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[FR Doc. 97-8176 Filed 3-31-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6050-28-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Navy**

**Notice of Intent To Prepare an
Environmental Impact Statement for
the Continued Use of the Pinecastle
Target Range, Ocala National Forest,
Marion County, Florida**

SUMMARY: Per Section 102(2)(c) of the
National Environmental Policy Act of
1969 as implemented in the Council on

Environmental Quality regulations (40
CFR parts 1500-1508), the Department
of the Navy announces its intent to
prepare an Environmental Impact
Statement (EIS) for the Continued Use of
the Pinecastle Target Range, Ocala
National Forest, Marion County,
Florida. The U.S. Department of
Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service is a
cooperating agency in the preparation of
the EIS.

The 5,825-acre range, located on
USDA Forest Service property in the
Ocala National Forest, is operated by the
Navy under a special use agreement
from the USDA Forest Service. The
agreement expires December 31, 1999,
and the EIS will examine environmental
impacts resulting from renewal of the
agreement.

The objective of the EIS is to describe
the existing conditions at the range,
describe the alternatives for reuse or
closure of the range, and evaluate the
environmental impacts from various
renewal or closure alternatives. A
biological assessment and Section 7
consultation pursuant to the
Endangered Species Act are being
completed. Environmental issues that
will be addressed in the EIS include air
quality, water quality, noise, safety,
wetland impacts, endangered species
impacts, cultural resources impacts, and
socioeconomic impacts.

The Navy will hold two scoping
meetings to solicit input on significant
issues that should be addressed in the
EIS. The first meeting will be held on
Thursday, April 17, 1997, from 5:00
p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Umatilla
Community Center, 1 South Central
Avenue, Umatilla, FL. The second
meeting will be held on Tuesday, April
29, 1997, from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.
at the Ocala City Auditorium, 836 N.E.
Sanchez Avenue, Ocala, FL. Navy
representatives will accept comments
from members of the public at the
meeting. It is important that Federal,
state, local agencies, and interested
individuals take this opportunity to
identify environmental concerns that
should be addressed in the EIS.

ADDRESSES: Agencies and the public are
encouraged to provide written
comments in addition to, or, in lieu of,
oral comments at the scoping meeting.
To be most helpful, comments should
clearly describe specific issues or topics
which the EIS should address. Written
comments must be postmarked by May
29, 1997 and should be mailed to
Commanding Officer, Southern
Division, Naval Facilities Engineering
Command, P.O. Box 190010, North
Charleston, South Carolina 29419-9010
(Attn: Mr. Tom Burst, Code 064TB).

Written comments may be submitted to
Mr. Burst via facsimile at (803) 820-
7472.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr.
Tom Burst at (803) 820-5590.

Dated: March 27, 1997.

M.A. Waters,

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

[FR Doc. 97-8194 Filed 3-31-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P

**Notice of Public Hearing for the Draft
Environmental Impact Statement for
Disposal and Reuse of the Naval
Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant,
Calverton, NY**

SUMMARY: Per Council on Environmental
Quality Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-
1508), implementing procedural
provisions of the National
Environmental Policy Act, the
Department of the Navy has prepared
and filed, on March 14, 1997, with the
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,
a Draft Environmental Impact Statement
(DEIS) for the disposal and subsequent
reuse of the Naval Weapons Industrial
Reserve Plant (NWIRP), Calverton, New
York. The DEIS addresses the
environmental consequences of disposal
of NWIRP Calverton, and
implementation of the proposed
Community Reuse Plan for the base
prepared by the Calverton Air Facility
Joint Planning and Redevelopment
Commission, an entity established by
the Riverhead Town Board. The DEIS
evaluates environmental effects of three
reuse alternatives which represent a
reasonable range of alternative
redevelopment intensities for the base if
the decision is made to dispose of the
property.

ADDRESSES: The Department of the Navy
will hold a public hearing to inform the
public of the DEIS findings and to
solicit comments. The hearing will be
held on Thursday, April 17, 1997,
beginning at 7:30 p.m., at the Ramada
East End, 1830 Route 25, Riverhead,
New York. Please call the point of
contact below or the Ramada Inn in the
case of inclement weather.

Federal, state, local agencies and
interested parties are invited and urged
to attend or be represented at the
hearing. Oral statements will be heard
and transcribed by a stenographer;
however, to assure the accuracy of the
record, all statements should be
submitted in writing. All statements,
both oral and written, will become part
of the public record on this action and
will be given equal consideration.

Additional copies of the DEIS have been placed in the Riverhead Free Library, 330 Court Street, Riverhead, New York.

