

sharks will improve quota monitoring and the data used in stock assessments. These workshops will train shark dealer permit holders or their proxies to properly identify Atlantic shark carcasses.

Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops

Since January 1, 2007, shark limited access and swordfish limited access permit holders who fish with longline or gillnet gear, have been required to submit a copy of their Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshop certificate in order to renew either permit (71 FR 58057; October 2, 2006). These certificate(s) are valid for three years. As such, vessel owners who have not already attended a workshop and received a NMFS certificate, or vessel owners whose certificate(s) are due to expire in 2009, must attend one of the workshops offered in 2009 to fish with, or renew, their swordfish and shark limited access permits. Additionally, new shark and swordfish limited access permit applicants who intend to fish with longline or gillnet gear must attend a Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshop and submit a copy of their workshop certificate before either of the permits will be issued.

In addition to certifying permit holders, all longline and gillnet vessel operators fishing on a vessel issued a limited access swordfish or limited access shark permit are required to attend a Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshop and receive a certificate. The certificate(s) are valid for three years. Vessels that have been issued a limited access swordfish or limited access shark permit may not fish unless both the vessel owner and operator have valid workshop certificates onboard at all times. Approximately 65 free Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops have been conducted since 2006.

Workshop Dates, Times, and Locations

1. July 15, 2009, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Holiday Inn, 3845 Veterans Memorial Highway, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779.

2. July 29, 2009, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Holiday Inn, 5264 International Boulevard, North Charleston, SC 29418.

3. August 5, 2009, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Holiday Inn, 3535 Ulmerton Road, State Route 688 W., Clearwater, FL 33762.

4. August 26, 2009, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Hilton New Orleans Airport, 901 Airline Drive, Kenner, LA 70062.

5. September 2, 2009, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Holiday Inn, 1 Newbury Street, Peabody, MA 01960.

6. September 30, 2009, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Holiday Inn, 151 Route 72 East, Manahawkin, NJ 08050.

Registration

To register for a scheduled Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshop, please contact Angler Conservation Education at (877) 411-4272, 1640 Mason Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32117.

Registration Materials

To ensure that workshop certificates are linked to the correct permits, participants will need to bring the following items with them to the workshop:

Individual vessel owners must bring a copy of the appropriate permit(s), a copy of the vessel registration or documentation, and proof of identification.

Representatives of a business owned or co-owned vessel must bring proof that the individual is an agent of the business (such as articles of incorporation), a copy of the applicable permit(s), and proof of identification.

Vessel operators must bring proof of identification.

Workshop Objectives

The protected species safe handling, release, and identification workshops are designed to teach longline and gillnet fishermen the required techniques for the safe handling and release of entangled and/or hooked protected species, such as sea turtles, marine mammals, and smalltooth sawfish. The proper identification of protected species will also be taught at these workshops in an effort to improve reporting. Additionally, individuals attending these workshops will gain a better understanding of the requirements for participating in these fisheries. The overall goal of these workshops is to provide participants with the skills needed to reduce the mortality of protected species, which may prevent additional regulations on these fisheries in the future.

Grandfathered Permit Holders

Participants in the industry-sponsored workshops on safe handling and release of sea turtles that were held in Orlando, FL (April 8, 2005) and in New Orleans, LA (June 27, 2005) were issued a NOAA workshop certificate in December 2006 that is valid for three years. These workshop certificates may be expiring in 2009. Vessel owners and operators whose certificates expire prior

to permit renewal in 2009 must attend a workshop, successfully complete the course, and obtain a new certificate in order to renew their limited access shark and limited access swordfish permits. Failure to provide a valid NOAA workshop certificate could result in a permit denial.

