

The EIS will analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of the alternatives. Past, present, and projected activities on both private and National Forest System lands will be considered.

Public participation is important. Comments from the public will be used to:

- Identify, and/or confirm key issues and other potential issues.
- Eliminate minor issues or those which have been covered by a previous environmental analysis, such as the Ochoco LRMP.
- Identify alternatives to the proposed action.
- Identify, and/or confirm potential environmental effects of the proposed action and other alternatives (i.e. direct, indirect, and cumulative effects).
- Determine potential cooperating agencies and task assignments.

The draft EIS is expected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review in May 1998. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**. At the same time, copies of the draft EIS will be distributed to interested and affected agencies, organizations, tribes, and members of the public for their review and comment.

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 EISs 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 EIS stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final EIS 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 EIS.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering these issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments on the draft EIS 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 EIS 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.

The final EIS is scheduled to be completed in August 1998. In the final EIS, the Forest Service is required to respond to comments received during the comment period that pertain to the environmental consequences discussed in the draft EIS and applicable laws, regulations, and policies considered in making the decisions on this proposal. Thomas Schmidt, Forest Supervisor, is the responsible official. As responsible official he will document the selected alternative for the Mill Project Timber Sales EIS and his rationale in a Record of Decision.

The decision for the Mill Project Timber Sales will be subject to Forest Service Appeal Regulations (36 CFR part 215).

Dated: February 26, 1998.

Thomas A. Schmidt,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 98-6367 Filed 3-11-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Section 515 Rural Rental Housing Program; Correction

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service (RHS), USDA.

ACTION: Correction.

SUMMARY: The Rural Housing Service (RHS) corrects a notice published December 23, 1997 (62 FR 67234). This action is taken to publish the State Office, its address, telephone number, and contact person which were inadvertently omitted. Accordingly, the notice published December 23, 1997 (62 FR 67234), is corrected as follows:

On page 67234 in the third column the area code for the Puerto Rico State Office should read 787.

On page 67235 in the first column the following State should be added:

Rural Development State Offices With 60-Day Deadlines

Mississippi State Office, Federal Building, Suite 831, 100 W. Capitol Street, Jackson, MS 39269, (601) 965-4325, Mike Ladner.

Since this State was omitted and the delay due to that omission, the deadline for submission of applications for new construction will be 5 p.m. local time, 60 days from publication, of this correction, in the **Federal Register**.

On page 67236, in the first column the deadline should be changed to read March 9, 1998.

Dated: March 5, 1998.

Jan E. Shadburn,

Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

[FR Doc. 98-6300 Filed 3-11-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XV-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Evaluation of Coastal Zone Management Program and National Estuarine Research Reserves

AGENCY: Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), DOC.

ACTION: Notice of intent to evaluate.

SUMMARY: The NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) announces its intent to evaluate the performance of the Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve in Ohio.

This evaluation will be conducted pursuant to section 315 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA), as amended. The CZMA requires a continuing review of the performance of states with respect to estuarine research reserve program implementation. Evaluation of Estuarine Research Reserve Programs requires findings concerning the extent to which a state has met the national objectives, adhered to its final management plan approved by the Secretary of Commerce, and adhered to the terms of financial assistance awards funded under the CZMA. The evaluations will include a site visit, consideration of public comments, and consultations with interested Federal, State, and local agencies and members of the public. Public meetings are held as part of the site visits.

Notice is hereby given of the date of the site visit for the listed evaluation, and the date, local time, and location of public meeting during the site visit.

Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve in Ohio site visit will

be from May 18–22, 1998. One public meeting will be held during the week. This meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., on Tuesday, May 19, 1998, at the Reserve's Visitor's Center, 2514 Cleveland Road East, Huron, Ohio, 44839.

The State will issue notice of the public meeting in a local newspaper(s) at least 45 days prior to the public meeting, and will issue other timely notices as appropriate.

