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Title: Electronically Graded

Multilayer Ferroelectric Composites.

Inventors: Louise C. Sengupta, Eric Ngo, Michelina E. O'Day, Steven Stowell, Robert Lancot, Somnath Sengupta and Thomas V. Hynes.

Patent Number: 5,693,429.

Issued Date: December 2, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ms. Norma Vaught, Technology Transfer Office, AMSRL-CS-TT, U.S. Army Research Laboratory, Adelphi, Maryland 20783-1197, tel: (301) 394-2952; fax: (301) 394-5815, e-mail: nvaught@arl.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: None.

Gregory D. Showalter,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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BILLING CODE 3710-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Intent to Prepare a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) for the Port of New York and New Jersey

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The action being taken is the evaluation of the dredged material management alternative-types through the promulgation of a draft PEIS for the Port of New York/New Jersey. The purpose of this PEIS is to use a tiering approach that will address the existing environment and impact of alternative types on a generic level. This approach is being undertaken to continue the process of scoping with the public, prior to the promulgation of individual NEPA review associated with specific sites and their associated alternatives. The PEIS will allow a step by step decision making approach to be used. This will allow highlighting of key issues to aid the decision-making process.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr. Robert J. Kurtz, phone (212) 264-2230, Corps of Engineers, New York District, 26 Federal Plaza, New York, NY 10278-0090.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed action is the promulgation of

a draft PEIS to address the existing environment, and the kinds of impacts to be expected for the proposed range of alternative types for the disposal of dredged material associated with sediment removal in Federal and non-Federal channels of the Port of New York/New Jersey. The authority for the draft PEIS is under the existing Operations and Maintenance authority of the New York Harbor Navigation Project in accordance with EC 1165-2-200 (National Harbor Program: Dredged Material Management Plans).

Generic impact analysis will be conducted for the following alternative types: no action alternative, aquatic remediation-category one material, containment islands, nearshore containment, confined aquatic disposal such as existing and new borrow pits, sub-channel pits, land remediation-treated/stabilized material decontamination technologies, beneficial uses such as wetland creation, and contract management.

Scoping has been ongoing and has included eight meetings in a poster session format to inform the public of the process used to create the initial array of options from the alternative types available. The sessions were held from February through April 1997, in New York City, Kingston, and northeast New Jersey.

A draft PEIS is scheduled for circulation at the end of June 1998. A revised outline of the PEIS is scheduled to be sent out early in 1998 after the final revisions have been completed. Public meetings are planned for summer 1998, after the circulation of the draft PEIS. The draft PEIS will provide the next tier of the examination of impacts of the various alternative types from which the options for disposal of dredged material will be drawn.

The second tier of the process is the promulgation of individual NEPA documents for the options chosen by decision-makers. Scoping will continue throughout the process.

Gregory D. Showalter,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-4671 Filed 2-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-06-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the East Waterway Channel Deepening Project, Seattle Harbor, Seattle, Washington

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Corps of Engineers has been directed by Section 356 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1996 to (1) study the feasibility of deepening of a 750-foot-wide segment of existing federal channel in the East Waterway (Duwamish River) from Elliott Bay to Terminal 25 to a depth of up to 51 feet, and (2) if feasible, to implement deepening as routine maintenance. Section 356 of WRDA 96 further directs the Corps to coordinate with the Port of Seattle regarding use of Slip 27 as a nearshore confined dredged material disposal site. Plans call for the dredging and disposal of approximately 850,000 cubic yards of sediment from an approximately 112 acre area in East Waterway. Of this total, approximately 253,000 cubic yards are known to be contaminated to the extent that they would not qualify for disposal at the Elliott Bay Puget Sound Dredge Disposal Analysis (PSDDA) open water site. Based on sediment sampling conducted by the Port of Seattle, an additional 200,000 cubic yards may be similarly contaminated. Dredged material suitable for openwater disposal will either be placed at the PSDDA site in Elliott Bay, or at a beneficial use site, should such a need be identified.

A range of alternatives will be examined for placement of the contaminated dredged material, including: (1) a nearshore confined facility, (2) an offshore contained aquatic disposal (CAD) facility, (3) an upland confined disposal facility, and (4) disposal in a solid waste landfill. Key environmental issues in the DEIS will include: (1) impacts on an important juvenile salmon migration and feeding route; (2) potential loss of 12 acres of productive benthic habitat at Slip 27 or Terminal 90/91; (3) impacts on kelp beds and shorebird/waterfowl habitat; (4) dredging and disposal of up to 450,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments with short-term adverse impacts in the water column at the dredging and disposal site; (4) beneficial impacts in that the dredging would

remove contaminated sediments from the waterway, and (5) Native American concerns, related to impacts on Tribal fishing access and operations in a usual and accustomed fishing area, and on salmon habitat. In addition, it is anticipated that Chinook salmon will be proposed for listing as threatened in Puget Sound in early 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions regarding the scoping process or preparation of the DEIS may be directed to Dr. Stephen Martin, Technical Services Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 3755, 4735 East Marginal Way S., Seattle, Washington, 98134-3755, (206) 764-3631.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Proposed Action

