

(3) Discuss and prepare any proposed recommendations for the Chemical Transportation Advisory Committee meeting on March 21, 2019.

(4) Public comment period.

(5) Adjournment of meeting.

March 21, 2019

The agenda for the Chemical Transportation Committee meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2019, is as follows:

(1) Introductions and opening remarks.

(2) Swear in newly appointed committee members, and thank outgoing members.

(3) Review of March 8, 2018, meeting minutes and status of task items.

(4) U.S. Coast Guard Leadership Remarks.

(5) Chairman's and Designated Federal Officer's remarks.

(6) Committee will review, discuss, and formulate recommendations on the following items:

a. Task Statement #13-03: Recommendations on Safety Standards for the Design of Vessels Carrying Liquefied Gas as Cargo.

(7) United States Coast Guard update on International Maritime Organization activities as they relate to the marine transportation of hazardous materials.

(8) Presentation of interest related to safe and secure shipment of hazardous materials.

(9) New business and subcommittee recommendation discussion.

(10) Set next meeting date and location.

(11) Public comment period.

(12) Adjournment of meeting.

A public oral comment period will be held during the subcommittee and the full committee meeting concerning matters being discussed. Speakers are requested to limit their comments to 3 minutes. Please note that the public comment period may end before the time indicated, following the last call for comments. Please contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section, to register as a speaker.

A copy of all meeting documentation will be available at <https://homeport.uscg.mil/missions/ports-and-waterways/safety-advisory-committees/ctac/full-committee-meetings> no later than March 14, 2019. Alternatively, you may contact Lieutenant Commander Julie Blanchfield as noted in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section above.

Dated: February 11, 2019.

Jeffrey G. Lantz,

Director of Commercial Regulations and Standards.

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## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### Coast Guard

[Docket Number USCG-2018-0193]

### Polar Security Cutter Program; Notice of Availability of Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DHS.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Coast Guard, as lead agency, announces the availability of the final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the Polar Security Cutter Program's design, build, and operation of up to six polar security cutters (PSC).

**DATES:** The U.S. Coast Guard will not issue a final decision on the proposal for a minimum of 30 days after the date on which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes its Notice of Availability (NOA) of the final EIS in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the final EIS have been sent to affected Federal, State, and local governments; public libraries in the Project area; and interested parties that previously requested a copy. The final EIS and other supporting documents will be published in the docket at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=USCG-2018-0193> and also on the following U.S. Coast Guard website: [https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Portals/10/CG-9/Acquisition%20PDFs/CG\\_PSC\\_Final%20PEIS\\_05%20Feb%202019.pdf?ver=2019-02-08-121637-803&timestamp=1549650805158](https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Portals/10/CG-9/Acquisition%20PDFs/CG_PSC_Final%20PEIS_05%20Feb%202019.pdf?ver=2019-02-08-121637-803&timestamp=1549650805158).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** If you have questions about this notice of availability, email Ms. Christine Wiegand, Assistant Program Manager, Polar Security Cutter Program, U.S. Coast Guard; email [PIBEnvironment@uscg.mil](mailto:PIBEnvironment@uscg.mil).

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Table of Abbreviations

CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CGC	Coast Guard Cutter
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FR	Federal Register
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
PIBs	Polar Icebreakers
PSCs	Polar Security Cutters

U.S.C. United States Code

### Background and Purpose

The Final EIS was prepared in accordance with the requirements of NEPA; the CEQ regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508); DHS procedures for implementing NEPA (DHS Instruction Manual 023-01-001-01 (series)), U.S. Coast Guard procedures for implementing NEPA (COMDTINST 16475.1(series)); and other applicable DHS and U.S. Coast Guard policies and guidance. A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on April 26, 2018 (83 FR 18319) and the Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on August 6, 2018 (83 FR 38317). The U.S. Coast Guard is the lead agency for the proposed action.

The purpose of the proposed action is to design, build, and operate new PSCs to carry out the U.S. Coast Guard's primary missions supported by the current polar icebreaker fleet. Expected missions include Ice Operations, Defense Readiness, Aids to Navigation, Living Marine Resources, Marine Safety, Marine Environmental Protection, Other Law Enforcement, Ports, Waterways, and Coastal Security, and Search and Rescue.

The U.S. Coast Guard's current fleet of PIBs consists of two heavy icebreakers, Coast Guard Cutter (CGC) POLAR STAR and CGC POLAR SEA, and one medium icebreaker, CGC HEALY. The U.S. Coast Guard's heavy icebreakers have both exceeded their designed 30 year service life. The current PSC program acquisition strategy is approved to construct up to three heavy PSCs and may (at a future date) potentially expand to include up to three medium icebreakers, with planned service design lives of 30 years each. The first of these new PSCs is expected to be delivered in 2023. Because the first new PSC would not be operational in the Polar Regions until at least 2023, new information may become available after the completion of this EIS. In that case, supplemental NEPA documentation may, as appropriate, be prepared in support of individual proposed actions. Examples of new information may include, but are not limited to, changes to a species listing status or any other applicable laws and directives, and information regarding mission, training, homeporting, maintenance, and eventual decommissioning of the new PSCs.

