

provided at least 15 days in advance by public notices in the news media serving the regions where the meeting will be located. The public meeting in Colorado will be held in conjunction with the public meeting on the site-specific Environmental Impact Statement.

Dated: April 10, 2000.

Raymond J. Fatz,

*Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army,
(Environment, Safety, and Occupational
Health) OASA (I&E).*

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Design, Construction, and Operation of a Facility for the Destruction of Chemical Agent at Pueblo Chemical Depot, CO

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DOD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: This announces the Army's intent to prepare a site-specific Environmental Impact Statement on the potential impacts of the design, construction, and operation of a facility to destroy the mustard chemical agent and munitions stored at Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colorado. The proposed facility will be used to demilitarize the chemical agent and munitions currently stored at Pueblo Chemical Depot. The Environmental Impact Statement will examine potential environmental impacts of the following destruction facility alternatives:

- a. A baseline incineration facility.
- b. A full-scale facility to pilot test the single-story incineration process.
- c. A full-scale facility to pilot test the alternative technology successfully demonstrated by the Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment Program—neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation.
- d. A full-scale facility to pilot test the alternative technology successfully demonstrated by the Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment Program—neutralization followed by biodegradation.
- e. No action, an alternative which will continue the storage of the mustard agent and munitions at Pueblo Chemical Depot.

To fulfill the need for destruction of the chemical weapons stockpile at Pueblo Chemical Depot in time to meet the requirements of the Chemical Weapons Convention, a pilot test

facility would have to be determined to be as safe as and as cost efficient as baseline incineration. It must also be capable of completing destruction of the Pueblo Chemical Depot stockpile by the later of the Chemical Weapons Convention destruction date or the date the Pueblo Chemical Depot stockpile would be destroyed if baseline incineration were used. This requirement is consistent with the requirement for certification contained in section 142 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999, Public Law 105-261.

DATES: Written comments must be received not later than May 30, 2000, in order to be considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be forwarded to the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization, Public Outreach and Information Office (ATTN: Mr. Gregory Mahall), Building E-4585, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-4005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Gregory Mahall at 410-436-1093, by fax at 410-436-5122, or by mail at gjamahall@sbccom-emh1.apgea.army.mil or by mail at the above listed address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (40, FR parts 1500-1508), the Army will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement to assess the health and environmental impacts of the design, construction, and operation of a facility to destroy the mustard chemical agent and munitions stored at Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colorado. Public law and international treaty require the mustard chemical agent and munitions to be destroyed. This Environmental Impact Statement will analyze the impact of the various methods of destroying the Pueblo stockpile. This action is proposed in concert with an announcement to programmatically address the process for follow-on tests for assembled chemical weapons destruction technologies at one or more sites. These two separate and distinct analyses serve complementary but distinct purposes.

This site-specific Environmental Impact Statement continues the process that began when Congress established the Program for Chemical Demilitarization in Public Law 99-145 in 1985. This law requires the destruction of the chemical weapons stockpile by a deadline established by treaty. That date is April 2007. This requirement still exists, notwithstanding the establishment of the Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment Program. The Chemical Demilitarization

Program established by Public Law 99-145 published a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement in January 1988. The Record of Decision states that the stockpile of chemical agents and munitions should be destroyed in a safe and environmentally acceptable manner by on-site incineration. Site-specific Environmental Impact Statements that tier off the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement have been prepared for Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System, Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, and Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

The specific purpose of the current analysis is to determine the environmental impacts of the alternatives that could accomplish the destruction of the stockpile at Pueblo Chemical Depot by the required destruction date of April 2007, including the alternatives of using the technologies successfully demonstrated by the Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment Program. In the course of the environmental impact analysis it will be determined whether construction of a full-scale plant operated initially as a pilot facility and utilizing any of the technologies successfully demonstrated in the Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment Program is capable of destroying the stockpile at Pueblo Chemical Depot by the required destruction date (or as soon thereafter as could be achieved by constructing a destruction facility using the baseline incineration technology), and of doing so as safely as use of the baseline incineration technology. The Record of Decision, based on the 1988 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, does not limit or predetermine the results of this consideration, and it does not dictate the decision to be made in the Record of Decision following completion of the Environmental Impact Statement for this action at Pueblo Chemical Depot. The Army 1988 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement will be used to cover Pueblo Chemical Depot actions in the event that an incineration technology is selected as the preferred alternative at the conclusion of the analysis of all the available alternatives.

The second document announcing the programmatic analysis for follow-on pilot testing of successful Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment Program demonstration tests pursuant to the process established by Congress in

Public Laws 10–208 and 10–261 addresses a distinct but related purpose. That purpose is to determine which technologies can be pilot tested and if so, at which site or sites. That Environmental Impact Statement will be distinct from this site-specific Environmental Impact Statement in that its emphasis will be on the feasibility of pilot testing one or more of the demonstrated and approved Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment Program technologies considering the unique characteristics of the alternative sites, to include Pueblo Chemical Depot. The Environmental Impact Statement will not consider the use of a full-scale facility operated initially as a pilot facility at Pueblo Chemical Depot; as discussed above, this alternative will be considered in the site specific Environmental Impact Statement for Pueblo Chemical Depot. At the conclusion of both of these Environmental Impact Statements, the same officials will issue the Records of Decision.

