

g. *Applicant Contact:* David F. Hanson, Project Manager, Hydro Relicensing at (916) 732-6703.

h. *FERC Contact:* James Fargo at (202) 502-6095; e-mail [james.fargo@ferc.gov](mailto:james.fargo@ferc.gov).

j. *Deadline for filing scoping comments:* September 17, 2003.

All documents (original and eight copies) should be filed with: Magalie R. Salas, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure require all interveners filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervenor files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

Scoping comments may be filed electronically via the Internet in lieu of paper. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>) using the "e-library" link.

k. The Upper American River Project facilities consist of several existing reservoirs, a series of powerhouses and about 180 miles of transmission line. The project has a total installed capacity of 688,000 kilowatts.

#### Scoping Process

SMUD will complete and file a preliminary Environmental Assessment, in lieu of Exhibit E of the license application. This differs from the traditional process, in which an applicant consults with agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and other parties during preparation of the license application and before filing the application, but the Commission staff performs the environmental review after the application is filed. The alternative procedures are intended to simplify and expedite the licensing process by combining the pre-filing consultation and environmental review processes into a single process, to facilitate greater participation, and to improve communication and cooperation among the participants.

SMUD expects to file the APEA and the license application for the Upper American River Project with the

Commission by July 2005. Although SMUD's intent is to prepare an EA, there is the possibility that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be required. Nevertheless, this meeting will satisfy the NEPA scoping requirements, irrespective of whether an EA or EIS is issued by the Commission.

The purpose of this notice is to inform you of the opportunity to participate in the upcoming scoping meetings identified below, and to solicit your scoping comments.

#### Scoping Meetings

SMUD and the Commission staff will hold three scoping meetings, (1) in the daytime and (2) in the evening, to help us identify the scope of issues to be addressed in the APEA.

The daytime scoping meeting will focus on resource agency concerns, while the evening scoping meetings are primarily for public input. All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to attend any of the meetings, and to help the staff in identifying the environmental issues that should be analyzed in the APEA. The times and locations of these meetings are as follows:

| Date                          | Time               | Location  |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| September 9, Tuesday .....    | 6 p.m.-8 p.m ..... | SMUD Customer Services Center, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.               |
| September 10, Wednesday ..... | 9 a.m.-4 p.m ..... | SMUD Customer Services Center, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.               |
| September 11, Thursday .....  | 6 p.m.-8 p.m ..... | Building C, County Government Center, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville. |

To help focus discussions, Scoping Document 1 is available for public review at the Sacramento Public Library (828 I Street), the El Dorado County Library (345 Fair Lane, Placerville) and on SMUD's hydro relicensing Web page <http://www.smud.org/relicensing>. Scoping Document 1 outlines the subject areas to be addressed in the APEA.

SD1 is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "FERRIS" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll-free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659.

You may also register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

Based on all written comments received, a Scoping Document 2 (SD2) may be issued. SD2 will include a revised list of issues, based on the scoping sessions.

#### Objectives

At the scoping meetings, the SMUD and FERC staff will: (1) Summarize the environmental issues tentatively identified for analysis in the APEA; (2) solicit from the meeting participants all available information, especially quantifiable data, on the resources at issue; (3) encourage statements from experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the APEA, including viewpoints in opposition to, or in support of, the staffs' preliminary views; (4) determine the resource issues to be addressed in the APEA; and (5) identify those issues that require a detailed analysis, as well as those issues that do not require a detailed analysis.

#### Procedures

The meetings will be recorded by a stenographer and will become part of

the formal record of the Commission proceeding on the project.

Individuals, organizations, and agencies with environmental expertise and concerns are encouraged to attend the meetings and to help define and clarify the issues to be addressed in the APEA.

**Magalie R. Salas,**  
*Secretary.*

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**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7548-5]

#### Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board; New Membership

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

The Charter for the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB) has

been renewed for an additional two-year period, as a necessary committee which is in the public interest, in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. 2 section 9(c). The purpose of ELAB is to provide advice and recommendations to the Administrator of EPA on issues associated with the systems and standards of accreditation for environmental laboratories. ELAB is composed of representatives of non-Federal interest that were selected from among, but not limited to, trade associations for the environmental laboratory industry, trade associations from EPA's regulated community, environmental public interest groups, academia, local and tribal governments, and laboratory assessment bodies. ELAB is currently seeking additional membership from these areas of interest, or others, with experience in the systems and standards of accreditation for environmental laboratories.

Resumes and letters of interest may be directed to Lara P. Autry, NELAC/NELAP Director, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development, National Exposure Research Laboratory, Environmental Sciences Division, Landscape Characterization Branch (E243-05), Research Triangle Park, NC 27711 or by e-mail: [autry.lara@epa.gov](mailto:autry.lara@epa.gov). Inquiries must be submitted by August 15, 2003 for consideration.