In executing its various missions, the U.S. Coast Guard protects the public, the environment, and U.S. economic and security interests in any maritime

region, including international waters and the Nation's coasts, ports, and inland waterways, as required to support national security. Legislation and executive orders assign the U.S. Coast Guard a wide range of responsibilities applicable to Polar Regions. The U.S. Coast Guard derives its authority for the use of icebreaking from several statutes governing execution of its missions. These include: 14 U.S.C. 541 (previously 14 U.S.C. 81)<sup>1</sup> Coast Guard establishment, maintenance, and operation of aids to navigation; 14 U.S.C. 521 (previously 14 U.S.C. 88) Coast Guard saving of life and property; 14 U.S.C. 522 (previously 14 U.S.C. 89) Coast Guard law enforcement; 14 U.S.C. 716 (previously 14 U.S.C. 90) Arctic maritime transportation; 14 U.S.C. 527 (previously 14 U.S.C. 91) controlling anchorage and movement of vessels; 14 U.S.C. 715 (previously 14 U.S.C. 94) conduct oceanographic research; and 14 U.S.C. 701 (previously 14 U.S.C. 141) cooperation with agencies, States, territories, and others. In addition, Executive Order 7521 (Use of Vessels for Icebreaking in Channels and Harbors), 1 FR 2184, Dec. 24, 1936, directs the U.S. Coast Guard to assist in keeping channels and harbors open to navigation by means of icebreaking operations.

In accordance with NEPA, the U.S. Coast Guard prepared an EIS analyzing the potential impacts of up to six new PSCs, as this is the maximum number anticipated to be operational in the Polar Regions under the current PSC program acquisition strategy. A lesser number of icebreakers is expected to result in a similar or reduced impact than what will be discussed and evaluated in the EIS. Potential environmental stressors include acoustic (underwater acoustic transmissions, vessel noise, icebreaking noise, aircraft noise, and gunnery noise), and physical (vessel movement, aircraft or in-air device movement, in-water device movement, icebreaking, and marine expended materials).

The Final EIS has considered three alternatives:

- The No Action Alternative included use of the existing assets to fulfill Coast Guard missions, which are reaching the end of their service lives.
- Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) included the design and build up to six polar icebreakers to fulfill mission requirements in the Arctic and Antarctic.

- Alternative 2 included various forms of icebreaker leasing, such as those leases used by the United States Navy, the National Science Foundation, other federal agencies, and the domestic maritime industry, to close the Coast Guard icebreaking capability gap.

The Final EIS addresses potential environmental impacts under each alternative associated with physical, biological, and socioeconomic environmental resources. The analysis addresses direct and indirect impacts, and accounts for cumulative impacts from other foreseeable federal, state, or local activities in the proposed action area. The U.S. Coast Guard conducted a scoping process to identify community concerns and local issues that should be addressed in the EIS, as well as gathered public comments on the Draft EIS following its release in August 2018. The Coast Guard considered the public comments we received when drafting the Final EIS. The changes between the draft EIS and the Final EIS are identified and described in Appendix C of the Final EIS, which can be found at one of the locations in the **ADDRESSES** section.

The Final EIS identifies minor to moderate adverse impacts associated with the proposed action that would be mitigated by the implementation of standard operating procedures and best management practices. An increase in the Coast Guard icebreaking fleet would be beneficial because Coast Guard support would readily be available during an at-sea emergencies to commercial fishing, recreational fishing, transportation and shipping, tourism, and cultural resources and the communities that depend on them. The Final EIS has been distributed to various federal, state, and local agencies, as well as other interested individuals and organizations.

Following a 30-day waiting period, after publication of the NOA in the **Federal Register**, the U.S. Coast Guard will announce its Record of Decision which will be published in the **Federal Register**.

This notice is issued under authority of 5 U.S.C. 552(a).

**Timothy J. Connors,**

*Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Program Manager, Polar Security Cutter Program.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### U.S. Customs and Border Protection

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Notice of Availability of the Bog Creek Road Project Final Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Records of Decision

**AGENCY:** U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of Final Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Records of Decision concerning the repair and maintenance of Bog Creek Road and closure of certain roads within the Blue-Grass Bear Management Unit in the Selkirk Mountains in Boundary County, Idaho; public review.

**SUMMARY:** U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF) announce the availability of the Bog Creek Road Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the agencies' respective Draft Records of Decision (ROD). The Final EIS identifies and assesses potential impacts upon the environment of: Repairing and maintaining an approximately 5.6-mile section of the existing Bog Creek Road, which is located in the Selkirk Mountains in Boundary County, Idaho, within approximately two miles of the Canadian border, on land within the Blue-Grass Bear Management Unit (BMU) that is managed by the Forest Service; and closing for motorized use additional roads within the Blue-Grass BMU to comply with the *Forest Plan Amendments for Motorized Access Management within the Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak Grizzly Bear Recovery Zones* (Access Amendment) and to reduce road density in the Blue-Grass BMU.

The CBP Draft ROD addresses the decision to approve the funding for and implement the repair and maintenance of the Bog Creek Road. The Forest Service Draft ROD addresses the decisions to: Approve CBP's repair and maintenance of Bog Creek Road for administrative use by CBP, the Forest Service, and others; implement the motorized closure of seasonally restricted Forest Service roads to establish grizzly bear core area habitat and meet Access Amendment standards for the Blue-Grass BMU; and implement

<sup>1</sup> The Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-282), enacted December 4, 2018, redesignated many existing sections within Title 14 of the United States Code.