

designated a cooperating agency. Western will invite other Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to environmental issues to be cooperating agencies on the EIS, as defined at 40 CFR 1501.6. Such agencies may also make a request to Western to be a cooperating agency. Designated cooperating agencies have certain responsibilities to support the NEPA process, as specified at 40 CFR 1501.6 (b).

Full public participation and disclosure are planned for the entire EIS process. Western anticipates the EIS process will take about 15 months, and will include the open-house public scoping meetings; consultation and involvement with appropriate Federal, state, local, and tribal governmental agencies; public review and hearings on the published draft EIS; a review period; a published final EIS; and publication of a record of decision expected in mid-summer 2006. Additional informal public meetings may be held in the proposed Project area if public interest and issues indicate a need. Western will also mail newsletters to the proposed Project mailing list to communicate Project status and developments.

Western will hold a 60-day scoping period to ensure that interested members of the public and representatives of groups, and Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies have an opportunity to provide input on the scope of the process and the alternatives that will be addressed in the EIS. Western will also hold public open-house scoping meetings near the Project area during the scoping period. The purpose of the scoping meetings will be to provide information about the proposed Project, answer questions, and take written comments from interested parties.

The open-house public scoping meetings will be held on June 14, 2005, at the Lantern Inn, 1010 S. Dakota Street, Milbank, South Dakota; on June 15, 2005, at the Best Western Prairie Inn, 200 E. Highway 28, Morris, Minnesota; and on June 16, 2005, at the Kilowatt Community Center, 600 Kilowatt Drive, Granite Falls, Minnesota. Members of the public and representatives of groups, Federal, state, local and tribal agencies are invited to attend anytime between 5 and 8 p.m. Attendees at the scoping meetings will have the opportunity to view proposed Project and NEPA process displays and other information. The open-house scoping meetings will be informal, with Western and Project representatives available for one-on-one discussions with attendees. Written comments

regarding the scoping process may be left with one of Western's representatives at the scoping meetings, or may be provided by fax, e-mail or U.S. Postal Service mail to Western as noted above.

R. Jack Dodd,

Assistant Administrator for Washington Liaison.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-6663-8]

Environmental Impact Statements and Regulations; Availability of EPA Comments

Availability of EPA comments prepared pursuant to the Environmental Review Process (ERP), under section 309 of the Clean Air Act and section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act as amended. Requests for copies of EPA comments can be directed to the Office of Federal Activities at 202-564-7167.

An explanation of the ratings assigned to draft environmental impact statements (EISs) was published in the **Federal Register** dated April 1, 2005 (70 FR 16815).

Draft EISs

EIS No. 20050052, ERP No. D-FHW-F40429-WI, US-131 Improvement Study, from the Indiana Toll Road (1-80/90) to a Point One Mile North of Cowling Road, U.S. Army COE Section 404 Permit, St. Joseph County, MI and Elkhart County, IN.

Summary: EPA has environmental objections to two alternatives under consideration (Alternatives PA-3 and PA-4) because of direct and indirect impacts to high quality wetlands, impacts to trout habitat in the St. Joseph River, wildlife corridor impacts for the White Pigeon, St. Joseph, and Rocky Rivers, and migratory bird impacts.

Rating EO2.

EIS No. 20050095, ERP No. D-FTA-K54030-CA, Warm Springs Extension, Proposing 5.4 mile Extension of the BART System in the City of Fremont, Funding, San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District, Alameda County, CA.

Summary: While EPA has no objection to the proposed action, but requested clarification on mitigation for noise and aquatic resource impacts.

Rating LO.

EIS No. 20050099, ERP No. D-AFS-L65478-OR, Big Butte Springs Timber

Sales, To Implementation Management Direction, Roque River-Siskiyou National Forest, Butte Falls Ranger District, Cascade Zone, Jackson County, OR.

Summary: EPA has environmental concerns about potential adverse impacts to water quality and natural resources.

Rating EC1.

EIS No. 20050119, ERP No. D-AFS-L65479-OR, Timberline Express Project, To Improve the Winter Recreational Opportunities, Implementation, Zigzag Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest, Clackamas County, OR.

Summary: EPA has environmental concerns about water resources, habitat fragmentation, and whether infrastructure constraints will accommodate the proposed ski expansion.

Rating EC1.

Final EISs

EIS No. 20050098, ERP No. F-FAA-D51050-PA, Philadelphia International Airport, Runway 17-35 Extension Project, Construction and Operation, US Army COE Section 404 Permit, NPDES Permit, Delaware and Philadelphia Counties, PA.

Summary: EPA's previous issues have been resolved, therefore, EPA has no objection to that action as proposed.

EIS No. 20050150, ERP No. F-NAS-A12042-00, PROGRAMMATIC—Mars Exploration Program (MEP) Implementation.

Summary: No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

EIS No. 20050159, ERP No. F-NIH-D81035-MD, National Institutes of Health (NIH) Master Plan 2003 Update, National Institutes of Health Main Campus—Bethesda, MD, Montgomery County, MD.

Summary: The FEIS adequately addressed EPA's comments.

Dated: May 24, 2005.

Robert W. Hargrove,

Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-6663-7]

Environmental Impacts Statements; Notice of Availability

Responsible Agency: Office of Federal Activities, General Information (202)