Dated: July 30, 2003.

**Henry L. Longest,**

*Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Research and Development.*

[FR Doc. 03-21599 Filed 8-21-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6560-50-P**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**[FRL-7548-6]**

### **Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board; Notice of Charter Renewal**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

The Charter for the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB) has been renewed for an additional two-year period, as a necessary committee which is in the public interest, in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. 2 section 9(c). The purpose of ELAB is to provide advice and recommendations to the Administrator of EPA on issues associated with the

systems and standards of accreditation for environmental laboratories.

It is determined that ELAB is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Agency by law.

Inquiries may be directed to Lara P. Autry, NELAC/NELAP Director, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development, National Exposure Research Laboratory, Environmental Sciences Division, Landscape Characterization Branch (E243-05), Research Triangle Park, NC 27711 or by e-mail: [autry.lara@epa.gov](mailto:autry.lara@epa.gov).

Dated: July 30, 2003.

**Henry L. Longest,**

*Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Research and Development.*

[FR Doc. 03-21600 Filed 8-21-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6560-50-M**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**[ER-FRL-6643-2]**

### **Environmental Impact Statements and Regulations; Availability of EPA Comments**

Availability of EPA comments prepared pursuant to the Environmental Review Process (ERP), under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act as amended. Requests for copies of EPA comments can be directed to the Office of Federal Activities at (202) 564-7167.

An explanation of the ratings assigned to draft environmental impact statements (EISs) was published in FR dated April 4, 2003 (68 FR 16511).

#### **Draft EISs**

ERP No. D-AFS-J70021-SD Rating EC2, Prairie Project Area (Lower Rapid Creek Area), Multiple Resource Management Actions, Implementation, Black Hills National Forest, Mystic Ranger District, Pennington County, ID.

**Summary:** EPA has environmental concerns about potential soil erosion, runoff and degradation of water quality and stream habitat, stream sedimentation, and impacts to wildlife and sensitive species. EPA recommended the final EIS include measures to minimize impacts to important wildlife habitat and private property when harvesting on the Forest Service-private land interface.

ERP No. D-FHW-E40797-MS Rating LO, Airport Parkway Extension, Improvements to MS-475 from I-20 to Old Brandon Road, U.S. Army COE Section 404 Permit Issuance, Rankin County, MS.

**Summary:** EPA has lack of objections to the proposed action.

However, EPA recommends that further information regarding project description, project need and adequate mitigation be included in the FEIS.

ERP No. D-FHW-F40413-IL Rating EC2, US 20 (FAP 301) Construction Project, IL-84 north of Galena to Bolton Road northwest of Freeport, Funding, NPDES Permit and U.S. Army COE Section 404 Permit Issuance, Jo Davies and Stephenson Counties, IL.

**Summary:** EPA has environmental concerns with the proposed project relating to: (1) Karst areas and groundwater contamination, (2) impaired water impacts, (3) neotropical migrant impacts, and (4) forest impact mitigation.

ERP No. D-FHW-F40414-OH Rating EC2, Butler County, OH-63 Extension to U.S. 127 (Trenton Area Access), Construction of a Multi-Lane Limited Access, Divided Highway on New Alignment from east of OH-41/OH-63 Interchange in the City of Monroe, Funding, Butler County, OH.

**Summary:** EPA has environmental concerns with the proposed project regarding potential ground water contamination in a federally-designated sole source aquifer (the Great Miami/Little Miami Buried Valley Aquifer System). EPA also asks that more information be provided on wetlands mitigation and impacts to surface water.

ERP No. D-FHW-F40415-IN Rating EC2, US 31 Improvement Project (I-465 to IN-38) between I-465 North Leg and IN-38, Funding, NPDES Permit and U.S. Army Section 10 and 404 Permits Issuance, Hamilton County, IN.

**Summary:** EPA has environmental concerns with the preferred alternative regarding potentially adverse impacts to public drinking water supplies, forests, wetlands, streams and floodplains. EPA recommends the FEIS include specific mitigation measures to minimize and/or compensate for these impacts.

ERP No. D-FHW-G40174-TX Rating LO, Eastern Extension of the President George Bush Turnpike (PGBT) from TX-78 to I-30, New Controlled Access Tollway Construction at a New Location, Cities of Garland, Sachse, Rowlett and Dallas, Dallas County, TX.

**Summary:** EPA has no objections to the project as proposed. EPA recommends additional information regarding the areas of air quality and floodplain mitigation be included in the FEIS.

ERP No. D-NPS-G65086-TX Rating LO, Big Bend National Park General Management Plan, Implementation, Brewster County, TX.