

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** During the last 25 years, the Missouri River flood plain between approximate Missouri River miles 27.0 (Earth City Levee) and 47.0 (Monarch-Chesterfield Levee) in St. Louis County, Missouri, has been subjected to extensive levee construction and development for agricultural, industrial, and commercial purposes. These activities have impacted the aquatic environment and fish and wildlife resources in this reach of flood plain. Construction of the Earth City Levee to a 500-year level of protection in 1972, construction of the Riverport Levee to a 500-year level of protection in 1988, reconstruction and recertification of the Monarch-Chesterfield Levee to a 100-year level of protection in 1997 and current proposal to raise this levee to a 500+-year level of protection, reconstruction of a portion of the Howard Bend Levee to a 100-year level of protection in 1966 and current proposal to raise this levee to a 500+-year level of protection, current construction of the Page Avenue Extension Project, and resultant commercial and industrial development and agricultural conversions has resulted in a disjointed analysis of natural resource impacts in relation to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Prior to February 1995, the regulatory responsibility for Section 404 permits in the Missouri River flood plain in St. Louis County, Missouri were with the Kansas City District, Corps of Engineers (KCD). As of February 1, 1995, this responsibility was transferred to the St. Louis District, Corps of Engineers (SLD). The Earth City Levee, Riverport Levee, and Page Avenue Extension Project involved legal challenges, which resulted in certain limitations and special conditions for future Corps permit actions. In addition, KCD recognized the piecemeal development of the levee protected areas within the Monarch-Chesterfield flood plain and placed a moratorium on individual developments without the preparation of an environmental analysis. The SLD continued this moratorium on development in the protected areas within the Monarch-Chesterfield flood plain until late 1996 and late 1997, upon which time the SLD issued Section 404 permits for the remaining wetlands within the levee protected area based upon two consolidated permit applications and environmental analysis. Large-scale mitigation was required for these permit actions. In 1997, the SLD initiated a study to determine the feasibility of raising the Monarch-Chesterfield Levee. The SLD is currently preparing an EIS for this

project. In addition, the Missouri Department of Transportation completed an EIS for the Page Avenue Extension Project in 1992, and the National Park Service completed a Supplemental EIS for the Page Avenue Extension Project in 1995. Therefore, the scope of this current EIS will focus on the section of Missouri River flood plain between the Monarch-Chesterfield Levee and Interstate 70, and a north/south connector road corridor running through the Howard Bend flood plain, with a beginning point at Interstate 70 and a terminus at Olive Boulevard, between Route 141 (Woods Mill Road) and Creve Coeur Mill Road (to be known at the Howard Bend Flood Plain EIS). This EIS will not reevaluate the Page Avenue Extension Project, the Monarch-Chesterfield Levee Project, the Riverport or Earth City Levees, or any other previously approved or permitted projects by the Corps of Engineers located in the study area. However, the EIS will take into account the cumulative and secondary impacts of these projects on the remaining aquatic resources within the study area, and address any special conditions or requirements of these previous projects.

#### Alternatives

The Corps of Engineers has 3 alternative courses of action available:

1. The "no action" alternative would be to not grant any future Section 404 permits within the study area.
2. Continue to process Section 404 permit applications on a case-by-case basis for future developments within the Howard Bend Flood Plain study area, without developing a Strategic Area Management Plan (SAMP).
3. Evaluate the environmental effects of future developments within the Howard Bend Flood Plain study area leading to the development of a Strategic Area Management Plan (SAMP) to address the cumulative and secondary impacts of developments in this area, and develop a comprehensive plan to protect or mitigate important aquatic resources due to permitted activities.

#### Scoping and Public Involvement

Public involvement will be sought during scoping and conduct of the study in accordance with NEPA procedures. A public scoping process will help to clarify issues of major concern, identify any information sources that might be available to analyze and evaluate impacts, and obtain public input on the range and acceptability of alternatives. The Notice of Intent formally commences the scoping process under NEPA. As part of the scoping process,

all Federal, State and local agencies, Indian Tribes, and other interested private organizations, including environmental groups, are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. Comments are requested concerning project alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant environmental impacts and permits or other approvals that may be required.

Key areas to be analyzed in-depth in the draft EIS will include the flood plain, wetlands, water quality, fisheries, wildlife, parks, infrastructure, cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, recreation, transportation, and cumulative and secondary environmental impacts.

#### Other Environmental Review and Coordination Requirements

All review and coordination requirements will be fulfilled via this NEPA process. On-going permit actions and studies are continually coordinated with agencies and interested publics.

#### Scoping Meeting

A scoping meeting for this EIS will be held in conjunction with a public workshop that will be held in March 2000. The exact date has not been set and can be requested by calling (314) 331-8580.

#### Availability of Draft EIS

The draft EIS is scheduled for release in late 2000 to early 2001.

**Michael R. Morrow,**

*COL, EN, Commanding.*

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**BILLING CODE 3710-GS-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

#### Grant of Exclusive License of Partially Exclusive License

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

**ACTION:** Notice (correction).

**SUMMARY:** In the previous **Federal Register** notice (Vol. 64, No. 233, pages 68090-68091) Monday, December 6, 1999 make the following corrections.

On page 68091, column one, thirtieth line in the Supplementary paragraph, the words addressing "Concrete Technology Corporation, P.O. Box 1159, Tacoma, WA 98401" was erroneously listed. The correct wording is "W.F. Baird and Associates, 2981 Yarmouth Greenway, Madison, WI 53711."

