey Harbor.

The study area includes the Federal Navigation waterways Ambrose and Anchorage Channels; New York and New Jersey Channels (the Kill Van Kull and Arthur Kill to Gulfport); Newark Bay Channel (from the Kill Van Kull to Elizabeth Channel); Bay Ridge and Red Hook Channel; Buttermilk Channel; and the Stapleton, Red Hook and Gravesend Anchorages; and the non-federal Port Jersey and Claremont Channels.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jenine Gallo, Project Biologist at (212) 264-4740 (4559), Planning Division, Corps of Engineers, New York District, 25 Federal Plaza, New York, New York 10278-0090.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This study is authorized by Section 435 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 which reads: "The Secretary shall conduct a comprehensive study of navigation needs at the Port of New York-New Jersey (including the South Brooklyn Marine and Red Hook Container Terminals, Staten Island, and adjacent areas) to address improvements, including deepening of existing channels to depths of 50 feet or greater, that are required to provide economically efficient and environmentally sound navigation to meet current and future requirements".

The study area is the Harbor of New York/New Jersey (hereinafter, the

Harbor) which contains the largest port on the east coast, the port of New York and New Jersey, and is among the largest in the United States in terms of volume of commerce. Thirty billion gallons of petroleum are handled by the Port each year and make it the largest petroleum port in the country. The Port is also the third largest container port in the United States and the largest on the east coast of North America. The Port provides more than 166,000 port-related jobs, \$20 billion in economic activity, and serves more than 17 million consumers in the States of New York and New Jersey. The Port handles this large volume of commerce despite the fact that it lacks sufficient depth to serve fully loaded ships of the latest designs to enter service.

1. The study area, located in the western Atlantic Ocean, consists of existing Federal Channels and Anchorages. Channels are: Ambrose; Bay Ridge; Red Hook; Buttermilk; Kill Van Kull; Claremont; Port Jersey; Newark Bay (including Port Newark and Elizabeth Channels); and Arthur Kill. Anchorages are Stapleton, Bay Ridge and Gravesend.

The Port of New York and New Jersey is also included in the study area. The study area has been divided into six "paths," having the Ambrose and Anchorage channels as common elements: the Kill Van Kull/Newark Bay to Port Newark and Elizabeth; the Kill Van Kull and Arthur Kill to Howland Hook; the remaining Arthur Kill path and Arthur Kill to Howland Hook; the remaining Arthur Kill path from Howland Hook to Gulfport; the Stapleton, Bay Ridge, Red Hook and Buttermilk channels; the Port Jersey Channel and Claremont Terminal channels; and the Red Hook, Stapleton and Gravesend Anchorages.

2. Areas to be analyzed include the navigation channels and anchorages, and water areas adjacent to navigation channels and anchorages. A National Economic Development (NED) Plan will be developed to support container and petroleum facilities. Various depth alternatives will be evaluated for each channel and design vessel depths in excess of 50 feet of petroleum reaches will be analyzed and estimated quantities of material to be removed will be developed for each channel. The study assumes that the Arthur Kill Channel/Howland Hook Project, the Kill Van Kull Project, and the Port Jersey Project will have been dredged to -41, -45, and -41 feet MLW respectively prior to the construction of the Harbor Deepening project.

Three types of environmental analyses will be conducted; impacts