

Dated: November 2, 1999.

B. Katherine Biggs,

Associate Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-6247-8]

Environmental Impact Statements and Regulations; Availability of EPA Comments

Availability of EPA comments prepared October 18, 1999 Through October 22, 1999 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 FR dated April 10, 1999 (63 FR 17856).

Draft EISs

ERP No. D-AFS-J65314-MT Rating EC2, Flathead National Forest, Swan Lake Ranger District, Meadow Smith Project, Vegetative Treatments and Other Activities to Maintain and Restore Large-Tree Old Growth Forest Characteristics, Lake and Missoula Counties, MT.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns with potential adverse impacts to the watershed from proposed road density.

EPA believes additional monitoring information is needed to fully assess and mitigate all potential impacts of the management actions.

ERP No. D-BLM-G65069-NM Rating EC2, Rio Puerco Resource Management Plan Amendment, Managing Land and Resource for EL Malpais National Conservation Area and Chain of Craters Wilderness Study Area, Lies South of the City of Grants, Cibola County, NM.

Summary: EPA has identified environmental concerns in the areas of mitigation, livestock grazing, water quality, recreation, transportation, cultural resources, wildlife habitat, and environmental justice. EPA requested that these issues be clarified in the final document.

ERP No. D-COE-C30010-NJ Rating EC2, Barnegat Inlet to Little Egg Inlet Hurricane and Storm Damage Protection, Implementation, Long Beach Island, Ocean County, NJ.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns about the potential cumulative impacts associated with this and other related erosion/storm damage protection projects in the area. EPA requested that additional information be presented in the final EIS to address this issue.

ERP No. D-FHW-E40780-NC Rating EC2, US-1 Transportation Improvements, From Sandhill Road (SR-197) to North to Fox Road (SR-1606), Funding and COE Section 404 Permit, City of Rockingham, Richmond County, NC.

Summary: EPA expressed concern regarding purpose and need, alternatives and wetland impacts. EPA requested that these issues be clarified and mitigated as necessary.

ERP No. D-FHW-J40150-ND Rating LO, Interstate 29 Reconstruction Project, Improvements from Rose Coulee to Cass County Road No. 20, Funding, City of Fargo, ND.

Summary: EPA requested additional information and clarification related to project alternatives. The review did not identify and potential impacts requiring substantive changes to the proposal.

ERP No. D-USN-K11103-GU Rating EC2, Surplus Navy Property Identified in the Guam Land Use Plan (GLUP '94) for Disposal and Reuse, Implementation, GU.

Summary: EPA expressed concerns about the air modeling data and cumulative impacts analysis. EPA requested that the air quality data be corrected and that additional cumulative impacts analysis be provided in the final document.

Final EISs

ERP No. F-AFS-L65308-ID, Eagle Bird Project Area, Timber Harvesting and Road Construction, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, St. Joe Ranger District, Shoshone County, ID.

Summary: EPA continues to be concerned that funding for road improvements and obliteration are uncertain. Thus, impacts from the project may not be completely mitigated.

ERP No. F-FHW-F40374-MN, MN-TH-14 Corridor Reconstruction, MN-TH-60 to I-35, Funding and COE Section 404 Permit Issuance, Blue Earth, Waseca and Steele Counties, MN.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns with the completeness of the traffic analysis used in the FEIS and a potential discrepancy in the FEIS regarding the total amount of wetland impacts. EPA recommends that these two issues be resolved in the Record of Decision and that narrow

construction limits be used to reduce wetland impacts.

ERP No. F-USN-K11094-00, Developing Home Port Facilities For Three NIMITZ-Class Aircraft Carriers in Support of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, Construction and Operation, Coronado, CA; Bremerton and Everett, WA, Pearl Harbor, HI.

Summary: EPA expressed a continuing concern regarding sediment quality, dredging and dredged material disposal issues at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and, to a lesser extent, at North Island Naval Air Station, asking that the Navy address these issues in its NEPA Record of Decision and/or in any subsequent permit application(s) to the Army Corps of Engineers. On other issues the FEIS was generally responsive to prior concerns EPA raised on the Draft EIS.

ERP No. FA-NIH-D81023-MD, National Institutes of Health Bethesda Main Campus Comprehensive Master Plan, Updated and Additional Information for the Revision to the Northwest Sector Plan, Montgomery County, MD.

Summary: EPA has determined that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has adequately addressed its comments within the Final Supplemental EIS.

ERP No. FS-NRC-A00164-00, Generic EIS—License Renewal of Nuclear Power Plants Operating Licenses, NUREG-1437 Addendum 1.

Summary: No formal comment letter sent to preparing agency.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6471-2]

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) or Superfund, Section 104, Announcement of Proposal Deadline for the Competition for the FY 2000 Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilots

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of proposal deadlines, revised guidelines.