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information, please refer to the previous point of contact official in the original notice.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** None.

**Gregory D. Showalter,**  
*Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.*  
 [FR Doc. 00-1820 Filed 1-25-00; 8:45 am]  
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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Navy

#### Notice of Public Hearings and Extension of Public Comment Period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Shock Trial of the WINSTON S. CHURCHILL (DDG 81)

**AGENCY:** Department of the Navy, DOD.  
**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Navy (DON) has prepared and filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a DEIS evaluating the environmental effects for the shock trial of the WINSTON S. CHURCHILL (DDG 81) at a site to be located offshore of either Norfolk, Virginia, Mayport, Florida, or Pascagoula, Mississippi. The DON is the lead agency and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is a cooperating agency in the development of the DEIS. The comment period, previously announced in the **Federal Register** on December 10, 1999 (64 FR 69267) has been extended. This notice announces the dates and locations for the three public hearings and the extension of the public review period. Public hearings will be held in order to receive oral and written comments on the DEIS. Federal, state and local agencies, and interested individuals are invited to be present or represented at the hearings.

**DATES AND ADDRESSES:** The public hearings will be jointly hosted by the DON and the NMFS. The hearings have been scheduled as follows:

1. March 13, 2000, 7:00 PM, Granby High School Auditorium, 7101 Granby Street, Norfolk, Virginia.
2. March 14, 2000, 7:00 PM, Pensacola Junior College, Hagler Auditorium, 1000 College Boulevard, Pensacola, Florida.
3. March 15, 2000, 7:00 PM, Fletcher High School Auditorium, 700 Seagate Avenue, Neptune Beach, Florida.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Lyn Carroll, Marconi Systems Technologies, 2611 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 5000, Arlington, Virginia 22202, telephone (703) 413-4099 or e-mail address at ddg81eis@tst.tracor.com.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Per Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), the DON has prepared and filed with the EPA a DEIS evaluating the environmental effects for the shock trial of the WINSTON S. CHURCHILL (DDG 81), at a site to be located offshore of either Norfolk, Virginia, Mayport, Florida, or Pascagoula, Mississippi. The DON is the lead agency and the NMFS is a cooperating agency in the development of the DEIS. The NMFS is concurrently evaluating the DON's request for a Letter of Authorization for the Incidental Take of Marine Mammals in their regulatory role under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

A Notice of Availability for the DEIS appeared in the **Federal Register** on December 10, 1999 (64 FR 69267). That Notice stated that comments on the DEIS were due by January 24, 2000. The DON is extending the public comment period to March 31, 2000. All written comments should be postmarked no later than that date. This comment period is expected to coincide with the NMFS comment period provided in its Advance Notice of Proposed Rule (ANPR) on the DON'S application for the taking of marine mammals incidental to the proposed shock trial of the WINSTON S. CHURCHILL. The NMFS will provide details on the ANPR by separate notice in the **Federal Register**.

The DON will conduct three public hearings to receive oral and written comments concerning the DEIS and the ANPR. A brief presentation will precede a request for public information and comments. DON representatives will be available at each hearing to receive information and comments from agencies and the public regarding issues of concern. Federal, state, and local agencies and interested parties are invited and urged to be present or represented at the hearings. Those who intend to speak will be asked to submit a speaker card (available at the door). Oral comments will be heard and transcribed by a stenographer. To assure accuracy of the record, all statements should be submitted in writing. All statements, both oral and written, will become part of the public record in the study. Equal weight will be given to both oral and written comments. In the interest of available time, each speaker will be asked to limit oral comments to three minutes. Longer comments should be summarized at the public hearings and submitted in writing either at the

hearing or mailed to Ms. Lyn Carroll (see address below).

The DEIS has been distributed to various federal, state, and local agencies, elected officials, and special interest groups and public libraries. The DEIS is available for public review at the following libraries:

- Beaches Branch Library, Jacksonville Public Libraries, 600 3rd Street, Neptune Beach, Florida.
- Center for Naval Analysis, The Library, 4401 Ford Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia.
- Main Library, Norfolk Public Library, 301 East City Hall Avenue, Norfolk, Virginia.
- Main Library, Jacksonville Public Libraries, 122 North Ocean Street, Jacksonville, Florida.
- Main Library, Pascagoula Public Library, 3214 Pascagoula Street, Pascagoula, Mississippi.
- Main Library, Pensacola Public Library/West Florida Regional Library, 200 W. Gregory Street, Pensacola, Florida.
- Pell Marine Science Library, University of Rhode Island, Narragansett Bay Campus, Narragansett, Rhode Island.
- SIO Library Mono, Scripps Inst of Oceanography, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, California.
- St. Mary's Public Library, 100 Herb Bauer Drive, St. Mary's, Georgia.
- University of Southampton, National Oceanographic Library, Express Dock, Southampton, United Kingdom.

Dated: January 20, 2000.

**J.L. Roth,**  
*Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Navy, Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 00-1802 Filed 1-25-00; 8:45 am]

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## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

### Sunshine Act Meeting

Pursuant to the provision of the "Government in the Sunshine Act" (5 U.S.C. § 552b), notice is hereby given of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's (Board) meeting described below.

**TIME AND DATE OF MEETING:** 6 p.m., February 9, 2000.

**PLACE:** Ambassador Hotel, Trinity Room, 3100 I-40 West, Amarillo, Texas.

**STATUS:** Open. While the Sunshine Act does not require that the scheduled discussion be conducted in a meeting, the Board has determined that an open meeting in this specific case furthers the