

promote industrial wood production from suitable timber lands, providing a continuous supply of wood to meet society's needs (page 3-144). The Skipping Cow Timber Sale will be designed to produce desired resource values, products, and conditions in ways that also sustain the diversity and productivity of ecosystems (page 2-1).

The Skipping Cow Timber Sale is expected to provide a range of volume to the timber industry from 20 to 30 million board feet. The range of alternatives to be considered in the EIS will be determined during analysis and reflect issues raised during scoping.

The Proposed Action provides for: (1) construction of approximately 15.5 miles of specified road and additional temporary road; and (2) harvest between 900-1300 acres. The existing log transfer facility at Deep Bay Harbor will be used to transfer volume to the water. A variety of systems would be used for yarding, including helicopter, cable, skyline and shovel yarding systems.

A number of public comments have been received on this project. Based on comments from the public and other agencies during the preliminary scoping effort, the following issues have been identified. How will the design of the sale affect: harvest economics, access road management, Wind ecology (large scale blowdown), and winter deer habitat? These issues and other issues discovered during further scoping will be used to design alternatives to the proposed action and to identify the potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of this project should be received by August 24, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning the scope of this project should be sent to Jerry Jordan, ID Team Leader, Wrangell Ranger District, Tongass National Forest, Stikine Area; Attn: Skipping Cow EIS; P.O. Box 51, Wrangell, Alaska, 99929, phone (907) 874-2323.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Public Participation

Public participation will be an integral component of the study process and will be especially important at several points during the analysis. The first is during the scoping process. The Forest Service will be seeking information, comments, and assistance from Federal, State, local agencies, individuals and organizations that may be interested in, or affected by, the proposed activities. The scoping process will include: (1) identification of significant issues; (2) identification of issues to be analyzed in depth; and (3)

elimination of insignificant issues or those which have been covered by a previous environmental review. For the Forest Service to best use the scoping input, comments should be received by August 24, 1998.

Based on results of scoping and the resource capabilities within the project areas, alternatives including a "no action" alternative will be developed for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS). The Draft EIS is projected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in January 1999. Public comment on the Draft EIS will be solicited for a minimum of 45 days from the date the EPA publishes the Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. The Final EIS is anticipated by June 1999.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns of the proposed action, comments during scoping and 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 EIS. Comments may also address the adequacy of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the document. Reviewers may wish to refer to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

In addition, Federal Court decisions have established that reviewers of Draft EIS statements 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 concerns. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553, (1978). Environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact stage may be waived if not raised until after completion of the Final Environmental Impact Statement. *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). The reason for this is to ensure that comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider and respond to them in the Draft EIS.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed project and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous

comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d) any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Requesters should be aware that, under FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as protected trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within 7 days.

Responsible Official

Carol J. Jorgensen, Assistant Forest Supervisor, Stikine Area, Tongass National Forest, P.O. Box 309, Petersburg, Alaska 99833, is the responsible official. The responsible official will consider comments, responses, disclosure of environmental consequences, and applicable laws, regulations, and policies in making a decision and stating the rationale in the Record of Decision.

Dated: June 24, 1998.

Carol J. Jorgensen,

Assistant Forest Supervisor.

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BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD

Sunshine Act Meeting

In connection with its investigation into the cause of the explosion at the Sierra Chemical Company in Sparks, Nevada, on January 7, 1998, the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board announces, pursuant to the Government in the Sunshine Act, that it will convene a Board Meeting beginning at 10:00 a.m. local time on Wednesday, July 29, 1998, at the George Washington University Marvin Center, 800 21st Street, N.W., Washington, DC. This meeting will be open to the public. For more information, please contact the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board's Office of External Relations, telephone number (202) 261-

7600, or visit our web site at www.chemsafety.gov.

Phillip Cogan,

Special Assistant for External Relations.