The East Waterway, located in Puget Sound's Elliott Bay at Seattle, Washington, is part of the federally authorized East, West and Duwamish Waterways navigation channel. The East Waterway is approximately 5,800 feet long and has an authorized width of 750 feet and depth of 39 feet Mean Lower Low Water. The waterway is deeper than the federally authorized depth throughout most of its reach and is not currently maintained by the federal government. The East Waterway provides access to the Port of Seattle's container terminals 18, 25, and 30. The container fleet is rapidly changing with ships becoming larger and having greater capacity. The most recent additions to the post-Panamax fleet are ships which are in excess of 900 feet long, 130 feet wide, have a design operating draft of 46 feet, and a capacity in excess of 5,000 twenty foot equivalent units. As a result, the Port of Seattle is concerned that current and potential tenants may elect not to use the Port's facilities due to depth limitations in East Waterway. The Port has stated that a deeper channel, specifically the area that allows access to berths 1 through 5 of Terminal 18, needs to be constructed by calendar year 2001. The deep water access to berths 1 through 5 in the East Waterway requires dredging in the federal channel.

As directed by Section 356 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, the Corps of Engineers is conducting an Evaluation Study with the following project features: dredging in the East Waterway (Seattle Harbor) to a depth of up to 51 feet of the 750-foot wide segment of the federal channel, construction of a disposal site for dredged material that is unsuitable for open water disposal at the Elliott Bay PSDDA disposal site, and construction

of all mitigation features. If this is determined to be feasible, the channel would be deepened as part of the Federal project maintenance. The Port of Seattle would provide the dredged material disposal site(s). Major project features are as follows: (1) channel improvement dredging by the Corps to a depth of up to 51 feet plus 1 foot allowable overdepth of a 750-foot-wide segment of existing federal channel of the Duwamish River East Waterway; (2) construction of a disposal site(s) for dredge materials not acceptable for disposal at Elliott Bay PSDDA disposal site; (3) construction of mitigation features required for the project, and any required monitoring of mitigation improvements; (4) dredging and disposal of about 850,000 cubic yards of sediment from East Waterway. Of this total, approximately 253,000 cubic yards are known to be contaminated to the extent that they would not qualify for disposal at the Elliott Bay PSDDA open water site; and (5) total dredging acreage for the project is approximately 112 acres.

2. Alternatives

In addition to the "No Action" alternative, the draft EIS will evaluate a suite of commonly used disposal alternatives for the placement of dredged material that will not qualify for disposal at the PSDDA open water site. Included in the evaluation will be a comprehensive discussion of the environmental impacts of each alternative. The final EIS will identify the environmentally preferred disposal alternative. Disposal alternatives to be evaluated will include: (1) construction and operation of a Nearshore Confined Disposal Facility including Slip 27 in the East Waterway, and Terminal 91 in Elliott Bay; (2) construction and operation of an Upland Confined Disposal Facility; (3) construction and operation of a deep water Contained Aquatic Disposal Facility; (4) disposal in a Solid Waste Landfill; (5) a combination of the above alternatives; and (6) alternative fill designs at the proposed fill location. Dredging alternatives to be evaluated include established mechanical and hydraulic methods.

3. Scoping and Public Involvement

Public involvement will be sought during the scoping and conduct of the study in accordance with NEPA and SEPA procedures. A public meeting will be held during public review of the draft EIS. Further meetings will be scheduled as needed. A public scoping process will be initiated to clarify issues of major concern, identify studies that

might be needed in order to analyze and evaluate impacts, and obtain public input on the range and acceptability of alternatives. This Notice of Intent formally commences the joint scoping process under NEPA. As part of the scoping process, all affected Federal, state, and local agencies, Indian Tribes, and other interested private organizations, including environmental interest groups, are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. Comments are requested concerning project alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant environmental impacts, and permits or other approvals that may be required. To date, the following areas have been identified to be analyzed in depth in the draft EIS: (1) extent and degree of sediment contamination in East Waterway; (2) dredging and disposal impacts on water quality; (3) impacts on juvenile salmon, as East Waterway is a major migration and feeding route for juvenile salmon, and is an area that they use for saltwater physiological adaptation; the project would result in the loss of several acres of intertidal and shallow subtidal fisheries habitat; (4) impacts on benthic organisms and their habitat at both nearshore confined disposal and contained aquatic disposal sites; e.g. with the construction of a nearshore confined fill area, there would be a loss of about 12 acres of productive benthic habitat that contributes to the aquatic food web of Elliott Bay; (5) other estuarine resources, as with construction of a nearshore confined fill area, there would be losses of other estuarine resources, including shorebirds and waterfowl habitat and kelp beds; (6) Native American concerns including dredging and disposal of contaminated sediments, increased shipping, and nearshore fills and their impacts on Tribal fishing access and operations, and on salmon habitat; also, concerns over cumulative impacts of recent shoreline developments in Elliott Bay on adjudicated treaty fishing rights; (7) beneficial impacts, in that dredging would remove up to 450,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments over an extent of about 112 acres of East Waterway, thereby removing a substantive source of contaminants that affect the Elliott Bay food web; and (8) threatened and endangered Species, as the DEIS will evaluate the impact of the dredging/disposal project on bald eagles that are known to nest within two miles of the project site; it is likely that Chinook salmon will be proposed for listing as threatened in Elliott Bay in early 1998 and may be listed as threatened sometime during 1998. The

environmental review process will be comprehensive and will integrate and satisfy the requirements of NEPA (federal) and SEPA (Washington State), and other relevant Federal, state, and local environmental laws.

