

natural resource damage assessments (NRDA)—the process by which trustee agencies assess and restore resources injured by oil spills.

The trustees are seeking public comment on the draft RRP-2. Public comments on the Plan will be accepted during the thirty (30) day public comment. Opportunities for public comment on the statewide program are provided through public review and comment on documents contained in the Administrative Record maintained at the locations listed at the end of this Notice.

DATES: Comments on the "Draft Louisiana Regional Restoration Plan: Region 2" must be submitted in writing by October 23, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the "Draft Louisiana Regional Restoration Plan: Region 2", as well as written comments, should be sent to William Conner, Chief, NOAA/Damage Assessment Center, 1305 East-West Highway, SSMC #4, 10th floor, Silver Spring, MD 20910; fax number 301/713-4389; e-mail address: William.Conner@noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, contact William Conner at 301/713-3038 ext. 190, or at William.Conner@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Louisiana's economy is based, in part, on the state's vast natural resources. Both renewable (hunting, fishing, forest products) and nonrenewable (cultural, oil, natural gas) resources are important, and the industries associated with each have coexisted for years. Although Louisiana's oil and gas industry tries to avoid adverse impacts on renewable natural resources, injuries do occur as a result of oil spill incidents. The impact of these incidents on fish, wildlife and the environment can be significant and adversely affect the industries and communities depending on natural resources for commerce and recreation.

Federal and state natural resource trustees have developed the first statewide comprehensive Regional Restoration Planning Program to assist the natural resource trustees in carrying out their responsibilities to restore the natural resources that have been injured by oil spills. The goal of this planning effort was to establish a statewide program that would: expedite and reduce the cost of the NRDA process; increase predictability by describing in detail the NRDA process; and increase restoration of lost natural resources and services by expediting resolution of claims. The statewide Program describes a number of additional case settlement alternatives that will assist the trustees

and Responsible Parties in negotiations to resolve Responsible Party liabilities for incidents. These settlement alternatives generally represent different ways of resolving liability from an incident under one or the other (or both) of the two usual options: Responsible Party implemented restoration, or Responsible Party cash settlement and trustee implemented restoration.

The Louisiana Regional Restoration Planning Program divides the state into nine regions. For each region, a Regional Restoration Plan will be developed that identifies: resources which could potentially be injured by incidents; appropriate restoration types to restore those resources; and available restoration projects for each of the restoration types.

The draft RRP-2 covers an area of southwest Louisiana, including all or part of the following parishes: Ascension, Assumption, Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, and St. John the Baptist. The predominant habitats in this region are coastal herbaceous wetlands, oyster reefs, and coastal forested wetlands. One of the key features of the draft RRP-2 is the unit restoration costs determined for these habitats. The unit costs, developed to facilitate cash settlements, include all costs to conduct the project planning, engineering and design, land rights, permitting, implementation, monitoring, operations and maintenance, contingencies, and trustee oversight. To keep the costs as accurate as possible, it is anticipated that they will be periodically reviewed and updated as new data become available. Any changes made to the estimates will be made available for public review and comment.

The natural resource trustees (NOAA, DOI, LOSCO, LDEQ, LDNR, LDWF) are designated pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 2706(c), Executive Order 12777, and the National Contingency Plan, 40 CFR 300.600 and 300.605. Pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. 30:2460, the State of Louisiana Oil Spill Contingency Plan (September 1995) describes the state trust resources to include the following: vegetated wetlands, surface waters, ground waters, air, soil, wildlife, aquatic life, and the appropriate habitats on which they depend. DOI has been designated as trustee for the natural resources that it manages or controls. Examples of those resources are described in the National Contingency Plan, 40 CFR 300.600(b)(2) and (3), include the following and their supporting ecosystems: migratory birds, anadromous fish, endangered species and marine mammals, federally owned

minerals, certain federally managed water resources, and natural resources located on, over, or under land administered by DOI. NOAA's trust resources include, but are not limited to: commercial and recreational fish species, anadromous and catadromous fish species, marshes and other coastal habitats, marine mammals, and endangered and threatened marine species.

Pursuant to 15 CFR 990.56, the natural resource trustees are authorized to develop regional restoration plans as part of Oil Pollution Act's mandate for the trustees to restore, rehabilitate, replace, or acquire the equivalent of natural resources and services injured by oil spill incidents and to compensate for interim losses of such resources and services.

The Administrative Record for the statewide program and RRP-2 is being maintained at: (1) NOAA Damage Assessment Center, SSMC #4, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3281; (2) Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office, Suite 405, 150 Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA, 70801; and (3) <http://www.darp.noaa.gov/seregion/larrpar.htm>.

The Record includes documents that the trustees relied upon during the development of the Draft Louisiana Regional Restoration Plan: Region 2. Pursuant to 15 CFR 990.23 & 990.56, the trustees sought public involvement in developing the Draft Louisiana Regional Restoration Plan: Region 2, through public review and comment of the documents contained in the Record, as well as through publication of the "Louisiana Regional Restoration Planning Program/Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement". Further, opportunity for public review will become available when the Louisiana Regional Restoration Planning Program/Final Environmental Impact Statement is prepared.

