

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE****Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers****Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement Titled: Mississippi River and Tributaries-Morganza, Louisiana to the Gulf of Mexico Hurricane Protection—Houma Navigation Canal Deepening General Re-Evaluation**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, is initiating this study under the Energy and Water Development Appropriation Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 103-316) authorized the Morganza, Louisiana to the Gulf of Mexico feasibility study to determine the feasibility of deepening the navigation channel of the Houma Navigation Canal, LA from 15 feet to a maximum of 25 feet.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be addressed to Mr. Nathan Dayan at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, PM-RS, PO Box 60267, New Orleans, LA 70160-0267, by e-mail at [Nathan.S.Dayan@usace.army.mil](mailto:Nathan.S.Dayan@usace.army.mil), phone (504) 862-2530, or fax number (504) 862-2572.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Deepening the channel in the Houma Navigation Canal will allow for growth in marine activity that the present depth does not allow. The trend in the offshore oil and gas industry is for exploration and production in very deep water. This has two important implications for the Houma Navigation Canal. Deepwater activity requires larger service vessels, as well as, a greater financial commitment for any given project. Therefore, firms that can build, service and maintain larger vessels at the lowest cost will win contracts that would otherwise go to overseas competitors. Deepening the channel will allow the deeper draft service boats to use the Houma Navigation Canal, not only as a base of operations, but also take advantage of the nearby construction and repair facilities located along the canal. Also, the strategic location of the canal allows for less costly trips to the deepwater tracts of the Gulf of Mexico.

1. *Proposed Action.* The proposed action would include the deepening of the existing Houma Navigation Canal, Louisiana project to depths up to 25 feet. The material dredged for the construction and maintenance of the

channels would be used for wetlands restoration and construction, to the extent practicable. Economic and environmental analysis would be used to determine the most practical plan, which would provide for the greatest overall public benefit.

2. *Alternatives.* Alternatives recommended for consideration presently include the construction of a deeper channel in the Houma Navigation Canal. Various project depths for navigation channels would also be investigated.

3. *Scoping.* Scoping is the process for determining the scope of alternatives and significant issues to be addressed in the EIS. For this analysis, a letter will be sent to all parties believed to have an interest in the analysis, requesting their input on alternatives and issues to be evaluated. The letter will also notify interested parties of public scoping meetings that will be held in the local area. Notices will also be sent to local news media. All interested parties are invited to comment at this time, and anyone interested in this study should request to be included in the study mailing list.

A public scoping meeting will be held in the middle part of 2003. The meeting will be held in the vicinity of Houma, LA. Additional meetings could be held, depending upon interest and if it is determined that further public coordination is warranted.

4. *Significant Issues.* The tentative list of resources and issues to be evaluated in the EIS includes tidal wetlands (marshes and swamps), aquatic resources, commercial and recreational fisheries, wildlife resources, essential fish habitat, water quality, air quality, threatened and endangered species, recreation resources, and cultural resources. Socioeconomic items to be evaluated in the EIS include navigation, flood protection, business and industrial activity, employment, land use, property values, public/community facilities and services, tax revenues, population, community and regional growth, transportation, housing, community cohesion, and noise.

5. *Environmental Consultation and Review.* The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will be assisting in the documentation of existing conditions and assessment of effects of project alternatives through Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act consultation procedures. The USFWS will provide a Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act report. Consultation will be accomplished with the USFWS and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) concerning threatened and endangered species and their critical

habitat. The NMFS will be consulted on the effects of this proposed action on Essential Fish Habitat. The draft EIS (DEIS) or a notice of its availability will be distributed to all interested agencies, organizations, and individuals.

6. *Estimated Date of Availability.* Funding levels will dictate the date when the DEIS is available. The earliest that the DEIS is expected to be available in the fall of 2004.

Dated: May 9, 2003.

**Peter J. Rowan,**

*Colonel, U.S. Army, District Engineer.*

[FR Doc. 03-13010 Filed 5-22-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3710-84-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE****Department of the Navy****Notice of Availability of Government-Owned Invention; Available for Licensing**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The invention listed below is assigned to the United States Government as represented by the Secretary of the Navy and is available for licensing by the Department of the Navy.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No.10/390,404 entitled "A Port Security Barrier System". Navy Case No.83,881. As well as Navy Case No. 84,694 entitled "In Port Barrier System (IPBS)."

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for copies of the patent application cited should be directed to the Naval Research Laboratory, Code 3008.2, 4555 Overlook Ave, SW., Washington, DC 20375-5320, and must include the Navy Case number.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Richard H. Rein, Head, Technology Transfer Office, NRL, Code 1004, 4555 Overlook Ave, SW., Washington, DC 20375-5320, telephone (202) 767-7230. (Authority: 35 U.S.C. 207, 37 CFR part 404.)

Dated: May 19, 2003.