Dated: June 2, 2009.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

*Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. E9-13606 Filed 6-9-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Revised Great Salt Lake Minerals Corporation's Solar Evaporation Pond Expansion Project Within the Great Salt Lake, Box Elder County, UT

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Sacramento District (Corps) will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Corps authorization actions for the proposed Revised Great Salt Lake Minerals Corporation Solar Evaporation Ponds Expansion project. The basic project purpose is potassium sulfate extraction/mining. The overall project purpose is to increase production/output of organically certified potassium sulfate to help meet the increasing demand for this type of fertilizer. The applicant believes there is a need to increase production of potassium sulfate in order to maintain its market share over the next 50 years.

The proposed expansion would add approximately 91,000 acres of solar evaporative ponds, impacting approximately 80,000 acres of waters of the United States, including wetlands, and reduce the need to import raw potassium from other sources. The EIS will address impacts such as wildlife habitat, water quality, Great Salt Lake water elevations, wetlands, hydrology, cultural resources, transportation, endangered species and industry. The projected date for public release of the Draft EIS is October 30, 2009.

DATES: Four public scoping meetings will be held. The first scoping meeting will be held on June 4, 2009 from 5-8

p.m. at the Davis County Library, 725 South Main Street, Bountiful, Utah. The second public meeting will be on June 9, 2009 from 5–8 p.m. at the Comfort Suites Hotel, 2250 South 1200 West, Ogden, Utah. The third meeting will be held on June 11, 2009, from 5–8 p.m. at West High School, 241 North 300 West, Salt Lake City, Utah. The fourth meeting will be held on June 24, 2009, from 5–8 p.m. also at West High School, 241 North 300 West, Salt Lake City, Utah.

ADDRESSES: Public comments will be accepted at the scoping meetings or may be mailed to Mr. Jason Gipson, Nevada-Utah Regulatory Branch, 533 West 2600 South, Suite 150, Bountiful, Utah 84010, or e-mailed to:

jason.a.gipson@usace.army.mil. All comments must be received on or before July 9, 2009.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions about the proposed action and the DEIS should be directed to the Corps project manager, Mr. Jason Gipson at 801–295–8380 x14, or e-mail at *jason.a.gipson@usace.army.mil*. Please refer to identification number 200700121.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Great Salt Lake Minerals Corporation (GSL Minerals) currently operates approximately 47,000 acres of evaporative ponds located on the east and west shores of the Great Salt Lake. A 25,000-acre evaporation facility is located on the west shore of the North Arm of the Great Salt Lake and a 22,000-acre evaporation facility is located on the east shore of the Bear River Bay. The existing solar evaporation pond facilities are located within the Great Salt Lake, i.e., the ponds are located below 4205 feet mean sea level, which is below the high water mark of the Great Salt Lake. The company draws naturally occurring brine from the lake into shallow ponds and allows solar evaporation to produce sulfate of potash, as well as salt and magnesium chloride minerals. Sulfate of potash is a specialty fertilizer that improves the yield and quality of high-value crops such as fruits, vegetables, tea, tree nuts and turf grasses. The GSL Minerals facility has operated on the lake for 40 years.

The applicant originally proposed in late 2007 to construct three additional solar evaporation ponds totaling approximately 33,000 acres. The 2007 proposed project included adding two new solar ponds to the existing west side complex, an 18,000-acre Dolphin Island expansion pond and a 7,000-acre pond at the southern end of Clyman Bay between the Union Pacific Railway and several existing ponds. A new feed

canal into the lake and a new pump station would be constructed on the north end of the proposed Dolphin Island pond. Diesel driven pumps, similar to those currently in use, would pump brine from the new feed canal to the new pond. Existing pumps would be used to pump brine from the new pond to an existing pond. The total 25,000-acre pond expansion on the west side would increase the concentration of brine transferred to an existing gravity-flow trench for transport to the east ponds in the Bear River Bay. Additionally under the 2007 proposal, an 8,000-acre pond would be constructed on the east side of the Great Salt Lake in the Bear River Bay. Brine would be pumped to and from the new pond with existing pump stations; however, the capacity of these pump stations would be increased proportional to the new pond acreage. Additional feed brine for this new pond would come from the North Arm of the Great Salt Lake (Gunnison Bay), flowing through existing east side ponds.

