

Ecosystem Model Technical Workshop Schedule:

May 19–21, 2003—EFH/FEP Development Technical Workshops #3–#6, Wetlands (Submerged Aquatic Vegetation & Mangroves), Pelagic Habitat (*Sargassum* and Water Column)

May 19, 2003, 1 p.m.–5 p.m.; May 20, 2003, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. and May 21, 2003 from 8:30 a.m.–12 noon

Location: NOAA Beaufort Lab, 101 Pivers Island Road, Beaufort, NC 28516; telephone: (252) 728–8746.

May 21–23, 2003—South Atlantic Ecosystem Modeling Development Workshop #1.

May 21, 2003, 1 p.m.–5 p.m.; May 22, 2003, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.; and May 23, 2003, 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Location: NOAA Beaufort Lab, 101 Pivers Island Road, Beaufort, NC 28516; telephone: (252) 728–8746.

July 1–2, 2003—EFH/FEP Development Technical Workshop #7 GIS

July 1, 2003, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., and July 2, 2003, 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Location: Florida Marine Research Institute, 100 Eighth Avenue, S.E., St. Petersburg, FL 33701; telephone: (727) 896–8626.

August 19–21, 2003—EFH/FEP Development Technical Workshops #8–#10, Marsh, Oyster/Shell Habitat and Water Issues

August 19, 2003, 1 p.m.–5 p.m., August 20, 2003, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., and August 21, 2003, 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Location: Town and Country Inn, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407; telephone: (843) 571–1000.

September 23–25, 2003—South Atlantic Ecosystem Modeling Workshop #2

September 23, 2003, 1 p.m.–5 p.m., September 24, 2003, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., September 25, 2003, 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Location: Florida Marine Research Institute, 100 Eighth Avenue, S.E., St. Petersburg, FL 33701; telephone: (727) 896–8626.

October 20–21, 2003—EFH/Ecosystem Workshop #11 - Impacts of Fishing on Habitat

October 20, 2003, 1 p.m.–5 p.m., October 21, 2003, 8:30 a.m.–12 noon

October 21–22, 2003—EFH/Ecosystem Workshop #12, Research and Monitoring

October 21, 2003, 1 p.m.–5 p.m. and October 22, 2003, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Location: Town and Country Inn, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407; telephone: (843) 571–1000.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before these groups for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least 5 business days prior to each workshop.

Dated: April 21, 2003.

Matteo J. Milazzo,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 03–10280 Filed 4–24–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Denial of Commercial Availability Request Under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and the United States - Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA)

April 22, 2003.

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Denial of the petition alleging that lastol elastic yarn, for use in apparel articles, cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner.

SUMMARY: On February 21, 2003, the Chairman of CITA received a request from the Dow Chemical Company alleging that lastol elastic yarn, classified under items 5402.49.9005 and 5404.10.8005 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS), cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner. It requested that apparel articles from such yarns, or from U.S.-formed fabric containing such yarns be eligible for preferential treatment under the AGOA and the CBTPA. Based on currently available information, CITA has determined that a substitutable product can be supplied by the

domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner and therefore denies the request.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet E. Heinzen, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-3400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 112 (b)(5)(B) of the AGOA, Section 213(b)(2)(A)(v)(III) of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, as added by Section 211(a) of the CBTPA; Sections 1 and 6 of Executive Order No. 13191 of January 17, 2001.

BACKGROUND:

The AGOA and the CBTPA provide for quota- and duty-free treatment for qualifying textile and apparel products. Such treatment is generally limited to products manufactured from yarns or fabrics formed in the United States or a beneficiary country. The AGOA and the CBTPA also provide for quota- and duty-free treatment for apparel articles that are both cut (or knit-to-shape) and sewn or otherwise assembled in one or more beneficiary countries from fabric or yarn that is not formed in the United States or a beneficiary country, if it has been determined that such fabric or yarn cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner. In Executive Order No. 13191, the President delegated to CITA the authority to determine whether yarns or fabrics cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner under the AGOA and the CBTPA. On March 6, 2001, CITA published procedures that it will follow in considering requests. (66 FR 13502).

On February 21, 2003, the Chairman of CITA received a request from the Dow Chemical Company alleging that lastol elastic yarn, which is a crosslinked, heat resistant elastic yarn having elevated temperature elasticity comprising a cured, irradiated or crosslinked ethylene polymer, classified under items 5402.49.9005 and 5404.10.8005 of the HTSUS, for use in apparel articles, cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner. It requested that apparel articles from such yarns, or from U.S.-formed fabric containing such yarns, that are both cut (or knit-to shape) and sewn or otherwise assembled in one or more beneficiary countries be eligible for preferential treatment under the AGOA or the CBTPA.

On March 3, 2003, CITA solicited public comments regarding this request (68 FR 9997), particularly with respect to whether these fabrics can be supplied

by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner. On March 19, 2003, CITA and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative offered to hold consultations with the relevant Congressional committees. We also requested the advice of the U.S. International Trade Commission and the relevant Industry Sector Advisory Committees.

