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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Kensington Gold Mine Project, AK, Tongass National Forest-Chatham Area, Juneau Ranger District; Intent To Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the USDA Forest Service, Chatham Area, under the direction of the Juneau Ranger District, will be preparing a supplemental environmental impact statement to analyze and display the effects of proposed changes to the Kensington Gold Project, located on public and private lands in southeastern Alaska. The proposed mine is operated by Coeur Alaska and is located approximately 45 miles north of downtown Juneau. The Record of Decision for the original Final Environmental Impact Statement was signed on January 29, 1992.

The proposed operations are subject to approval of a Plan of Operations under 36 CFR, Part 228, which is intended to ensure that adverse environmental effects on National Forest System lands and resources are minimized. The proposed changes to the project's Plan of Operations include the following:

1. Construction of a dry tailings (dewatered) storage facility
2. Relocation of the permanent camp facilities
3. Off-site processing of the flotation concentrate
4. Selective underground backfilling of tailings in the mine
5. Location of the concentrate storage area at Comet Beach
6. Use of diesel fuel for power generation rather than LPG (liquified petroleum gas)
7. Redesign and alignment of the haul road

8. Relocation of diesel storage tank, laydown area, and explosive storage
9. Separate treatment of mine drainage
10. Mine waste rock storage facility
11. New facilities for mine operations
12. Construction of additional settling ponds

The purpose and need for the proposed amendments to the Plan of Operations analyzed in the 1992 EIS, is to reduce potential impacts from a mixing zone in saltwater; increase the assurance of meeting water quality standards; minimize potential impacts to Ophir/Ivanhoe and Sherman Creeks; reduce operational and maintenance requirements; minimize reclamation and long term closure liabilities; and increase the economic efficiency of the mine.

In addition to the Forest Service, the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have jurisdiction and will participate as cooperating agencies in the preparation of the SEIS. The Forest Service has agreed to be the lead agency. EPA will be responsible for assuring that the analysis provides sufficient information for issuance of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit under authority of the Clean Water Act. The Corps will be responsible for ensuring that the analysis provides sufficient information for issuance of a Section 404 of the Clean Water Act permit, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 permit, and for compliance with Executive Orders 11990 and 11900 for wetlands and floodplains. Memorandums of Understanding have been completed with both of the cooperating agencies.

The decision to be made is whether or not to approve the Plan of Operations as amended or require the operator to revise its proposal. The original FEIS analyzed the effects of developing the Kensington Gold Project. The SEIS will analyze only the effects of the proposed changes to the Plan of Operations.

The SEIS will be prepared by a third party contractor, SAIC, for the cooperating agencies under the direction of the Forest Service.

Key resources to be analyzed include stability of the dry tailings storage area; impacts to wetlands; impacts to fisheries from the discharge; visual and water quality effects and stability of disturbed areas such as the dry tailings storage area, laydown area, new fuel

tank sites, and avalanche control areas; air quality effects from diesel power generation; spill potential and effects of hauling and handling additional diesel fuel.

Gary A. Morrison, Forest Supervisor, Tongass National Forest, Chatham Area, is the responsible official.

The Forest Service is seeking information and comments from Federal, State, and local agencies as well as individuals and organizations who may be interested in, or affected by the proposed action. Public scoping meetings are planned for Juneau at Centennial Hall from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 7 and in Haines at the Council Chambers in City Hall from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 8.

Comments will be accepted throughout the EIS process but, to be most useful during the analysis they should be received in writing by August 15, 1996.

The draft supplemental environmental impact statement should be available for public review by October 1, 1996. The comment period on the draft supplemental environmental impact statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the Federal Register. The final supplemental environmental impact statement is scheduled to be completed by December 15, 1996.

The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice 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 the 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 45 day comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it 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 draft environmental impact statement 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.

Written comments and suggestions concerning the analysis should be sent to Roger Birk, Minerals Management Specialist, Juneau Ranger District, 8465 Old Dairy Road, Juneau, Alaska, 99801. The telephone number is 907-586-8800 and the fax is 586-8808.

Dated: July 10, 1996.

Gary A. Morrison,
Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 96-18460 Filed 7-19-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Livestock Care and Handling Guidelines; Extension of Comment Period

SUMMARY: On May 17, 1996, a notice requesting public comments regarding the Agency's proposed livestock care and handling guidelines was published in the Federal Register (61 FR 24916). Comments are being sought concerning the proposed guidelines for the care and handling of livestock at stockyards to assist the industry in complying with the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act.

The notice published in the Federal Register on May 17, 1996, requires comments to be filed with the Administration on or before July 16, 1996. Pursuant to requests from interested parties for additional time to prepare their comments, the time for filing is being extended 30 days.

DATES: The time for filing comments is hereby extended to and includes August 15, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to the Deputy Administrator, Packers and Stockyards Programs, Room 3039, South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250-2800. Comments received may be inspected during normal business hours in the Office of the Deputy Administrator, Packers and Stockyards Programs.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Van Ackeren, Director, Livestock Marketing Division, (202) 720-6951.

Done at Washington, DC this 15th day of July 1996.

James R. Baker,

Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

[FR Doc. 96-18405 Filed 7-19-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-EN-M

Rural Utilities Service

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program—Notice of Application Filing Deadline for Fiscal Year 1996 Funding; Correction

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Correction.

In the notice on page 33639 in the issue of Thursday, June 27, 1996, make the following correction:

On page 33639 in the third column, change the telephone number for Gerald Nugent, Jr., Director, Northeast Area to (202) 720-2281.

Robert Peters,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 96-18403 Filed 7-19-96; 8:45 am]

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ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

Privacy Act of 1974; Computer Matching Program Between the Armed Forces Retirement Home and the Social Security Administration

AGENCY: Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 552a (e)(12) of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, and the Office of Personnel Management and Budget (OMB) Guidelines on Matching Programs, notice is hereby made of the computer matching between the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) and the Social Security Administration (SSA). The purpose of this match is for SSA to provide and verify benefit payment information on the AFRH's residents.

DATES: This proposed action will become effective August 21, 1996. The computer matching will proceed accordingly without further notice, unless comments are received which would result in a contrary determination or if Congress or the Office of Management and Budget, objects thereto. Any public comment must be received before the effective date.

ADDRESSES: Any interested party may submit written comments to the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, Resource Management Directorate, 3700 North Capitol Street NW., Washington, DC 20317-0002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Donna H. Dietz, at (202) 722-3163.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: AFRH and SSA have concluded an agreement to conduct a computer matching program. The purpose of this agreement is to establish the conditions under which the SSA agrees to the disclosure of benefit payment information on the residents of the AFRH, which includes the United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home (USSAH) and United States Naval Home (USNH). The AFRH Resident Fee Maintenance System will be used in a matching program with the SSA Master Beneficiary Records and Supplemental Security Income Records. Residents of the AFRH are required by 24 U.S.C. 414 to pay a percentage of their Federal payments, including Social Security; thus, the AFRH will use the SSA data to verify the benefit earnings information currently provided by the residents, and identify any unreported recipients of benefit payments. A computer matching is the most efficient and effective manner to accomplish this task with the least amount of intrusion of personal privacy of the individuals concerned. It was therefore concluded, and agreed upon, that computer matching would be the best and least obtrusive manner of accomplishing this requirement.

The matching agreement and an advance copy of this notice were submitted on July 12, 1996, to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight of the United States House of Representatives, the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the United States House of Representatives, the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the United States Senate, and the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget. The matching program is subject to review by Congress and OMB and shall not