Copies of the State's most recent performance reports, as well as OCRM's notifications and supplemental request letters to the States, are available upon request from OCRM. Written comments from interested parties regarding this Program are encouraged and will be accepted until 15 days after the public meeting. Please direct written comments to Vickie A. Allin, Chief, Policy Coordination Division (PCD), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS/NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910. When the evaluation is completed, OCRM will place a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of the Final Evaluation Findings.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Vickie A. Allin, Chief, Policy Coordination Division, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS/NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910, (301) 713-3090, ext. 126.

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog 11.419 Coastal Zone Management Program Administration)

Dated: March 5, 1998.

Nancy Foster,

Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone.

[FR Doc. 98-6344 Filed 3-11-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Availability of Proposed Administrative Changes to Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program Guidance

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed administrative changes to coastal nonpoint pollution control program guidance.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the availability of Proposed Administrative Changes to the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program Guidance (Administrative Changes), developed under section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990 (CZARA), 16 U.S.C. section 1455b. CZARA requires states and territories with coastal zone management programs that have received approval under section 306 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CSMA) to develop and implement coastal nonpoint pollution control programs. Coastal states and territories were required to submit their coastal nonpoint programs to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for approval in July 1995.

In response to coastal states' concerns over the ability to target the program, enforceable policies and mechanisms; timeframes; and resources to implement coastal nonpoint programs, NOAA and EPA recently completed a dialogue with the coastal states and other interested parties, resulting in a set of proposed administrative changes.

NOAA and EPA agree that states and territories may focus resources and will need to have sufficient flexibility to prioritize their implementation activities. NOAA and EPA are now in the process of refining the proposed administrative changes and are making them available for public comment prior to producing final guidance.

DATES: Written comments on the proposed Administrative Changes should be made to: Joseph A. Uravitch, Chief, Coastal Programs Division (N/ORM3), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS, NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, by May 11, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Proposed Administrative Changes may be obtained upon request from: Joseph P. Flanagan, Coastal Programs Division (N/ORM3), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS, NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910, tel. (301) 713-3121, x201.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Subsequent to enactment of CZARA in 1990, in January 1993, EPA and NOAA published two guidances to guide the development of States' (and Territories') coastal nonpoint pollution control programs: *Guidance Specifying Management Measures for Sources of Nonpoint Pollution in Coastal Waters* and *Program Development and*

Approval Guidance. These provided both technical and programmatic guidance on program development. Subsequently, EPA and NOAA provided further program clarification in a January 6, 1995 letter and a March 16, 1995 document entitled *Flexibility for State Coastal Nonpoint Programs*. These actions provided greater flexibility to States in prioritizing their activities; extended the implementation period from three years to five years; and clarified the range of enforceable policies and mechanisms that could be used by States to implement their programs. The letters also established the principle that, in recognition of the complexity of the program, States could be granted conditional approval for programs that are not yet fully approved, thereby affording more time for States to fully develop their programs.

As of the date of this notice, NOAA and EPA have provided conditional approval to 22 States and are working rapidly to approve or conditionally approve all of the remainder of the 29 coastal States that submitted programs for approval. In April, 1997, NOAA, EPA, the States and other interested parties began discussions regarding the progress made to date in developing and implementing CZARA programs and the significant impediments to further progress. Both the States and Federal agencies recognized that while the goals of the CZARA program remain valid, the program and schedules originally conceived by NOAA and EPA were extremely ambitious, and additional flexibility would be needed to enable the States to successfully implement their programs. Based on this understanding, the parties proceeded to discuss in detail the specific aspects of the program that would require modification while maintaining the overall objective that States implement management measures needed to protect coastal waters.

Based on these discussions, EPA and NOAA have drafted a set of administrative changes that the agencies propose to use to guide future implementation of the CZARA program. After reviewing public comments that are submitted in response to today's notice, NOAA and EPA intend to issue final administrative changes to the program guidance. In some cases, EPA and NOAA will review those findings and conditions and make any necessary adjustments to those findings and conditions (including, where appropriate, elimination of conditions).

On October 18, 1997, the 25th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, Vice President Gore directed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)