Under the 2007 proposal, dikes would be built to accommodate the pond expansion and impound the waters of the respective areas. On the east side of the lake, approximately 540,000 cubic yards of fill would be discharged into Bear River Bay to create the dikes. On the west side, approximately 900,000 cubic yards of fill would be discharged into open water in the vicinity of Clyman Bay to create dikes.

The 2009 revised project proposes to: (1) Retain the proposed construction of an 8,000-acre pond in Bear River Bay, (2) decrease the previously proposed 8,000 acre pond on the west shore of the lake along the north side of the railroad causeway to 6,000 acres, (3) increase the 18,000-acre pond to 23,000 acres, (4) add an additional 2,000-acre pond west of the above described 6,000-acre pond along the north side of the railroad causeway, (5) add a 14,000-acre pond on the south side of the railroad causeway, and (6) add an additional 38,000-acre pond in the Dolphin Island area of the lake. On the east side of the lake, approximately 540,000 cubic yards of fill would be discharged into Bear River Bay to create the dikes. On the west side, approximately 4.7 million cubic yards of fill would be discharged into open water in the vicinity of Clyman Bay to create dikes.

The total 83,000-acre West Pond Expansion (including Lakeside Lease areas) would increase the concentration of brine transferred to an existing gravity-flow trench (Behrens Trench) for transport to the GSL Minerals east solar evaporation ponds in the Bear River Bay (Figures 1, 2 and 3). Ultimately as part

of the proposed project the efficiency of the Behrens Trench would be improved to reduce mixing of concentrated brine with lake water surrounding the trench by either improving the existing open Behrens Trench by excavating the trench wider and deeper or by laying pipes in the existing trench.

In addition the project includes the purchasing and transporting SOP from the U.S. Magnesium ponds located along the southwestern margin of the lake to the existing processing facility. GSL Minerals will also increase SOP production by constructing an SOP processing plant within the U.S. Magnesium pond area (Figure 4).

The proposed project habitat areas include saline open water, sporadically inundated playa lakebed, seasonally flooded playa, saline wetlands, potential freshwater springs, rip-rapped dikes and sandy upland habitats. These areas are located adjacent and to the north of the existing evaporation pond facilities. The Corps verified a jurisdictional wetland delineation for the 2007 proposed project on October 10, 2007, which identified approximately 34,180.08 acres of waters of the U.S., including 21.4 acres of saline wet meadow wetlands, 1,102.94 acres of seasonally inundated playa above the high water mark of the western side of the Great Salt Lake and 33,055.74 acres of seasonally or sporadically inundated playa lake bed below the high water mark of the Lake. A delineation of waters of the U.S. has not been completed or verified for the additional areas proposed under the 2009 revised application. However, it is estimated the additional 50,000 acres are all located within the ordinary high water mark of the Great Salt Lake, resulting in the same acreage of additional impacts to waters of the U.S. The proposed project would result in approximately 80,000 acres of permanent adverse impacts to waters.

The applicant has not proposed compensatory mitigation for project impacts. The determination of appropriate compensatory mitigation will be determined through public scoping and impact analysis of the EIS process.

The proposed project will not affect any federally-listed threatened or endangered species, however, it may affect state-listed special status species. Once a habitat assessment of the areas has been completed, the Corps will consult with state and Federal wildlife agencies. The Corps will also consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for properties listed or potentially eligible

for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as appropriate.

A number of on-site and off-site alternatives, including the no action alternative, will be evaluated in the DEIS in accordance with NEPA and the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines.

As part of the Corps 404 permitting process, pre-application interagency meetings have been held to provide information and identify issues and concerns. In addition, meetings have been held with local environmental organizations for the same purposes. Preliminary issues identified as part of this process include: Water quality, heavy metals, nutrient loading, fresh water exchange, changes in salinity, and brine shrimp habitat, economic issues and cultural resources. Additionally, potential avian impacts were identified to waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors including the American white pelican, snowy plover, Canada goose, and others.