Dated: September 11, 2003.

Richard W. Spinrad,

Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, National Ocean Service.

[FR Doc. 03-23697 Filed 9-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-JE-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Defense Science Board

AGENCY: Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of Advisory Committee meeting.

SUMMARY: The Defense Science Board Task Force on Integrated Fire Support in the Battlespace will tentatively meet in closed session on January 14–15, 2004; February 11–12, 2004; and March 17–18, 2004, at locations to be determined. The Task Force will apply the methodology developed in the 2001 Precision Targeting Summer Study to broadly develop the system of systems required to provide truly integrated fire support.

The mission of the Defense Science Board is to advise the Secretary of Defense and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology & Logistics on scientific and technical matters as they affect the perceived needs of the Department of Defense. At these meetings, the Defense Science Board Task Force will assess: the adequacy of current and proposed munitions with respect to speed, accuracy, lethality, cost, *etc.*, to meet the spectrum of threats; Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) techniques and mechanisms to meet the needs of tactical and operational battlefield forces; the adequacy of battlefield command and control and integration techniques for tactical, operational, and strategic forces operating on the battlefield; the current impediments to a fully integrated Air, Land and Sea fire support; and the need for predictive engagement tools and derived intelligence products to guide the battlefield commander in use of forces to shape the outcome to the desired effect.

In accordance with section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92–463, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. II), it has been determined that these Defense Science Board Task Force meetings concern matters listed in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1) and that, accordingly, the meetings will be closed to the public.

Dated: September 10, 2003.

Patricia L. Toppings,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 03–23634 Filed 9–16–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001–08–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Availability for Non-Exclusive, Exclusive, or Partially Exclusive Licensing of U.S. Patent Application Concerning Method and Apparatus for Educating Asthma Sufferers and Caregivers

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with 37 CFR 404.6 and 404.7, announcement is made of the availability for licensing of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/829,007 entitled “Method and Apparatus for Educating Asthma Sufferers and Caregivers,” filed April 10, 2001. Foreign rights are also available (PCT/US01/11591). The United States Government, as represented by the Secretary of the Army, has rights in this invention.

ADDRESSES: Commander, U.S. Army Medical Research and Material Command, ATTN: Command Judge Advocate, MCMR–JA, 504 Scott Street, Fort Detrick, Frederick, MD 21702–5012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For patent issues, Ms. Elizabeth Arwine, Patent Attorney, (301) 619–7808. For licensing issues, Dr. Paul Mele, Office of Research & Technology Assessment, (301) 619–6664, both at telefax (301) 619–5034.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The invention is directed at an assessment method and apparatus for asthma patients and healthcare providers to use in assessing a particular case of asthma and/or learning about different aspects of asthma. More particularly, the invention relates to a scoring system for determining the severity of asthma and the current situation of an asthma patient.

Luz D. Ortiz,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 03–23734 Filed 9–16–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710–08–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Corps of Engineers

Intent To Modify a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project

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

ACTION: Notice of intent; modification.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Jacksonville District, previously published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an integrated project Implementation Report/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (PIR/DEIS) for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project on August 5, 2002 (67 FR 50657). Following publication of the NOI, a fifth separable element, modification of the Lake Istokpoga Regulation Schedule, was added to the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project. The four initially described elements, as well as the project’s collaborator, intent, authorization, plan formulation process, issues, and PIR/EIS publication date remain as described in the original NOI.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Ernest Clarke, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Planning Division, Environmental Branch, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL 32232–0019, by e-mail ernest.clarke@saj02.usace.army.mil, or by telephone at 904–232–1199.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *a. Study Area:* The study area remains as originally described, except that it will be expanded to include portions of Highlands County. Lake Istokpoga is located within Highlands County, and drains into the Kissimmee River and Lake Okeechobee. Lake Istokpoga levels are regulated through water control devices, and in turn affect the water and nutrient budget of Lake Okeechobee.

b. Project Scope: In addition to four elements described in the original NOI, the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project will now include a study of potential structural and operational changes to the water management system for the purpose of improving ecologic conditions in Lake Istokpoga. This element involves the development of a plan to address water resource problems in the Lake Istokpoga Basin, balancing environmental needs, flood control and water supply.

c. Scoping: Public workshops will continue to be used to invite comments on alternatives and issues from Federal, State, and local agencies, affected Indian tribes, and other interested private organizations and individuals. While no public workshop is currently scheduled, the exact location, dates, and times of future meetings will be announced in public notices and local newspapers and on the Everglades Restoration Web site at www.evergladesplan.org.

Dated: September 3, 2003.

James C. Duck,

Chief, Planning Division.

[FR Doc. 03–23732 Filed 9–16–03; 8:45 am]

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