4. Scoping Meeting

A notice of the scoping meeting will be mailed to all involved agencies and individuals known to have an interest in this project. A scoping workshop will be held on March 5, 1998, at the Port of Seattle's Commission Chambers, 2711 Alaskan Way (Pier 69) from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. Verbal or written comments will be accepted at the scoping meeting, or written comments may be sent to Dr. Stephen Martin at the above address on or before March 20, 1998.

5. Other Environmental Review, Coordination, and Permit Requirements

Other environmental review, coordination, and permit requirements include preparation of a Section 404 (b)(1) evaluation by the Corps of Engineers; and consultation among the Corps, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the State of Washington per Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Coordination will also be initiated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to meet the requirements of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

6. Availability of Draft EIS

The draft EIS is scheduled for release in March 1999.

Dated: February 12, 1998.

James M. Riggsby,

Colonel, Corps of Engineers, District Engineer.
[FR Doc. 98-4673 Filed 2-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-ER-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Education requests comments on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that the Secretary proposes to use for the 1999-2000 award year. The FAFSA is completed by students and their families and the information submitted on the form is used to determine the students' eligibility and financial need for the student financial assistance programs authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, (Title IV, HEA Programs).

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before March 26, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Danny Werfel, Desk Officer, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503. Requests for copies of the proposed information collection requests should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651. In addition, interested persons can access this document at the following website: "http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/Professionals." Once at this website, the reader should go to the "What's New" area to locate the 1999-2000 FAFSA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patrick J. Sherrill (202) 708-8196. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 483 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), requires the Secretary, "in cooperation with agencies and organizations involved in providing student financial assistance," to "produce, distribute and process free of charge a common financial reporting form to be used to determine the need and eligibility of a student under" the Title IV, HEA Programs. This form is the FAFSA. In addition, section 483 authorizes the Secretary to include on the FAFSA up to eight non-financial data items that would assist States in awarding State student financial assistance.

In a notice published in the **Federal Register** of March 18, 1997, the Secretary noted that the Department of Education was reengineering the FAFSA and looking anew at all the questions on the form. The Secretary asked for comment on questions that applicants were not required to answer in order to have their eligibility and need for Title IV, HEA Programs determined. The Secretary also requested comment with regard to which of the questions were integral to State student aid programs.

In addition to requesting comments in that notice, in May and June of 1997, the Secretary convened public meetings in New York, St. Louis, San Diego, and Washington, D.C. for the purpose of receiving comments on early drafts of the reengineering FAFSA. Further, at

the invitation of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Officers (NASFAA), in July the Department conducted a forum on a later draft of the reengineered FAFSA at NASFAA's annual convention in Philadelphia.

The Secretary revised the FAFSA that was disseminated for comment based upon the suggestions made by the commenters in the Spring and Summer of 1997, and in the **Federal Register** of November 24, 1997, 62 FR 62568-61570, the Secretary published a notice requesting additional comment on this latest revised FAFSA. In that notice, the Secretary described the changes in the FAFSA from the previous disseminated version.

As a result of the November 24, 1997 **Federal Register** notice, the Department received comments and suggestions from over 80 commenters. These comments and suggestions related to the following substantive areas.

- Student's "permanent" telephone number. Many comments objected to the deletion of this item from the form. Many institutions indicated that they used the student's telephone number in ways helpful to students. Other institutions indicated that the number was useful in keeping track of borrowers under the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) and Federal Direct Loan Programs. Although very little is "permanent" about a student's telephone number, the Secretary has agreed to add this item back on the form for the reasons stated by the commenters.

- Untaxed income and benefits. Many commenters objected to the deletion of specific questions about untaxed income. The commenters felt that the accuracy of information would suffer if the form just requested the total of such income. In particular, commenters objected to the elimination of the item for earned income credit. We again request earned income credit on the FAFSA. Space would not allow the addition of other items.

- The inclusion of additional questions on the form would have required the form to expand beyond the current four pages. The Secretary believed that it was important to keep the actual FAFSA application to four pages in order to minimize any changes to the automated processing system which will begin to process these new forms in January of 1999, and to meet the requirements of scanning technology. The Secretary also believed that expansion of the form would have been inconsistent with goals of simplifying and clarifying the current form. As a result, it was not possible to