

the media, or can be obtained by contacting the Fort Bliss Public Affairs Office at (915) 568-4505. Public comments received on the DEIS will be addressed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and considered by the Army in its Record of Decision.

ADDRESSES: To obtain copies of the DEIS, contact John F. Barrera (915) 568-3908 or write to: Fort Bliss Directorate of the Environment, ATTN: AZC-DOE-C, Building 624, Pleasonton Road, Fort Bliss, TX 79916-6812. Written comments on the DEIS should be submitted to the same address or can be e-mailed to desaleis@bliss.army.mil.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Contact John F. Barrera, (915) 568-3908.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed desalination plant would treat brackish water drawn from the Hueco Bolson Aquifer using a technology called reverse osmosis (RO). RO uses semipermeable membranes to remove dissolved solids (primarily salts) from brackish water, producing fresh water. Water for the desalination process would be drawn from existing EPWU wells on the east side of El Paso International Airport and from proposed new wells to be installed on Fort Bliss land north of Biggs Army Airfield. The plant is being designed to produce approximately 27.5 million gallons per day (MGD) of drinking water and 3.0 MGD of a brine called concentrate. To implement the proposed desalination project, EPWU is applying for an easement for land in the South Training Areas of Fort Bliss for a desalination plant site, 16 new water wells, concentrate disposal sites, and various connecting pipelines.

The DEIS considers seven alternatives, six action alternatives and the No Action Alternative. The six action alternatives include various combinations of three potential sites for the proposed desalination plant and two methods of disposal of the concentrate. The three alternative desalination plant sites are located in Training Area 1B of the South Training Areas of Fort Bliss, adjacent to El Paso International Airport, north of Montana Avenue, and west of Loop 375. The two concentrate disposal methods under consideration include (1) injecting the concentrate underground into a confined zone where it would be isolated from potable water sources, or (2) piping the concentrate to evaporation ponds, where the liquid would evaporate leaving a solid salt residue that would be trucked to a landfill for final disposal.

Under the No Action Alternative, the Army would not provide land on Fort

Bliss for construction and operation of the proposed desalination plant. None of the proposed facilities would be constructed on Army land at Fort Bliss. This alternative could, however, include one or more of the following actions without Army action or participation: construction and operation of a desalination plant on non-Army land, increase in water conservation measures, development of other water sources in the El Paso region, and/or importation of water from sources outside El Paso. Without the proposed desalination project, EPWU would continue to pump from the freshwater layer of the Hueco Bolson Aquifer until it no longer met drinking water standards.

The Army has not yet selected a preferred alternative, which will be identified in the FEIS.

The DEIS analyzes the environmental consequences each alternative could have on geology and soils; water resources; utilities and services; hazardous materials, hazardous waste, and safety; air quality; biological resources; land use and aesthetics; transportation; cultural resources; and socioeconomics and environmental justice.

Copies of the DEIS are available for review at the following libraries in El Paso, TX: El Paso Public Library, 501 N. Oregon Street; Richard Burges Branch Library, 9600 Dyer; Irving Schwartz Branch Library, 1865 Dean Martin; and Westside Branch Library, 125 Belvidere. The document can also be reviewed at <http://www.bliss.army.mil>.

Hugh M. Exton, Jr.,
Director, SWRO, Installation Management Agency.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Improvements to the Cedar Bayou Navigation Channel Near Baytown in Harris and Chambers Counties, TX

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The proposed study to improve the existing channel on Cedar Bayou was authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 2000, Section 349. The proposed action to be addressed in the Draft Environmental

Impact Statement (DEIS) is to evaluate several widening and deepening alternatives to improve navigation efficiency and safety of the Cedar Bayou Navigation Channel from the Houston Ship Channel in Galveston Bay up Cedar Bayou to the State Highway (Hwy) 146 crossing in Harris and Chambers Counties, Texas. The existing navigation channel has dimensions of 10 feet depth and 100 feet width from the Houston Ship Channel to approximately Mile 3.0 in the lower reach of Cedar Bayou. The study will focus on alternatives for improving the navigability of Cedar Bayou and examine the impacts of extending the channel another 8 miles upstream to Hwy 146. The project is located in the City of Baytown, which is located approximately 25 miles east of the City of Houston. The non-federal sponsor for the project is the Chambers County Cedar Bayou Navigation District (CCCBND).

