

With respect to discharges near sensitive ecosystems, the Navy will not discharge pulped paper/cardboard within 3 nm of land nor discharge shredded metals/glass within 12 nm of land. This naval operational restriction, combined with the fact that smaller, coastal vessels will store and retrograde waste (the process and discharge alternative applies to the larger oceangoing vessels the size of frigates and above) should offer ample protection to sensitive ecosystems.

With respect to future waste management systems, the Navy has established the goal of having environmentally sound ships of the 21st century that will be able to minimize waste generation and treat or destroy unavoidable waste on board. The Navy is investigating integrated waste processing systems that would collect and treat or destroy all shipboard wastes, both liquid and solid. Although the Navy is pursuing this research and development (R&D), it foresees no advanced waste destruction technology being ready for shipboard use in the next decade. In the interim, the Navy will continue to monitor and evaluate technology developments and initiate R&D programs where candidate technologies look promising for future ships.

The special interest group comments, from a representative of a shipboard waste (compaction) processing machine company, provided corrected information on the output characteristics of their processed wastes and the use of such equipment on ships of other world navies.

The Navy appreciates this revised information. However, an analysis, based on this new information, did not alter the findings of the Final EIS.

#### Conclusion

After comprehensive evaluation of the proposed impacts and review of all comments, the Navy has concluded that its preferred alternative provides for protection of the environment, preserves the Navy's operational flexibility and the quality of life of shipboard personnel and can be implemented at a reasonable cost.

Accordingly, the Navy will install pulpers and shredders on all vessels the size of frigates and larger, and use the equipment worldwide, not just in MARPOL special areas. For the Navy's smaller, coastal vessels that have mission durations of only a few days, the Navy will implement a store and retrograde policy for solid waste management (except food wastes) for

these ships will operating in MARPOL special areas.

Questions regarding the Final EIS prepared for this action may be directed to Mr. Robert Ostermueller, Head, Environmental Planning, Northern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 10 Industrial Highway, Lester, PA 19113, telephone (610) 595-0759, fax (610) 595-0778.

Dated: January 31, 1997.

Elsie L. Munsell,

*Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy  
(Environment & Safety).*

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#### **Notice of Public Hearing for the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Construction and Operation of a Relocatable Over the Horizon Radar, Puerto Rico**

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to 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), and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Public Law Number Nine, Section 4(c), the Department of the Navy, has prepared a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the construction and operation of a Relocatable Over the Horizon Radar (ROTHR) system in Puerto Rico.

The ROTHR, a wide area surveillance high frequency (HF) radar system, is proposed as an addition to the national and local counter-narcotic strategy. The ROTHR provides early detection of illegal drug activity and would complement existing ROTHR systems in Virginia and Texas by providing coverage of the northern portion of South America.

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) addressing the impacts of the proposed ROTHR system was released to the public in July 1995. Public comments received on the DEIS included concerns over the loss of 100 acres of farmland at a candidate receiver site in Lajas Valley. Based on these concerns, the Department of the Navy re-evaluated potential sites for the ROTHR system, and determined that a shortened receiver array could be installed completely on federal property at Fort Allen, a US Army installation located about 4 miles south of the town of Juana Diaz and 10 miles east of Ponce. The SDEIA includes information previously presented in the DEIS, as well as new information on anticipated impacts if the receiver were installed at

Fort Allen. The document has also been expanded to address other issues raised during the DEIS public review process.

The preferred receiver site is now identified as Fort Allen. The construction area would consist of a 100 acre site. The required buffer zone would be completely contained within the Fort boundary. The preferred transmitter site continues to be the Playa Grande site located on Navy property on the Southwestern coast of Vieques Island.

The Navy has forwarded copies of the document to various federal and Commonwealth agencies, local municipalities and individuals. Additionally, the SDEIS is available for review at the following locations: (1) Town Hall, Municipality of Vieques Island; (2) Public Library, Municipality of Lajas; (3) Mayor's Office, Lajas; (4) Environmental Quality Board, Hato Rey; (5) Environmental Quality Board, Regional Office at the Commercial Center, Ponce; (6) Environmental Quality Board, Mayaguez Regional Office, Mayaguez; (7) City Hall, Municipality of Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico; (8) Public Library, City of Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico; (9) City Hall, Municipality of Ponce; (10) City Hall, Municipality of Santa Isabel; (11) City Hall, Municipality of Salinas; (12) Carnegie Public Library, San Juan.

**ADDRESSES:** The Department of the Navy will be participating in a public hearing held by the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board on March 15, 1997 at 10:00 AM at Calle Braschi # 50 in Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico. All comments received at the public hearing, as well as written comments will be considered in a Final Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the Navy. All written comments must be postmarked no later than March 31, 1997 to become part of the official record. Written comments should be mailed to the address noted below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Additional information concerning this notice may be obtained by contacting Ms. Linda Blount, (Code 2032LB), Atlantic Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 1510 Gilbert Street, Norfolk, VA 23511-2699, telephone (757) 322-4892.

Dated: February 11, 1997.

D.E. Koenig,

*LCDR, JAGC, USN, Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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