

Alaska for purposes of conservation of the fisheries.

## II. Method of Collection

Daily logbooks and paper forms are required from participants, and methods of submittal include paper logbooks, facsimile transmission of paper forms, and electronic reporting. The specific types of reporting required are identified below in the section for "Estimated Time Per Response."

## III. Data

*OMB Number:* 0648-0213.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households, business or other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,033.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 35 minutes for Weekly Cumulative Mothership ADF&G Fish Tickets; 14 minutes for U.S. Vessel Activity Report; 18 minutes for Catcher Vessel trawl gear daily fishing logbook (DFL); 28 minutes for Catcher Vessel longline and pot gear DFL; 30 minutes for Catcher/processor trawl gear daily cumulative production logbook (DCPL); 41 minutes for Catcher/processor longline and pot gear DCPL; 31 minutes for Shoreside processor DCPL; 31 minutes for Mothership DCPL; 8 minutes for Shoreside Processor Check-in/Check-out Report; 7 minutes for Mothership or Catcher/processor Check-in/Check-out Report; 11 minutes for Product transfer report; 17 minutes for Weekly Production Report; 11 minutes for Daily Production Report; estimated time to electronically submit the weekly production report (5 min./report); 5 minutes to electronically submit the check-in/check-out report; 23 minutes for buying station report.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 45,086.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$215,786.

## IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques

or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 13, 2001.

**Gwellnar Banks,**

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 01-31396 Filed 12-19-01; 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 (EIS) for the Mississippi River Diversion Near Benny's Bay, Ecosystem Restoration Analysis, Mississippi River Delta, LA

**AGENCY:** Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** Estimates show that approximately 30 square miles of coastal wetlands convert to open water in Louisiana each year. The causes of the wetland loss are varied and complex, depending upon wetland location and type. Wetland loss has been attributed to the loss of freshwater, nutrient, and sediment input from the Mississippi River due the construction of flood protection levees, salt water intrusion, oil and gas access canals, navigation channels, subsidence, and sea level rise. The loss of wetlands has serious negative impacts to fish and wildlife populations, hurricane protection, and the economy of Louisiana and the nation. Many believe that reestablishment of freshwater, nutrient, and sediment flows from the Mississippi River into degraded wetlands would restore and sustain coastal wetland ecosystem structure and function that have been lost.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions concerning the EIS should be addressed to Mr. Michael Salyer at (504) 862-2037. Mr. Salyer may also be reached at fax number (504) 862-2572 or by e-mail at [michael.r.salyer@mvn02.usace.army.mil](mailto:michael.r.salyer@mvn02.usace.army.mil). Mr. Salyer's address is U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, PM-RS, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. *Authority.* The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, at the

direction of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force, is initiating this study under the authority of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act, Pub. L. 101-646. This act includes funds for the planning of measures for the creation, restoration, protection and enhancement of coastal wetlands.

2. *Proposed Action.* The proposed action would restore, enhance, and sustain the coastal wetlands ecosystem east of the Mississippi River in Mississippi River Delta, Louisiana. This ecosystem is located in Region 2, Mississippi River Delta, Plaquemines Parish. The diversion inlet would be located on the east bank of the Mississippi River at Mile 7.5 above Head of Passes. This action would likely utilize the nutrients, freshwater, and sediment of the Mississippi River for this restoration. This proposed action is intended to reestablish ecosystem functions. This proposed action would restore the wetland acreage and biodiversity of the Mississippi River Delta. Environmental analysis would be used to determine the most practical plan, which would provide for the greatest overall public benefit. The recommended plan would restore degraded wetlands with the least adverse impacts to stakeholder interests.

3. *Alternatives.* Alternatives recommended for consideration presently include the construction of a river diversion structure in the vicinity of Benny's Bay, dedicated dredging to construct wetlands, the construction of outfall management structures, and combinations of the above. Various capacities for the diversion structure would be investigated. Various increments of dedicated dredging and increments of long-term diversion amounts would also be investigated.

4. *Scoping.* Scoping is the process for determining the scope of alternatives and significant issues to be addressed in the EIS. For this analysis, a letter will be sent to all parties believed to have an interest in the analysis, requesting their input on alternatives and issues to be evaluated. The letter will also notify interested parties of public scoping meetings that will be held in the local area. Notices will also be sent to local news media. All interested parties are invited to comment at this time, and anyone interested in this study should request to be included in the study mailing list.

A public scoping meeting will be held in the early part of 2002. The meeting will be held in Plaquemines parish, Louisiana. Additional meetings could be held, depending upon interest and if it

is determined that further public coordination is warranted.

