

Sitka and Angoon, Alaska. Locations and times of the scoping meetings will be announced in local newspapers and on local radio stations.

The Interdisciplinary Planning Team will review comments received during the scoping period to determine which issues are significant and within the scope of this project. The team will then develop a range of alternatives to address the significant issues. One of these will be the "No Action" alternative, in which no additional timber harvest or road construction is proposed. Other alternatives will consider various levels and locations of timber harvest in response to issues and non-timber objectives. The team will then prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) that will display the alternatives and the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of each alternative.

The DEIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by November 2002. The comment period on the DEIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. In addition to commenting on the proposed action and the DEIS when it is released, agencies and other interested persons or groups are invited to write to or speak with Forest Service officials at any time during the planning process.

The Forest Service believes that at this early scoping stage, it is important to inform reviewers of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2d 1016, 1022 (9th Cir. 1986) and *Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this Proposed Action participate by the close of the comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time during which the agency can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the Proposed Action, comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the DEIS or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this Proposed Action, will be available for public inspection, and may be released under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request that the agency withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform persons requesting confidentiality of the agency's decision regarding their request, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without the name and address.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision for the False Island Timber Sale(s) is expected to be released in June 2003. The Responsible Official will make a decision regarding this proposal after considering public comments, the environmental consequences displayed in the FEIS, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The decision and supporting reasons will be documented in the Record of Decision (ROD). Permits required for implementation include the following

1. U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
 - Approval of discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States under Section 404 of

the Clean Water Act;

- Approval of the construction of structures or work in navigable waters of the United States under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899;
- 2. Environmental Protection Agency
 - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (402) Permit;
 - Review Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan;
- 3. State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources
 - Tideland Permit and Lease or Easement;
- 4. State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation
 - Solid Waste Disposal Permit;
 - Certification of Compliance with Alaska Water Quality Standards (401 Certification)

Tom Puchlerz, Forest Supervisor, Tongass National Forest, 648 Mission Street, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901-6591, is the Responsible Official. In making the decision, the Responsible Official will consider the comments, responses, disclosure of environmental consequences, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The Responsible Official will state the rationale for the chosen alternative in the Record of Decision.

Dated: July 29, 2002.

Thomas Puchlerz,
Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Change to Section IV of the Virginia State Technical Guide

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in the Virginia NRCS State Technical Guide for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It has been determined by the NRCS State Conservationist for Virginia that changes must be made in the NRCS State Technical Guide specifically in practice standards: #317 Composting Facility; #422, Hedgerow Planting; #500, Obstruction Removal; #580, Streambank and Shoreline Protection, and #359, Waste Treatment Lagoon to account for improved technology. These practices will be used to plan and install conservation practices on cropland,

pastureland, woodland, and wildlife land.

DATES: Comments will be received on or before September 4, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Inquire in writing to M. Denise Doetzer, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 209, Richmond, Virginia 23229-5014; Telephone number (804) 287-1665; Fax number (804) 287-1736. Copies of the practice standards will be made available upon written request to the address shown above or on the Virginia NRCS web site <http://www.va.nrcs.usda.gov/DataTechRefs/Standards&Specs/EDITstds/EditStandards.htm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after enactment of the law to NRCS State technical guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days, the NRCS in Virginia will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period, a determination will be made by the NRCS in Virginia regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of change will be made to the subject standards.

Dated: July 22, 2002.

L. Willis Miller,

*Assistant State Conservationist for Programs,
Natural Resources Conservation Service,
Richmond, Virginia.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

[Docket No.: 020726181-2181-01]

RIN 0693-ZA49

Building Systems Research Grants Program; Availability of Funds

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) invites proposals from eligible organizations for funding projects under the Building Systems Research Grants Program (Program). The Program is seeking proposals in two specific areas: (1) cyber-security of computerized building control and safety systems, and

(2) design/construction product (and process) data models to support building systems commissioning, which occurs after construction is completed and before operation and maintenance begins.

DATES: Proposals must be received no later than 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on September 4, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Submit one signed original and two copies of the proposal to: Building and Fire Research Laboratory (BFRL), Attn.: Ms. Tina Faecke, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8602, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-8602, Tel: (301) 975-5911, E-mail: tina.faecke@nist.gov, Website: <http://www.bfrl.nist.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: All grants related administration questions concerning these programs should be directed to the NIST Grants and Agreements Management Division at (301) 975-6328.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: As authorized by 15 U.S.C. 272(b) and (c), the NIST Building and Fire Research Laboratory is conducting a basic and applied building systems research program directly and through grants and cooperative agreements to eligible recipients.

Program Description and Objectives: The Building Systems Research Grants Program solicits proposals in support of the program objectives identified below. All proposals submitted to the Building Systems Research Grants Program must be in accordance with these program objectives. The appropriate Program Manager for each field of research may be contacted for clarification of the program objectives.

I. Cyber-Security of Computerized Building Control and Safety Systems—Evaluate and test different approaches to providing secure dynamic networks and mobile devices to communicating parties, including first responders, along with the capability to distinguish between legitimate entities and malicious intruders.

The contact person for this field of research is: Mr. Steven T. Bushby, and he may be reached at (301) 975-5873.

II. Design/Construction Product (and Process) Data Models to Support Building Commissioning, Which Occurs After Construction is Completed and Before Operation and Maintenance Begins—Determine the information needs of the building systems commissioning process and propose extensions or enhancements to the current product and process models being developed in the standards community to support the automation of this process.

The contact person for this field of research is: Dr. Kent A. Reed, and he may be reached at (301) 975-5852.

Eligibility: The Building Systems Research Grants Program is open to institutions of higher education; hospitals; non-profit organizations; commercial organizations; state, local, and Indian tribal governments; foreign governments; organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments; and international organizations.

Funding Availability: For fiscal year 2002, the Building Systems Research Grants Program anticipates funding one award of up to \$300,000 in each field of systems research described in the Program Description and Objectives section of this notice.

Award Period: Proposals will be considered for research projects at a funding level not to exceed \$300,000 per proposal within a two-year period. If an application is selected for funding, DoC has no obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with that award.

Proposal Review Process: All applications received in response to this announcement will be reviewed to determine whether or not they are complete and responsive. Incomplete or non-responsive applications will not be reviewed for technical merit. The Program will retain one copy of each non-responsive application for three years for recordkeeping purposes. The remaining copies will be destroyed.

Responsive proposals will be forwarded to the Program Manager who will assign them to appropriate reviewers. At least three independent, objective individuals knowledgeable about the particular scientific area described above that the proposal addresses will conduct a technical review of each proposal, based on the evaluation criteria described below. When non-Federal reviewers are used, reviewers may discuss the proposals with each other, but scores will be determined on an individual basis, not as a consensus. The Program Manager will make funding recommendations to the Chief, Building Environment Division based on the technical evaluation score and the relationship of the work proposed to the objectives of the program.

In making application selections, the Chief, Building Environment Division will take into consideration the results of the evaluations, the scores of the reviewers, the Program Manager's recommendation, the availability of funds, and relevance to the objectives of the Building Systems Research Grants Program, as described in the Program