DATES: A public meeting will be scheduled during the 45-day public review period for the Draft EIS in January 2005.

ADDRESSES: Written comments for the public review period and meeting should be forwarded to Dr. Terrell Roberts, Environmental Lead, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 1229, Galveston, TX 77553-1229; fax: (409) 766-3064.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions about the proposed action and DEIS can be answered by: Mr. Richard Tomlinson, Project Manager, Project Management Branch, Telephone: (409) 766-3917, E-mail: richard.d.tomlinson@usace.army.mil or Dr. Terrell Roberts, Environmental Lead, Environmental Section, Telephone: (409) 766-3035, E-mail: terrell.w.roberts@usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. *Background:* The study process began in 1997 when the CCBND was created by the 75th Texas State Legislature to improve the navigability of Cedar Bayou. The feasibility study began in 1999 and will determine the most cost-effective alternative for improving the channel while protecting the local environment.

2. *Alternative:* Several construction alternatives and an “no-action” alternative will be evaluated for deepening and widening Cedar Bayou Channel. Alternatives will also be evaluated for the management of dredged material. The alternatives to be evaluated are: (1) Deepening and widening the channel to dimensions of 12 feet deep and 125 feet wide from the

Houston Ship Channel (Mile -3) to SH 146 (Mile 11.4); (2) Deepening and widening the channel from Mile 3 to Mile 11.4 to match the currently maintained channel from the Houston Ship Channel to Mile 3 (10 ft deep and 100 ft wide); (3) Deepening the channel to 9 feet from Mile 3 to Mile 11.4; (4) Eliminating a series of tight bends known as the Devil's Elbow by dredging a new channel (Devil's Elbow Cutoff) to the north of these bends; (5) Creating 200-ft wide passing lanes in straight stretches of the channel; and (6) No Action. A "no-action" alternative will be evaluated and presented for comparison purposes in evaluating the various construction alternatives.

3. Scoping: The scoping process will involve Federal, State, and Local agencies, and other interested persons and organizations. Three public scoping meetings were held (March 22, 2000, December 11, 2000, and March 16, 2004) to explain the project and solicit information about public concerns and comments on the project. The information provided by the public, resource agencies, local industry, local government, and other interested parties was used to help develop planning objectives, identify significant resources and issues, evaluate impacts of various alternatives, and identify a plan that will be socially and environmentally acceptable. Another public meeting will be conducted during the public review period for the DEIS to update the public on the project, collect public comments on the DEIS, and discuss various issues associated with the channel improvements and placement of dredged material.

4. Coordination: Further coordination with environmental agencies will be conducted under the National Environmental Policy Act, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Essential Fish Habitat), and the Coastal Zone Management Act (Texas Coastal Management Program). Coordination with Federal and State regulatory agencies, the Local sponsors, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been initiated and will continue throughout the development of the DEIS.

5. DEIS Preparation. It is estimated that the DEIS will be available to the public for review and comment in December 2004.

Dated: August 10, 2004.

Carolyn Murphy,

Chief, Environmental Section.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on October 12, 2004.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following:

(1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) title; (3) summary of the collection; (4) description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: August 10, 2004.

Angela C. Arrington,

Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of Postsecondary Education

Type of Review: Reinstatement.

Title: Student Support Services Annual Performance Report.

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 936.

Burden Hours: 5,616.

Abstract: Student Support Services Program grantees must submit the report annually. The reports are used to evaluate grantees' performance, and to award prior experience points at the end of each project (budget) period. The Department also aggregates the data to provide descriptive information on the projects and to analyze the impact of the Student Support Services Program on the academic progress of participating students.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 2599. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Potomac Center, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20202-4700. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the Internet address OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov or faxed to 202-245-6621. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Joseph Schubart at Joe.Schubart@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Decommissioning of the Fast Flux Test Facility at the Hanford Site, Richland, WA

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of intent.