Written comments on the DEIS should be mailed to the address noted below and must be postmarked not later than May 9, 1997 to be part of the official record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Additional information concerning this notice may be obtained by contacting Mr. Kurt Frederick (Code 202) Northern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 10 Industrial Highway, MSC 82, Lester, PA 19113, telephone (610) 595-0728, facsimile (610) 595-0778.

Dated: March 27, 1997.

M.A. Waters,

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

[FR Doc. 97-8192 Filed 3-31-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for; the Implementation of a Comprehensive Land Use Management Plan at the Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, CA

SUMMARY: Per Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR part 1500-1508) the Department of the Navy announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of implementing a comprehensive Land Use Management Plan for the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWCWD), located at the Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS), China Lake, California. The Navy is the lead agency in the preparation of the EIS. It is anticipated that other Department of Defense installations, and Department of the Interior agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will act as cooperating agencies.

The California Desert Protection Act (the Act) of 1994, reauthorized the Navy's continued use of public withdrawn lands to support China Lake's Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E) and training mission. The Act requires the development of a land use management plan for these withdrawn lands, in accordance with the requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, by October 1997. Additionally, in response to military downsizing initiatives and potential influences of

evolving technologies on weapons systems RDT&E and training requirements, the Navy recognizes the need to implement a comprehensive management system that integrates operational and environmental planning processes.

The Navy's proposed action is the implementation of a comprehensive Land Use Management Plan (LUMP) at NAWS China Lake for managing existing and proposed land uses authorized under the California Desert Protection Act. Proposed land uses include, but are not limited to, ongoing and future military operations, public health and safety practices, and ongoing and future environmental resources management and conservation at NAWS China Lake. The LUMP will be developed in conformance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA, 1976).

The EIS will also evaluate a range of land use management practices, including the "no action" alternative. Alternative land use management practices could include a range of activities of greater or lesser intensity of land use type or tempo. The "no action" alternative would implement a Land Use Management Plan that would not change the ongoing type or tempo of land uses and environmental resources management direction or emphasis currently in place at China Lake.

The EIS will evaluate the potential immediate and cumulative effects of implementing a comprehensive Land Use Management Plan on the physical, natural, and human environments of the affected geographic area. Major environmental issues that will be addressed in the EIS include, but are not limited to: geology/soils; biology; water resources/hydrology, noise, air quality (visibility & conformity), land use, non-military land use and access, cultural resources, socio-economics, transportation, public health and safety, and hazardous materials.

The Navy will initiate a scoping process for the purpose of determining the extent of issues to be addressed and identifying the significant issues related to the China Lake EIS. Scoping meetings will be held in the towns of Trona, Inyokern, Independence, Barstow, Johannesburg, and Ridgecrest. Meeting sites and times will be published in the **Federal Register**, and in local and regional newspapers. During the scoping meetings, presentation of information on the proposed action will precede the request for public comment. Navy representatives will accept comments from members of the public at the meeting. It is important that Federal, state, and local agencies, and

interested individuals take this opportunity to identify environmental concerns that should be addressed in the EIS.

ADDRESSES: Agencies and the public are invited and encouraged to provide written comments in addition to, or in lieu of, oral comments at the public scoping meetings. To be most helpful, scoping comments should clearly describe specific issues or topic which the EIS should address. Written comments must be postmarked by June 30, 1997 and should be mailed to Commander, Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, Attn: Ms. Robin Hoffman, Land Use Planning Office, China Lake, CA 93555, telephone (619) 939-0935, fax (619) 939-2541.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Robin Hoffman at (619) 939-0935.

Dated: March 27, 1997.

M.A. Waters,

LCDR, JAG, USN, Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-8193 Filed 3-31-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Implementation of the Draft Integrated Management Plan for the Patuxent River Complex, Maryland

SUMMARY: Per section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), the Department of the Navy announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of implementing the draft Integrated Management Plan for the Patuxent River Complex, Maryland. The Patuxent River Complex includes the Patuxent River Naval Air Station (NAS) including the Test Pilot School, Webster Field Annex (an Outlying Field), and the Chesapeake Test Range, which are assets under the exclusive control and scheduling authority of the Naval Air Warfare Center—Aircraft Division (NAWCAD).

The Patuxent River Complex is located 60 miles southeast of Washington, DC, in southern Maryland, where the Navy has actively conducted aircraft test and evaluation activities for more than 50 years. In recent years, the post-Cold War shift from the threat of nuclear superpower confrontation to regional conflicts has required the