CITA has determined that the domestic industry can supply a product substitutable for the lastol elastic yarn described in the petition in commercial quantities in a timely manner. On the basis of currently available information, including review of the request, public comment and advice received, and its understanding of the industry, CITA has determined that there is domestic capacity to supply a substitutable product in commercial quantities in a timely manner. The Dow Chemical Company's request is denied.

D. Michael Hutchinson,

Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc.03-10259 Filed 4-24-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-S

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Record of Decision To Establish a Ground-Based Midcourse Defense Initial Defensive Operations Capability at Fort Greely, AK

AGENCY: Missile Defense Agency, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Record of decision.

SUMMARY: The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) is issuing this Record of Decision (ROD) to establish an Initial Defensive Operations (IDO) capability at Fort Greely, Alaska. The Fort Greely IDO is a capability of the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD) element within the broader conceptual Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS). The Fort Greely IDO components will consist of up to 40 silos, equipped with Ground-Based Interceptor (GBI) missiles, In-Flight Interceptor Communications System (IFICS) Data Terminals (IDT), and support facilities and infrastructure. These IDO components and their support facilities at Fort Greely are a subset of the preferred alternative for a GBI site in the National Missile Defense (NMD) Deployment Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (July 2000), which evaluated the environmental effects of deploying up to 100 GBI missiles with related facilities and infrastructure at

alternative sites in Alaska (AK) and North Dakota (ND).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information on the NMD Deployment EIS or this ROD contact: Ms. Julia Elliot, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, Attn: SMDC-EN-V, P.O. Box 1500, Huntsville, Alabama 35807-3801, (256) 955-4822. Public reading copies of the Final EIS and the ROD are available for review at the public libraries within the communities near proposed activities and at the MDA Internet site: <http://www.acq.osd.mil/bmdo/bmdolink/html/nmd.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The MDA is issuing this ROD to establish an IDO capability at Fort Greely, AK. The Fort Greely IDO is a capability of the GMD element within the broader conceptual BMDS. The Fort Greely IDO components will consist of up to 40 silos, equipped with GBI missiles, IDTs, and support facilities and infrastructure at the existing Validation of Operational Concept (VOC) Test Site. These IDO components and their support facilities at Fort Greely are a subset of the preferred alternative for a GBI site in the NMD Deployment EIS (July 2000), which evaluated the environmental effects of deploying up to 100 GBI missiles with related facilities and infrastructure at alternative sites in AK and ND. Specific sites for the IDTs, as well as additional support infrastructure and security measures and Command and Control, Battle Management, and Communications facilities at Fort Greely, were further evaluated in the VOC Environmental Assessment (EA) (March 2002) and VOC Supplemental EA (January 2003).

The Fort Greely IDO components, when combined with existing GMD test assets, early warning radars, satellites, communications networks, and command and control facilities, will provide a capability to protect the United States from a limited ballistic missile attack. Additional GMD flight test assets, including a Sea-Based Test X-Band Radar (SBX) to be located in the Pacific region, are being evaluated in the GMD Extended Test Range (ETR) EIS. These assets, if selected and integrated into the test architecture, would complement the Fort Greely components and enhance the IDO capability.

As a separate action to be supported by independent National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis, existing silos and other facilities and

infrastructure at Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB) may be modified to accommodate GBIs. These proposed components, when combined with the existing GMD ETR test assets, would provide an IDO capability at VAFB that could be used independently of the Fort Greely IDO components and would provide additional protection for the United States (U.S.).

This decision is based on the President's determination that there is a ballistic missile threat to the U.S. The Secretary of Defense and MDA's Director have further determined that establishment of the IDO capability at Fort Greely, supported by existing test assets, is the best way to counter that threat initially. Other factors considered in reaching this decision to establish IDO components at Fort Greely, AK, include cost, technical maturity of the GMD element, and strategic arms reduction objectives.

This ROD has been prepared pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing the NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), DoD Instruction 4715.9, and the applicable service environmental regulations that implement these laws and regulations. The U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, and the Federal Aviation Administration participated as cooperating agencies in preparing the NMD Deployment EIS. The Proposed Action described in the EIS was to deploy a NMD System at several locations consisting of GBIs, Battle Management Command and Control (BMC2), an X-Band Radar (XBR), IDTs, satellite detection system, Early Warning Radar (EWRs), and fiber optic cable (FOC).

Since the NMD Deployment EIS was completed, several events related to this ROD have occurred. In September 2000, President Clinton determined that the deployment decision should be deferred and more robust testing be conducted to gain greater confidence in the missile defense technologies under development.

On January 2, 2002, the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization was administratively re-aligned as MDA, with the objective of developing an integrated BMDS. The NMD system was renamed the GMD element, with the focus on more realistic testing. Two types of testing, ground testing of operational components and flight-testing of the GBI, were planned as independent parts of a GMD test bed.

To evaluate construction and ground testing of potential operational components in a realistic environment, as well as specific siting for IDTs and FOC, and communication lines not