The Army will hold scoping meetings to aid in determining the significant issues related to the proposed action which will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The scoping process will incorporate public participation, including Federal, State of Colorado, and local agencies, as well as residents within the affected environment. The dates, times, and locations of scoping meetings will be announced in appropriate news media at least 15 days prior to these meetings.

Dated: April 10, 2000.

Raymond J. Fatz,

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(Environment, Safety, and Occupational
Health) OASA (I&E).*

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Intent to Prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Development of Ford Island at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DOD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), the Department of the Navy (DON) announces its intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact

Statement (PEIS) for the development of Ford Island at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in order to provide needed facilities and services and deliver overall benefits to the DON at the Pearl Harbor Naval Complex. This announcement also serves as notice that public scoping meetings will be held to solicit comments in accordance with NEPA, and request input as part of the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as implemented by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) regulations (36 CFR part 800). The PEIS will also address the potential impacts of the sale or lease of DON property on Oahu, as authorized by 10 USC 2814 “Special authority for the development of Ford Island, Hawaii” and 10 U.S.C. 2871 *et seq.* “Alternate Authority for the Acquisition and Improvement of Military Housing.”

DATES: Two public scoping meetings will be held to receive oral and written comments on the scope of the PEIS and public input relative to historic resources. The first meeting will be held on May 2, 2000, at 7 p.m. in the Washington Middle School, 1633 South King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii. The second meeting will be held on May 4, 2000, at 7 p.m. in the Makalapa Elementary School, 4435 Salt Lake Boulevard, Honolulu, Hawaii.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Stanley Uehara (Code PLN231), Pacific Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 258 Makalapa Drive, STE 100, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 96860–3134; telephone (808) 471–9338; fax (808) 474–5909; e-mail UeharaSY@efdpac.navfac.navy.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed action is to develop Ford Island to provide needed facilities and services and deliver overall benefits to the Department of the Navy (DON) at the Pearl Harbor Naval Complex. Ford Island is a central feature in the Pearl Harbor National Historic Landmark. The PEIS will also address the potential impacts of the sale or lease of Navy property on Oahu to fund the development on Ford Island, as authorized by 10 U.S.C. 2814 “Special authority for the development of Ford Island, Hawaii” (hereafter referred to as “Ford Island legislation”) and 10 U.S.C. 2871 *et seq.* “Alternate Authority for the Acquisition and Improvement of Military Housing” (hereafter referred to as the Military Housing Privatization Initiative (MFPI) legislation). The Ford Island legislation allows DON to sell or lease properties in Hawaii and use the proceeds to develop Ford Island. The MHPI legislation allows DON to sell or

lease properties and use the proceeds to invest in public-private ventures to provide military housing. Properties available for potential sale or lease include: DON property at the Waikale Branch of Naval Magazine Lualualei; the golf course, family housing, and related property at the former Naval Air Station Barbers Point; family housing and related property at Iroquois Point/Puuloa; property on Pearl Harbor mainiside; and property on Ford Island. In addition to the Ford Island and MHPI legislation, other existing authorities could be used such as construction using traditional Military Construction or Non-appropriated Funds.

Due to the variety of actions envisioned for Ford Island, a PEIS is appropriate to provide an overview analysis of the affected environment and the potential cumulative impacts of reasonably foreseeable actions. Additional NEPA documentation may subsequently be required as specific projects are identified to meet the development objectives. The DON is considering adaptive reuse of existing structures on Ford Island and new construction to meet such facility requirements as: administrative and operational facilities, family and bachelor housing, transient lodging, support and commercial services, and infrastructure. Development could include filling some tidelands to construct a breakwater and/or marina. In addition to these requirements, approximately 75 acres on Ford Island could be made available for compatible commercial ventures. The purpose of developing Ford Island is to allow the DON to centralize operations for overall efficiency; to improve the quality of life for service members by improving work and leisure facilities and reducing commuting distances; and to reduce maintenance costs and congestion at mainiside by replacing antiquated and obsolete facilities. Development of some portions of Ford Island is constrained by existing facilities, historic resources, and operational requirements.

Alternatives to be considered in the PEIS will be potential land development options comprising various levels of land-use for Ford Island that are consistent with the development objectives. The DON will solicit input from private sector developers through a Request for Expressions of Interest in order to obtain their expertise in developing land-use alternatives. Any reasonable alternatives to DON’s land-use concept will be considered, as will comments received from federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations and the public during the scoping process.