[FR Doc. 98-18284 Filed 7-6-98; 2:45 pm]

BILLING CODE 6350-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Docket 34-98]

Proposed Foreign-Trade Zone—Santa Maria, California Area Application and Public Hearing

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZ) Board (the Board) by the Santa Maria Public Airport District, to establish a general-purpose foreign-trade zone in the Santa Maria, California area, adjacent to the Port San Luis, California, port of entry. The application was submitted pursuant to the provisions of the FTZ Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a-81u), and the regulations of the Board (15 CFR Part 400). It was formally filed on June 30, 1998. The applicant is authorized to make the proposal under Section 6302 of the California Code.

The proposed new zone would consist of 2 sites (2,787 acres) in Santa Barbara County: *Site 1* (2,728 acres)—within and adjacent to the Santa Maria Public Airport, 3217 Terminal Drive, Santa Maria; and, *Site 2* (59 acres)—within the Vandenberg Air Force Base complex, approximately 20 miles southwest of the Santa Maria Airport. Site 1 is primarily owned by the applicant. Site 2 is owned by the Department of the Air Force but has been leased by Astrotech Space Operations, Inc., for a period of 20 years. Vandenberg Air Force Base has been designated the primary launch site for commercial space activity from the West Coast and pre-launch payload assembly activities would be conducted at proposed Site 2.

The application indicates a need for foreign-trade zone services in the Santa Maria area. Several firms have indicated an interest in using zone procedures for warehousing, airport related activities and the preparation of space flight hardware for launches into outer space. Specific manufacturing approvals are not being sought at this time. Requests would be made to the Board on a case-by-case basis.

In accordance with the Board's regulations, a member of the FTZ Staff has been designated examiner to investigate the application and report to the Board.

As part of the investigation, the Commerce examiner will hold a public hearing on August 5, 1998, 11:00 a.m., at the Santa Maria Hilton, 3455 Skyway Drive, Santa Maria, California 93455.

Public comment on the application is invited from interested parties. Submissions (original and 3 copies) shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is September 8, 1998. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period (to September 21, 1998).

A copy of the application and accompanying exhibits will be available during this time for public inspection at the following locations:

Office of the Santa Maria Public Airport District, 3217 Terminal Drive, Santa Maria, CA 93455.

Office of the Executive Secretary, Foreign-Trade Zones Board, Room 3716, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

Dated: June 30, 1998.

Dennis Puccinelli,

Acting Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-18111 Filed 7-7-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

DOC has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13.

Bureau: International Trade Administration.

Title: The Special American Business Internship Training (SABIT) Program Applications and Questionnaires.

Agency Form Number: N/A.

OMB Number: 0625-0225.

Type of Request: Regular Submission.

Burden: 2,137 hours.

Number of Respondents: 1,300.

Avg. Hours Per Response: Range from 15 minutes to 6 hours.

Needs and Uses: The Special American Business Internship Training (SABIT) programs of the Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration (ITA), is a key element in the U.S. Government's efforts to support the economic transition of the Newly Independent States (NIS) of the former Soviet Union. SABIT places business executives and scientists from the Independent States in U.S. firms for

one-to-six month internships to gain firsthand experiences working in a market economy. This unique private sector-U.S. Government partnership was created in order to tap the U.S. private sector's expertise in assisting the NIS's transition to a market economy while boosting U.S.-NIS long-term trade.

Under the "regular" (grants) SABIT program, qualified U.S. firms will receive funds through a cooperative agreement with ITA to help defray the cost of hosting interns. The information collected by the Application is needed by the SABIT staff to recruit and screen respondents and provide U.S. firms with a pool of eligible candidates from which to select interns. Intern applications are required to determine the suitability of candidates for SABIT internships. Feedback surveys and end-of-internship reports are needed to enable SABIT to track the success of the program as regards trade between the U.S. and NIS, as well as to improve the content and administration of the programs.

The closing date for applications and supplemental materials is approximately 120 days after date of publication in the **Federal Register**. Pursuant to section 632(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (the "Act") funding for the program will be provided by the Agency for International Development (A.I.D.).

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit, individuals or households.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain or retain a benefit, voluntary.

OMB Desk Officer: Victoria Baecher-Wassmer, (202) 395-5871.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3272, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent to Victoria Baecher-Wassmer, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: July 1, 1998.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 98-18043 Filed 7-7-98; 8:45 am]

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