

problems and opportunities related to sedimentation and habitat degradation in the Illinois River Basin and to identify potential restoration projects and a prioritization framework.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions about the proposed action and DEIS can be answered by calling Mr. Ken Barr, 309/794-5256, or by writing to: Commander, U.S. Army Engineer District, Rock Island, ATTN: CEMVR-PM-A (Ken Barr), Clock Tower Building, P.O. Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Illinois River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Report is being conducted under the Corps of Engineers General Investigations Program in partnership with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The study was authorized by Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970. Supplemental authorization is provided by Section 519 of the Water Resources Development of 2000, which authorizes development of a comprehensive plan for the purposes of restoring, preserving, and protecting the Illinois River Basin. The Illinois Waterway System is being reviewed for changed physical and economic conditions that may warrant structural or operation modifications to improve the quality of the environment. The study area includes the entire Illinois River Watershed.

1. During the reconnaissance study, the primary problems identified were sedimentation and degradation of the environmental conditions of the Illinois Waterway System. This study will identify ecosystem restoration efforts which could address these problems.

2. Ecosystem restoration alternatives to address sedimentation and habitat degradation that have been identified to date include the following: stabilization of tributary watersheds, modification of Illinois River side channel and backwater habitats, water level management to reduce rapid fluctuations and naturalized flows, and restoration and protection of floodplain habitats. Combinations of these, along with the "No Action" alternative, are being evaluated to form an array of alternatives which will eventually result in a recommended plan.

3. The DEIS will address impacts associated with the general types of restoration alternatives proposed. Supplemental documentation will be prepared, as appropriate, to address site-specific impacts of restoration alternatives.

4. Previous scoping information developed as part of the Upper Mississippi River—Illinois Waterway

Environmental Management Program (EMP), the EMP Habitat Needs Assessment, and the State of Illinois Integrated Management Plan for the Illinois River Watershed, Upper Mississippi and Illinois Waterway Cumulative Effects Study were considered for initial study scoping efforts. A coordinating body with representatives from Federal, State, and local government and non-governmental organizations will be established to promote dialogue and coordination. Study newsletters will be sent to a mailing list of approximately 2,000 individuals and organizations approximately 8 times during the 4-year study. A series of public meetings will be held three times during the feasibility study. Each of the three series of meetings will be held at six or more sites within the Illinois River Basin. The first series of meetings were held in November and December 2000 and February 2001. The second and third series of meetings will occur at the study mid-point and the study's conclusion, respectively. Interested Federal, State, and local agencies, Indian tribes, and other interested private organizations and citizens are invited to participate.

5. Significant issues to be analyzed in depth in the DEIS are as follows:

a. *Water/Tributary Restoration*—evaluate options to address tributary degradation and instability looking at stream and wetlands restoration, water retention, conservation easements, and riparian buffers;

b. *Side Channel and Backwater Restoration*—consider opportunities to restore aquatic habitats in these areas, including off-channel deep-water habitat, backwater lakes, side channels, islands, etc;

c. *Water Level Management*—evaluate options to reduce rapid fluctuations and naturalize flows; and,

d. *Floodplain Restoration and Protection*—floodplain use, potential restoration of floodplain function, and value and potential for acquisition of conservation easements.

6. Any subsequent environment review will be conducted according to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, Farmland Protection Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Executive Order 11988—Floodplain Management, Executive Order 11990—Protection of Wetlands, and other environmental regulations.

7. Scoping meetings were held on November 29, 2000, and December 4, 5, and 6, 2000. Additional scoping

meetings are scheduled for February 20, 2001, in Grafton, Illinois; February 26, 2001, in Utica, Illinois; and February 27, 2001, in Macomb, Illinois. Notification of these meetings will be made available to local media.

8. The DEIS is anticipated to be provided to the public in fall 2003. The EIS will be supplemented, as appropriate.

Dated: January 26, 2001.

William J. Bayles,

Colonel, EN, Commanding.

[FR Doc. 01-3846 Filed 2-15-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Proposed King Cove to Cold Bay Transportation Access Project Located in the Aleutians East Borough, Near the Terminus of the Alaska Peninsula, Alaska

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

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The Alaska District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), intends to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to address the potential impacts associated with the construction of the proposed King Cove to Cold Bay Transportation Access Project to be located between King Cove, Alaska and Cold Bay, Alaska. The Corps will be evaluating a permit application for the work under the authority of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The EIS will be used as a basis for the permit decision and to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions about the proposed action and the DEIS should be addressed to Ms. Kathleen Kuná, Regulatory Branch, phone (907) 753-2712, in Alaska 1-800-478-2712, Fax (907) 753-5567, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CO-R, Post Office Box 898, Anchorage, Alaska 99506-0898.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. The permit applicant is proposing to construct a year-round transportation system between the cities of King Cove and Cold Bay, Alaska. The route would include the construction of a 17.9 mile one lane gravel all-weather road and a marine hovercraft link to transport

people and supplies across Cold Bay. This action would involve the placement of fill material in both wetlands and waters of the US for the construction of the road and the hovercraft terminal and ramps. Funds for the proposed project were allocated by Congress in the Fiscal Year 1999 Omnibus Appropriations Act.