**E.F. McDonnell,**

*Major, U.S. Marine Corps, Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 03-12956 Filed 5-22-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE****Department of the Navy****Notice of Intent To Grant Exclusive Patent License; Harbor Offshore, Inc.**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Navy hereby gives notice of its intent to grant to Harbor Offshore, Inc. a revocable, nonassignable, exclusive license in the United States, to Application Serial No. 10/390404 entitled "A Port Security Barrier System". As well as Navy Case No. 84694 entitled "In Port Barrier System (IPBS)."

**DATES:** Anyone wishing to object to the granting of this license has (15) days from the date of this notice to file written objections along with supporting evidence, if any.

**ADDRESSES:** Written objections are to be filed with the Office of Naval Research, ONR 00CC, Ballston Tower One, 800 North Quincy St., Arlington, VA 22217-5660.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. A. David Spevack, Supervisory Associate Counsel, Intellectual Property, Office of Naval Research, ONR 00CC, Ballston Tower One, 800 North Quincy St., Arlington, VA 22217-5660, telephone (703) 696-4007, E-Mail: [spevacd@onr.navy.mil](mailto:spevacd@onr.navy.mil) or fax (703) 696-6909.

(Authority: 35 U.S.C. 207, 37 CFR Part 404.)

Dated: May 19, 2003.

**E.F. McDonnell,**

*Major, U.S. Marine Corps, Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.304A]

### Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools—Cooperative Civic Education and Economic Education Exchange Program; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

**Purpose of Program:** The Cooperative Civic Education and Economic Education Exchange Program provides grants to improve the quality of civic education through cooperative civic education exchange programs with emerging democracies.

For FY 2003 the competition for new awards focuses on statutory requirements we describe in the Statutory Requirements section of this notice.

**Eligible Applicants:** Organizations in the United States experienced in the development of curricula and programs in civics and government education and economic education for students in elementary schools and secondary

schools in countries other than the United States, to carry out civic education activities.

*Applications Available:* May 23, 2003.

*Deadline for Transmittal of*

*Applications:* July 7, 2003.

*Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:* 60 days from transmittal deadline.

*Estimated Available Funds:*

\$2,007,618.

*Estimated Range of Awards:*

\$2,007,618

*Estimated Average Size of Awards:*

\$2,007,618.

**Maximum Award:** We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding \$2,007,618 for a single budget period of up to 24 months.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 1.

**Note:** The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

*Project Period:* Up to 24 months.

*Applicable Regulations and Statute:*

(a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, 86 (only as it applies to institutions of higher education), 97, 98, and 99. (b) *Education for Democracy Act*, sections 2341-2346 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended, 20 U.S.C. 6711-6716.

**Statutory Requirements:** We will award grants to eligible applicants to—

(1) Provide to the participants from eligible countries—

(A) Seminars on the basic principles of United States constitutional democracy, including seminars on the major governmental institutions and systems in the United States, and visits to such institutions;

(B) Visits to school systems, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations conducting exemplary programs in civics and government education in the United States;

(C) Translations and adaptations with respect to United States civics and government education curricular programs for students and teachers, and in the case of training programs for teachers, translations and adaptations into forms useful in school in eligible countries, and joint research projects in such areas; and

(D) Independent research and evaluation assistance to determine the effects of the cooperative education exchange programs on students' development of the knowledge, skills, and traits of character essential for the preservation and improvement of constitutional democracy.

(2) Provide to the participants from the United States—

(A) Seminars on the histories and systems of government of eligible countries;

(B) Visits to school systems, institutions of higher education, and organizations conducting exemplary programs in civics and government education located in eligible countries;

(C) Assistance from educators and scholars in eligible countries in the development of curricular materials on the histories and governments of such countries that are useful in United States classrooms;

(D) Opportunities to provide onsite demonstrations of United States curricula and pedagogy for educational leaders in eligible countries; and

(E) Independent research and evaluation assistance to determine the effects of the Cooperative Education Exchange Program assisted under this section on students' development of the knowledge, skills, and traits of character essential for the preservation and improvement of constitutional democracy.

(3) Assist participants from eligible countries and the United States to participate in international conferences on civics and government education for educational leaders, teacher trainers, scholars in related disciplines, and educational policymakers.

### Primary Participants

The primary participants in the Cooperative Education Exchange Program assisted under this section shall be leaders in the areas of civics and government education, including teachers, curriculum and teacher training specialists, scholars in relevant disciplines, educational policymakers, and government and private sector leaders from the United States and eligible countries.

**Definition:** For the purpose of this competition, the term *eligible country* means a Central European country, an Eastern European country, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, the independent states of the former Soviet Union as defined in section 3 of the FREEDOM Support Act (22 U.S.C. 5801), the Republic of Ireland, the province of Northern Ireland in the United Kingdom, and any developing country (as such term is defined in section 209(d) of the Education for the Deaf Act) if the Secretary, with concurrence of the Secretary of State, determines that such developing country has a democratic form of government. A list of countries is included in the application package.

### Election Criteria

We use the following criteria to evaluate applications for new grant