5. *Significant Issues.* The tentative list of resources and issues to be evaluated in the EIS includes tidal wetlands (marshes and swamps), aquatic resources, commercial and recreational fisheries, wildlife resources, essential fish habitat, water quality, air quality, threatened and endangered species, recreation resources, and cultural resources. Socioeconomic items to be evaluated in the EIS include navigation, flood protection, business and industrial activity, employment, land use, property values, public/community facilities and services, tax revenues, population, community and regional growth, transportation, housing, community cohesion, and noise.

6. *Environmental Consultation and Review.* The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will be assisting in the documentation of existing conditions and assessment of effects of project alternatives through Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act consultation procedures. The USFWS will also provide a Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act report. Consultation will also be accomplished with the USFWS and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) concerning threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat. The NMFS will be consulted on the effects of this proposed action on Essential Fish Habitat. The draft EIS or a notice of its availability will be distributed to all interested agencies, organizations, and individuals.

7. *Estimated Date of Availability.* Funding levels will dictate the date when the draft EIS is available. The earliest that the draft EIS is expected to be available is summer of 2002.

Dated: December 11, 2001.

**Michael R. Burt,**

*Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army, Acting District Engineer.*

[FR Doc. 01-31358 Filed 12-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-84-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Office of Science; Continuation of Solicitation for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program—Notice 02-01

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Annual notice of continuation of availability of grants and cooperative agreements.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Science of the Department of Energy hereby announces its continuing interest in receiving grant

applications for support of work in the following program areas: Basic Energy Sciences, High Energy Physics, Nuclear Physics, Advanced Scientific Computing, Fusion Energy Sciences, Biological and Environmental Research, and Energy Research Analyses. On September 3, 1992, (57 FR 40582), DOE published in the **Federal Register** the Office of Energy Research Financial Assistance Program (now called the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program), 10 CFR part 605, Final Rule, which contained a solicitation for this program. Information about submission of applications, eligibility, limitations, evaluation and selection processes and other policies and procedures are specified in 10 CFR part 605.

**DATES:** Applications may be submitted at any time in response to this Notice of Availability.

**ADDRESSES:** Applications must be sent to: Director, Grants and Contracts Division, Office of Science, SC-64, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290. When preparing applications, applicants should use the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Application Guide and Forms located on the World Wide Web at <http://www.science.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>. Applicants without Internet access may call 301-903-5212 for information.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice is published annually and remains in effect until it is succeeded by another issuance by the Office of Science, usually published after the beginning of the fiscal year. This annual Notice 02-01 succeeds Notice 01-01, which was published December 7, 2000.

It is anticipated that approximately \$400 million will be available for grant and cooperative agreement awards in FY 2002. The DOE is under no obligation to pay for any costs associated with the preparation or submission of an application. DOE reserves the right to fund, in whole or in part, any, all, or none of the applications submitted in response to this Notice.

The following program descriptions are offered to provide more in-depth information on scientific and technical areas of interest to the Office of Science:

#### 1. Basic Energy Sciences

The Basic Energy Sciences (BES) program supports fundamental research in the natural sciences and engineering leading to new and improved energy technologies and to understanding and mitigating the environmental impacts of

energy technologies. The science areas and their objectives are as follows:

#### (a) Materials Sciences

The objective of this program is to increase the understanding of phenomena and properties important to materials behavior that will contribute to meeting the needs of present and future energy technologies. It is comprised of the subfields metallurgy, ceramics, condensed matter physics, materials chemistry, and related disciplines where the emphasis is on the science of materials.

Program Contact: (301) 903-3427.

#### (b) Chemical Sciences

The objective of this program is to expand, through support of basic research, knowledge of various areas of chemistry, chemical engineering and atomic molecular and optical physics with a goal of contributing to new or improved processes for developing and using domestic energy resources in an efficient and environmentally sound manner. Disciplinary areas where research is supported include atomic molecular and optical physics; physical, inorganic and organic chemistry; chemical physics; photochemistry; radiation chemistry; analytical chemistry; separations science; actinide chemistry; and chemical engineering sciences. Program Contact: (301) 903-5804.

#### (c) Engineering Research

This program's objectives are: (1) To extend the body of knowledge underlying current engineering practice in order to open new ways for enhancing energy savings and production, prolonging useful equipment life, and reducing costs while maintaining output performance, and environmental quality; and (2) to broaden the technical and conceptual base for solving future engineering problems in the energy technologies. Program Contact: (301) 903-3427.

#### (d) Geosciences

The goal of this program is to develop a quantitative and predictive understanding of geologic processes related to energy and environmental quality. The program emphasizes cross-cutting basic research that will improve understanding of reactive geochemical transport and other subsurface processes and properties and how to image them using techniques ranging from electrons, x-rays or neutrons to electromagnetic and seismic waves. Applications of this fundamental understanding might include transport of contaminant fluids, hydrocarbons, sequestered CO<sub>2</sub> or