2. The proposed road and hovercraft terminal is located on lands owned by the King Cove Village Corporation. A section of the road and the terminal are sited within the boundaries of the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge on Section 22(g) Native owned lands.

3. Additional alternatives to the applicant's proposal include the following: alternate hovercraft terminal sites; two ferryboat alternatives with various harbor locations within Cold Bay; a ferry or smaller heavy weather capable boat out of Lenard Harbor or King Cove; upgrading the existing King Cove airport; development of a new jet or general aviation airport and the use of a helicopter service. In addition, there are three variations of an overland route: the Native Lands road which would be located on King Cove Corporation lands and would use an elevated road and bridges to cross the mouth of Kinzarof Lagoon; a road and railroad combination using the Native Lands route; and the Isthmus road which would follow the same route as the Native Lands road until it reached the head of the bay, then would go behind Kinzarof Lagoon through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge and Wilderness to connect with existing roads and trails. All overland alternatives must cross AK Peninsula Refuge lands at the northwest corner of Cold Bay. This list of alternatives is preliminary and contains suggestions from many individuals and organizations. Some may be dropped and others added through the scoping process. Certain alternative proposals conflict with existing laws. The selected alternatives will be further analyzed as part of the EIS process.

4. Scoping: a. The Corps invites full public participation to promote open communication on the issues surrounding the proposal. All Federal, State, local agencies, and other persons or organizations that have an interest are urged to participate in the NEPA scoping process. Public meetings will be held to receive public input on the purpose and need of the project, to identify significant issues and to discuss proposed alternatives. The scoping process will help to further explain the purpose and need plus the alternatives to be reviewed in the DEIS.

b. The DEIS will analyze the potential social, economic, and environmental

impacts to the local area and the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge resulting from the proposed project. The following major issues will be analyzed in depth in the DEIS: transportation systems; essential fish habitat and other marine mammal habitat; threatened and endangered species including their critical habitat; migratory birds including the threatened Steller's eider, Emperor goose and Pacific brant; resident and migratory mammals; impacts to the wilderness area; cultural resources; alternatives; secondary and cumulative impacts; and socioeconomic impacts.

c. The Corps will serve as the lead Federal agency in the preparation of the DEIS. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is participating as a cooperating agency.

d. Some of these alternatives may require additional federal approvals such as a compatibility determination from the FWS.

5. The scoping meetings are tentatively planned for the following dates and locations. Specific dates will be further announced by local media. Further information about these public meetings will be published locally and can be obtained by contacting the Corps office.

Anchorage, Alaska—April 2, 2001

Sand Point, Alaska—April 3, 2001

Cold Bay, Alaska—April 4, 2001

King Cove, Alaska—April 5, 2001

6. It is anticipated that the DEIS will be made available for public review in fall 2001.

Larry L. Reeder,

Branch Chief, Regulatory Branch.

[FR Doc. 01-3847 Filed 2-15-01; 8:45 am]

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DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

Meeting; Sunshine Act

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: 9 a.m., February 22, 2001.

PLACE: The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, Public Hearing Room, 625 Indiana Avenue, NW., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20004.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board ("Board") will reconvene and continue

the fourteenth quarterly open meeting conducted on February 13, 2001, regarding the status of progress of the activities associated with the Department of Energy's Implementation Plans for the Board's Recommendation 95-2, Integrated Safety Management ("ISM"), Recommendation 98-1, Integrated Safety Management (Response to Issues Identified by the Office of Internal Oversight), and Recommendation 2000-2, Configuration Management, Vital Safety Systems. Topics will include the roles of line management in executing these Implementation Plans and the budgetary resources required to satisfy the Department's commitments.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Richard A. Azzaro, General Counsel, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue, NW., Suite 700, Washington, DC 20004, (800) 788-4016. This is a toll-free number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board reserves its right to further schedule and otherwise regulate the course of this meeting, to recess, reconvene, postpone or adjourn the meeting, and otherwise exercise its authority under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

Dated: February 13, 2001.

John T. Conway,

Chairman.

[FR Doc. 01-4074 Filed 2-13-01; 4:41 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Science; Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Notice 01-23; Atmospheric Radiation Measurement Program

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice inviting grant applications.

SUMMARY: The Office of Biological and Environmental Research (OBER) of the Office of Science (SC), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), hereby announces its interest in receiving applications for experimental and theoretical studies of radiation and clouds in conjunction with the Atmospheric Radiation Measurement (ARM) Program as part of the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP). This notice requests new applications and renewal applications of grants currently funded by DOE under previous ARM Program notices that are relevant to the terms of reference for this announcement and