

determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-34172 Filed 12-31-97; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-5458-7]

Environmental Impact Statements and Regulations; Availability of EPA Comments

Availability of EPA comments prepared December 15, 1997 Through December 19, 1997 pursuant to the Environmental Review Process (ERP), under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act as amended. Requests for copies of EPA comments can be directed to the OFFICE OF FEDERAL ACTIVITIES AT (202) 564-7167. An explanation of the ratings assigned to draft environmental impact statements (EISs) was published in the **Federal Register** dated April 11, 1997 (62 FR 16154).

Draft EISs

ERP No. D-BLM-K67046-NV, Rating EC2, Olinghouse Mine Project, Construction of Two Open Pits, Waste Dump, Haul Road and Cyanide Heap Leach Pads, Plan-of-Operation, Carson City, Washoe County, NV.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns that cyanide heap leach operations and overburden piles could adversely impact surface or groundwater, and recommended specific design modifications and mitigation.

ERP No. D-IBR-K64016-CA, Rating LO1, Hamilton City Pumping Plant, Fish Screen Improvement Project, COE Section 10 and 404 Permits, Central Valley, Butte, Colusa, Glenn and Tehama Counties, CA.

Summary: Because of the clear beneficial effects to endangered species, EPA concurred with the proposed project and strongly supported the Environmental Compliance and Mitigation Monitoring and Fish Protection and Evaluation and Monitoring Programs. EPA recommended that FEIS include a table

which prioritizes action items if adequate resources are not received.

Final EISs

ERP No. F-BLM-K65196-CA, Interlakes Special Recreation Management Area Plan, Implementation, Federal and Private Lands Issues, Shasta County, CA.

Summary: EPA's concerns were adequately addressed in the final EIS. However, EPA recommended that the Record of Decision include the management plan implementation strategy.

ERP No. F-BLM-K67042-CA, Castle Mountain Mine Open Pit Heap Leach Gold Mine Expansion Project, Plan of Operations Modification and Mine and Reclamation Plans Amendment, Approvals, San Bernardino County, CA.

Summary: The Final EIS addressed most of EPA's concerns. EPA recommended that the Record of Decision include post-mining monitoring of pit conditions for public and environmental safety.

ERP No. F-FAA-K51036-HI, Kahului Airport Master Plan Improvements, Implementation, Funding and Approval of Permits, Kahului, Maui County, HI.

Summary: Review of the Final EIS was not deemed necessary. No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

ERP No. F-FHW-K40205-CA, US 101 Realignment Construction, near Cushing Creek from Mile Post 20.3 to 22.3 South of Crescent City, Funding and COE Permits, Del Norte County, CA.

Summary: Review of the Final EIS was not deemed necessary. No formal comment letter was sent the preparing agency.

ERP No. F-NPS-K61137-AZ, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument General Management Plan and Development Concept Plan Implementation, Portion of the Sonoran Desert, Pima County, AZ.

Summary: Review of the final EIS was not deemed necessary. No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

ERP No. FS-COE-C36030-NJ, Green Brook Sub-Basin Flood Control Plan, Updated Information concerning a Revised Recommended Plan and Mitigation Plan, Implementation, Middlesex, Union and Somerset Counties, NJ.

Summary: EPA recommended that the Record of Decision recognized that the Cornell-Dubilies Electronics site has been proposed for listing on the National Priorities List given potential PCB contamination in Bound Brook and New Market Pond. In addition, EPA

recommended additional measures to minimize impacts to wetlands.

Dated: December 30, 1997.

Cliff Rader,

Environmental Protection Specialist, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 97-34226 Filed 12-31-97; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-5487-6]

Environmental Impact Statements; Notice of Availability

Responsible Agency: Office of Federal Activities, General Information (202) 564-7167 OR (202) 564-7153.

Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements

Filed December 22, 1997 Through December 26, 1997

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

EIS No. 970491, Draft EIS, NPS, CA, NV, NM, P140, Coaxial Cable Removal Project, Plan Approval and Permits Issuance, Socorro, New Mexico to Mojave, California, NM, CA and NV, Due: March 27, 1998, Contact: Joan DeGraff (303) 969-2464. The above DEIS was received on 12-19-97. Due to the Holiday Schedule, EISs received on 12-19-97 are appearing in the 1-02-98 **Federal Register** with Review and Wait Periods calculated from the 12-24-97 **Federal Register** date.

EIS No. 970492, Final EIS, FHW, NC, Fayetteville Outer Loop Project, US 401 to I-95 at the existing US 13 Interchange, Funding and US COE Section 10 and 404 Permit Issuance, City of Fayetteville, Cumberland County, NC, Due: January 22, 1998, Contact: Nicholas L. Graf (919) 856-4346.

The above FEIS was received on 12-19-97.

Due to the Holiday Schedule, EISs received on 12-19-97 are appearing in the 1-2-98 **Federal Register** with Review and Wait Periods calculated from the 12-24-97 **Federal Register** date.

EIS No. 970493, Draft EIS, AFS, CA, Payen, Pass Creek and English Range Allotments, Grazing Land Management Plan, Implementation, Tahoe National Forest, Sierraville Ranger District, Sierra and Nevada Counties, CA, Due: February 17, 1998, Contact: Jerry Sirski (916) 994-3401. EIS No. 970494, Draft EIS, AFS, WA, White Pass Ski Area Expansion, Special-Use-Permit, Pigtail Basin and

Hogback Basin, Wenatchee and Gifford, Pinchot National Forests, Yakima and Lewis Counties, WA, Due: February 17, 1998, Contact: Jim Pena (509) 653-2205.