The above determinations are based on information provided by the applicant and upon the Corps' preliminary review. The Corps is soliciting verbal and written comments from the public, Federal, state and local agencies and officials, Native American tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. The Corps' public involvement program includes multiple opportunities for interested parties to provide written and oral comments. Affected Federal, state, local agencies, Indian tribes, and other interested private organizations and the general public are invited to participate.

Brenda S. Bowen,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-13437 Filed 6-9-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3720-58-P

U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Notice

AGENCY: U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting agenda.

DATE & TIME: Wednesday, June 17, 2009; 1 p.m.-4 p.m. EDT.

PLACE: U.S. Election Assistance Commission, 1225 New York Ave, NW., Suite 150, Washington, DC 20005 (Metro Stop: Metro Center).

AGENDA: The Commission will hold a public meeting to consider administrative matters. The Commission will receive an update on guidance to the States regarding 2009 requirements payments. The Commission will consider a report to Congress on the Election Data Collection Grants. The Commission will discuss a report to Congress on the Impact of the National Voter Registration Act. The Commission will discuss the 2010 Election Day Survey. Members of the public may observe but not participate in EAC meetings unless this notice provides otherwise.

Members of the public may use small electronic audio recording devices to record the proceedings. The use of other recording equipment and cameras requires advance notice to and coordination with the Commission's Communications Office.*

* View *EAC Regulations Implementing Government in the Sunshine Act.*

This Meeting Will be Open to the Public.

PERSON TO CONTACT FOR INFORMATION: Bryan Whitener, Telephone: (202) 566-3100.

Alice Miller,

Chief Operating Officer, U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

[FR Doc. E9-13647 Filed 6-8-09; 11:15 am]

BILLING CODE 6820-KF-P

U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Publication of State Plan Pursuant to the Help America Vote Act

AGENCY: U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to sections 254(a)(11)(A) and 255(b) of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), Public Law 107-252, the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) hereby causes to be published in the **Federal Register** changes to the HAVA State plan previously submitted by Illinois.

DATES: This notice is effective upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bryan Whitener, Telephone 202-566-3100 or 1-866-747-1471 (toll-free).

Submit Comments: Any comments regarding the plans published herewith

should be made in writing to the chief election official of the individual State at the address listed below.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 24, 2004, the U.S. Election Assistance Commission published in the **Federal Register** the original HAVA State plans filed by the fifty States, the District of Columbia and the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. 69 FR 14002. HAVA anticipated that States, Territories and the District of Columbia would change or update their plans from time to time pursuant to HAVA section 254(a)(11) through (13). HAVA sections 254(a)(11)(A) and 255 require EAC to publish such updates. This is Illinois' third revision to its State plan.

The revised State plan from Illinois addresses changes in the respective budgets of the previously submitted State plans and accounts for the use of Fiscal Year 2008 requirements payments. In accordance with HAVA section 254(a)(12), all the State plans submitted for publication provide information on how the respective State succeeded in carrying out its previous State plan. The States all confirm that these changes to their respective State plans were developed and submitted to public comment in accordance with HAVA sections 254(a)(11), 255, and 256.

Upon the expiration of thirty days from June 10, 2009, the State is eligible to implement the changes addressed in the plan that is published herein, in accordance with HAVA section 254(a)(11)(C).

EAC wishes to acknowledge the effort that went into revising this State plan and encourages further public comment, in writing, to the State election official listed below.

Chief State Election Official

Mr. Daniel White, Executive Director, Illinois State Board of Elections, 1020 S. Spring Street, Springfield, Illinois 62704, Phone: (217) 782-4141, Fax: (217) 782-5959.

Thank you for your interest in improving the voting process in America.

Dated: June 4, 2009.

Thomas R. Wilkey,

Executive Director, U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

BILLING CODE 6820-KF-P