SUMMARY: The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will begin to accept proposals for the FY

2000 Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilots on November 5, 1999. The Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund pilots (each funded up to \$500,000) test cleanup and redevelopment planning models, direct special efforts toward removing regulatory barriers without sacrificing protectiveness, and facilitate coordinated environmental cleanup and redevelopment efforts at the federal, state, and local levels. EPA expects to select up to 70 additional Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund pilots by May 2000. The deadline for new proposals for the FY 2000 Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund pilots is February 7, 2000. Proposals must be postmarked by February 7, 2000, and sent to U.S. EPA Headquarters. In addition, duplicate copies of the proposal must also be submitted to the appropriate U.S. EPA Regional Office, ATTN: Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Coordinator.

The Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund pilot proposals are selected on a competitive basis. To ensure a fair selection process, evaluation panels consisting of EPA Regional and Headquarters staff and other federal agency representatives will assess how well the proposals meet the selection criteria outlined in the newly revised guidelines, entitled *The Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative: Proposal Guidelines for Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund* (November 1999).

DATES: All proposals must be postmarked or sent to U.S. EPA Headquarters and a duplicate copy sent to the appropriate U.S. EPA Regional Office via registered or tracked mail no later than February 7, 2000.

ADDRESSES: BCRLF guidelines can be obtained by calling the Superfund Hotline at the following numbers: Washington, DC Metro Area at 703-412-9810
Outside Washington, DC Metro at 1-800-424-9346
TDD for the Hearing Impaired at 1-800-553-7672

Copies of the Proposal Guidelines for Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund are available via the Internet: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The U.S. EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, Outreach and Special Projects Staff, Barbara Bassuener (202) 260-9347 or Jennifer Millett Wilbur (202) 260-6454.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields Economic

Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, local governments, communities, and other stakeholders involved in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely cleanup, and sustainably reuse brownfields. As part of this Initiative, EPA has awarded cooperative agreements to States (including U.S. territories), political subdivisions (including cities, towns, counties), and Indian tribes to capitalize Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund pilots. The purpose of these pilots is to test brownfields cleanup revolving loan fund models that direct special efforts toward facilitating coordinated public and private brownfields cleanup efforts at the federal, state, and local levels.

In FY 2000, the EPA expects to select up to 70 new BCRLF pilots to be funded up to \$500,000 per eligible entity by the end of May 2000.

Eligible entities for FY 2000 BCRLF pilots, as in previous years, will be entities that have been awarded Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots prior to FY00. In addition, political subdivisions with jurisdiction over sites that have either (1) been the subject of a targeted brownfields assessment (formerly called targeted site assessments), or (2) been selected by the U.S. EPA prior to January 1, 2000, to be the subject of a targeted brownfields assessment, are also eligible for a single BCRLF pilot award. BCRLF pilot proposals do not have to be limited to sites identified, characterized, or assessed under a previously awarded assessment pilot or targeted brownfields assessment.

Proposals from coalitions are permitted to apply, but a single entity must be identified as the applicant. Additionally, a letter of support from each coalition member must be included as an attachment.

Applicants must demonstrate through their proposal: (1) An ability to manage a revolving loan fund and environmental cleanups; (2) a need for cleanup funds; (3) commitment to creative leveraging of EPA funds with public-private partnerships and in-kind services; and (4) a clear plan for sustaining the environmental protection and related economic development activities initiated through the BCRLF program. The eligible entities must meet EPA's threshold and evaluation criteria. There is no guarantee of an award. Also, the size of the awards may vary (for example, from \$50,000 to \$500,000 per eligible entity), depending on the proposal's responses to the evaluation criteria.

Funding for the Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund pilots is authorized under section 104(d)(1) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, (CERCLA or Superfund), 42 U.S.C. 9604(d)(1).

Submission to Congress and the General Accounting Office

The Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*, as added by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, generally provides that before a rule may take effect, the agency promulgating the rule must submit a rule report, which includes a copy of the rule, to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States. EPA will submit a report containing this action and other required information to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States prior to publication of the rule in the **Federal Register**. This action is not a "major rule" as defined by 5 U.S.C. § 804(2).

Date Signed: October 27, 1999.

Linda Garczynski,

*Director, Outreach and Special Projects Staff,
Office of Solid Waste and Emergency
Response.*

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6471-1]

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) or Superfund, Section 104; Announcement of Proposal Deadline for the Competition for Fiscal Year 2000 Supplemental Assistance to the National Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of proposal deadline and guidelines.

SUMMARY: The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will begin to accept proposals for supplemental assistance for the National Brownfields Assessment Pilots on November 5, 1999. Assessment pilots awarded on or before September 30, 1998, may apply for up to \$150,000 for continuance and expansion of their brownfields assessment efforts. This supplemental funding will be awarded on a competitive basis.

In fiscal year 2000, an additional \$50,000 may be awarded to an applicant