EIS No. 970495, Final EIS, FAA, MO, Lambert-St. Louis International Airport (Lambert) Improvements, Construction and Operation, Airport Layout Plan Approval, City of St. Louis, St. Louis County, MO, Due: February 02, 1998, Contact: Ms. Moira Keane (816) 426-4731.

EIS No. 970496, Draft EIS, FRC, ND, IA, MN, IL, Illiance Natural Gas Pipeline Project, Construction and Operation, Funding, NPDES Permit, COE Section 10 and 404 Permit, ND, MN, IA and IL, Due: February 17, 1998, Contact: Paul McKee (202) 208-1088.

EIS No. 970497, Final EIS, URC, UT, Provo River Restoration Project (PRRP), Riverine Habitat Restoration, Reconstruction and Realignment of the existing Provo River Channel and Floodplain System between Jordanell Dam and Deer River Reservoir, Wasatch County, UT, Due: February 26, 1998, Contact: Mark A. Holden (801) 524-3146. The US Department of the Interior is a Joint Lead Agency for the above Project along with the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission (URC).

Dated: December 30, 1998.

Cliff Rader,

Environmental Protection Specialist, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 97-34227 Filed 12-31-97; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5945-3]

Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS); Announcement of 1998 Program; Request for Information

AGENCY: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice; Announcement of IRIS 1998 Program and request for scientific information on chronic health effects of chemical substances.

SUMMARY: The Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) is a data base of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that contains EPA scientific consensus positions on potential human health effects from environmental contaminants. On April 2, 1996 EPA announced the IRIS Pilot Program and solicited scientific information from the public for

consideration in assessing the chronic health effects of eleven chemical substances. (See FR Vol. 61 No. 64 p. 14570.) The Pilot program is near completion, and the Agency is preparing a new set of chemical health assessments for IRIS. The purpose of this notice is to communicate to the public the Agency's plans, and solicit scientific data and evaluations for consideration in EPA's new assessments.

DATES: Please submit information in response to this notice by March 3, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Please send relevant scientific information to the IRIS Submission Desk in accordance with the instructions provided under "Submission of Information" in this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the IRIS program, contact Amy Mills, National Center for Environmental Assessment (mail code 8623), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St. SW, Washington, DC 20460, or call (202) 260-0569, or send electronic mail inquiries to mills.amy@epamail.epa.gov. For general questions about access to IRIS, the content of IRIS, or how to submit information in response to this notice, please call the Risk Information Hotline at (513) 569-7254. For scientific issues contact Terry Harvey, National Center for Environmental Assessment, 26 Martin Luther King Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45268, or call (513) 569-7531, or send electronic mail inquiries to harvey.terry@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) is an EPA data base containing Agency consensus scientific positions on potential adverse human health effects that may result from chronic (or lifetime) exposure to environmental contaminants. IRIS currently provides health effects information on over 500 specific chemical substances.

IRIS contains chemical-specific summaries of qualitative and quantitative health information in support of the first two steps of the risk assessment process, i.e., hazard identification and dose-response evaluation. IRIS information includes the reference dose for non-cancer health effects resulting from oral exposure, the reference concentration for non-cancer health effects resulting from inhalation exposure, and the carcinogen assessment for both oral and inhalation exposure. Combined with specific

situational exposure assessment information, the summary health hazard information in IRIS may be used as a source in evaluating potential public health risks from environmental contaminants.

The Pilot Program

As a consequence of analyzing the IRIS program and considering suggestions received about IRIS through 1995, the Agency tested some improvements through a Pilot Program. The Pilot focused on improving the scientific consensus and review process that precedes IRIS data base entries. EPA developed (or updated, for existing entries) non-cancer and cancer information for eleven Pilot substances. The Pilot process consisted of, (1) a call for technical information on the eleven substances from the public via a FR Notice, April 2, 1996, (2) a search of the current literature, (3) development of health assessments and draft IRIS summaries, (3) internal peer review (i.e., within EPA), (4) external peer review (i.e., outside EPA), (5) Agency consensus review and management approval within EPA, (6) preparation of final IRIS summaries and supporting documents, and (7) entry of summaries into the IRIS data base. The last stage is currently underway for most of the Pilot substances.

EPA's evaluation of the Pilot provided the basis for designing the operation of the future IRIS program. For example, the Agency standardized (1) the solicitation of scientific information from the public via a FR notice, (2) the use of the "Toxicological Review" as a preferred support document for IRIS entries which combines cancer and noncancer assessments, and (3) the use of rigorous external peer review procedures for IRIS summaries and Toxicological Reviews. The final Agency consensus review process, while still being tested, is replacing the former "CRAVE" and "RfD/RfC Work Groups".

The following substances were reviewed under the Pilot Program:

Name	CAS. No.
Arsenic	7440-38-2
Bentazon	25057-89-0
Beryllium	7440-41-7
Chlordane	12789-03-6
Chromium:	
Cr (III)	16065-83-1
Cr (VI)	18540-29-9
Total Cr	7440-47-3
Cumene	98-82-8
Methyl methacrylate	80-62-6
Diphenylmethane diisocyanate	101-68-8
Naphthalene	91-20-3
Tributyltin oxide	56-35-9