DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
[Docket No. PHMSA–2010–0245; Notice No. 10–6]

Notice: Elimination of Expiration Dates for Classification Approvals

AGENCY: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In 2005, PHMSA initiated a policy imposing a 5-year expiration date on firework classification approvals to ensure that background information supporting the approval is current and applicable, information is up-to-date and complete, obsolete approvals are eliminated from the PHMSA database, and approvals are amended with new requirements and/or methods as necessary. In 2009, this policy was extended to include all types of classification approvals, including explosives, oxidizing substances, organic peroxide materials and self-reactive substances. PHMSA is changing its policy and eliminating expiration dates for classification approvals because the policy has had unanticipated effects since its implementation. For instance, explosives assigned EX numbers, and self-reactive materials and organic peroxide materials, assigned CA numbers, have a shelf life far beyond the 5-year expiration date. Consequently, a product shipped in accordance with a classification approval with a 5-year expiration date becomes ineligible for domestic transport on the date the approval expires despite the product continuing to be safe for transport.

Existing classification approvals with expiration dates will be reissued by PHMSA in accordance with the change of policy. While expiration dates for classification approvals will be eliminated, PHMSA retains the authority to issue approvals with expiration dates on a case-by-case basis.

DATES: Effective Date: The effective date of these amendments is September 7, 2010.


Issued in Washington, DC on August 31, 2010 under authority delegated in 49 CFR part 1.

Magdy El-Sibaie, Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement:
Queens County, NY

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA, United States Department of Transportation (DOT)).

ACTION: Revised notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this revised notice to advise the public that the FHWA will not be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Bridge Rehabilitation and Interchange Improvements Project on the Long Island Expressway (LIE) from the Grand Central Parkway (GCP) to the Van Wyck Expressway, Queens County, NY. A Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS was published in the Federal Register on March 12, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeffrey W. Kolb, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, New York Division, 9th Floor, Federal Building, 20th Street and North Pearl Street, Albany, New York 12207, Telephone: (518) 431–4127, or Phillip Eng, Regional Director, NYSDOT Region 11; Hunters Point Plaza, 47–40 21st Street, Long Island City, NY 11101, Telephone: 718–482–4526.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the New York State Department of Transportation previously intended to prepare an EIS for the Bridge Rehabilitation and Interchange Improvements Project on the Long Island Expressway from the Grand Central Parkway to the Van Wyck Expressway, Queens County, New York. The purpose of the original Project was to address various geometric, operational, and structural deficiencies associated with the interchange. The project proposed direct connector ramps and new structures.

An Expanded Project Proposal (EPP) was issued in 2002 and the project was programmed with a cost estimate of $130 million. During preliminary design, the cost estimate increased to approximately $250 million and the operational improvements for the build alternatives were found not to be as effective in reducing congestion as expected. Also, the Region’s capital program has been reduced and available funding has been re-allocated to more critical needs.

Currently, the bridges within the interchange have a number of severely deteriorated elements, including the concrete decks and superstructures, that require prompt treatment to keep them in service and to address urgent safety concerns. The bridges also do not meet current geometric standards.

Since the proposed operational benefits from the build alternatives were found not to be as expected, it is proposed to terminate the EIS. However, the three bridges carrying the LIE and service roads over the GCP have significant deck and steel superstructure deterioration that require prompt treatment to keep them in service. The infrastructure improvements being considered will not have a significant impact on the environment. To address these bridge conditions, a reduced scope project will be progressed as a NEPA Class II Categorical Exclusion.


Jeffrey W. Kolb,
Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Albany, NY.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement:
Yellowstone County, MT

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent—revised.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an environmental impact statement will be prepared for a proposed highway project in Yellowstone County, Montana.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian Hasselbach, Right of Way and Environmental Programs Manager, Federal Highway Administration, 585 Shepard Way, Helena, Montana 59601, Telephone: (406) 441–3908, or Fred
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Montana Department of Transportation, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal to construct a connection between Interstate 90 (I–90) and Old Highway 312 in or near the city of Billings, Yellowstone County, Montana.

FHWA previously issued a notice on August 13, 2003 that an EIS would be prepared for a proposal to construct a bypass route north of the city of Billings. Funding constraints prompted a re-scoping of that proposed project and this notice is intended to advise the public that an EIS will be prepared on the re-scoped, proposed project.

These improvements are considered necessary in order to provide an additional Yellowstone River crossing for transportation system reliability. The improvements are also necessary to provide an additional connection between the Lockwood and Billings areas; as well as improve mobility to and from Billings Heights.

Alternatives under consideration include (1) taking no action; (2) providing a connection between I–90 and Old Highway 312.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments have been sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens, who have previously expressed interest in this proposal. An extensive public involvement process will be conducted to solicit views and comments from appropriate agencies and interested private organizations and citizens. The process, to date, has included a Billings Bypass Advisory Committee, public meetings and workshops, a public hearing, and presentations and meetings.

Public notice will be given of the time and place of future outreach meetings and hearing. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing. No formal scoping meeting date has been set at this time.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA or MDT at the addresses provided previously.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Highway Administration
Cancellation of Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS); Travis County, TX

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Cancellation of Notice of Intent to Prepare a SEIS.

SUMMARY: In Vol. 73, No. 106/June 2, 2008/Notices, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) to advise the public that a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) would be prepared for the proposed SH 71 roadway between Riverside Drive and SH 130 in Travis County, Texas. The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that the NOI to prepare a SEIS for proposed improvements to State Highway (SH) 71 from Riverside Drive to SH 130, in Travis County, Texas, is being rescinded.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Salvador Deocampo, District Engineer, District A, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Texas Division, 300 East 8th Street, Rm 826, Austin, Texas 78701, Telephone 512–536–5950.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), in cooperation with the FHWA, announced its intent to prepare a limited-scope SEIS pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.22 and 43 TAC Sec. 2.5[e][2] for proposed improvement of SH 71 from Riverside Drive to SH 130, in Travis County, Texas. The improvements proposed between Riverside Drive and Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 973 were originally considered in a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) covering improvements to SH 71/US 290 from Farm to Market Road 920 (FM 920) to Interstate Highway 610 (IH 610) in Harris County, Texas. Those actions grant licenses, permits, and approvals for the project.

Issued on: August 31, 2010.

Salvador Deocampo, District Engineer, FHWA Texas Division.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Highway Administration
Notice of Final Federal Agency Actions on US 290/Hempstead Corridor

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Limitation on Claims for Judicial Review of Actions by FHWA.

SUMMARY: This notice announces actions taken by the FHWA and other Federal agencies that are final within the meaning of 23 U.S.C. 139(l)(1). The actions relate to a proposed highway project, United States Highway 290 (US 290), from Farm to Market 920 (FM 920) to Interstate Highway 610 (IH 610) in Harris County, Texas. Those actions grant licenses, permits, and approvals for the project.