

would be pruned and cut vegetation would be hand piled and burned. A portion of this stand would need reforestation. In the other stand, a natural stand (56 acres), merchantable trees would be retained and non-merchantable trees and brush would be cut, hand piled and burned.

Reforestation would be accomplished through retention of pockets of natural regeneration and by hand planting of nursery stock. Stand tending would occur over the long term.

Five non-merchantable stands (69 acres), all plantations, would be treated within the Lone Pine Ridge area to reduce fuel loading. In two plantations (16 acres), fire killed vegetation would be cut, live trees would be pruned and cut vegetation would be hand piled and burned. In three plantations (53 acres), dead trees would be felled, live trees would be thinned and pruned. In all five plantations, no reforestation would occur.

This proposal is Phase 1 in the overall strategy to protect communities from wildfires and extended exposure to smoke and to restore affected watersheds. Phase II would continue the work that is proposed in Phase I, by reducing fuels in unburned and moderately burned areas within the strategic fuelbreaks. Connecting the high severity and less severely burned fuel treatment areas would create a more continuous and effective fuelbreak. The unburned and moderately burned areas are suitable habitat for survey and manage species. Surveys for these species will be initiated during the fall of 2000 and spring of 2001. Results of these surveys would be utilized in the development of Phase II proposed actions, which would be analyzed under separate environmental analysis. The potential foreseeable future actions under Phase II would be considered in the cumulative effects analysis completed for Phase I.

Public participation will be an integral component of the analysis process and will be especially important at several points during the analysis. During the scoping process, the Forest Service will seek information, comments and assistance from Federal, State, County and local agencies, tribes, individuals and organizations that may be interested in or affected by the proposed activities. The scoping process will determine the scope of the issues to be addressed, determine the significant issues related to the proposed action, identify and eliminate other issues, assign tasks and determine disciplines, determine the existence of related environmental documents and identify schedules for analysis and decision

making. Written scoping comments will be solicited through a scoping package that will be sent to the project mailing list and the local newspaper. Public open houses to present the proposed action and answer questions will be held from 7 PM to 9 PM, PST at the following locations:

- November 8, 2000 at the Trinity Valley Elementary School, Highway 96, Willow Creek, CA, 95513
- November 9, 2000 at Redwood Acres Turf Club, 3750 Harris Street, Eureka, CA 95501

For the Forest Service to best use the scoping input, comments should be received by December 1, 2000. The scoping package is available by contacting Dave Webb at the address or phone number listed above. Tentative issues that may be analyzed in the EIS include the potential effects to water quality and downstream cumulative watershed impacts to beneficial uses; to air quality; to threatened, endangered and sensitive wildlife, plant and fish species and associated habitat; and to soil productivity.

Based on the results of scoping and the resource conditions within the project area, alternatives (including a no-action alternative) will be developed for the draft EIS. The draft EIS is projected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in February 2001. The final EIS is anticipated in April 2001.

The comment period on the draft Environmental Impact Statement will be 45 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability in the **Federal Register**.

To assist the Forest Service in identifying and considering issues and concerns on the proposed action, comments should be as specific as possible. The Forest Service believes, at this early stage, it is important to give reviewers notice of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts the agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. *Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement may be waived or dismissed by the courts. *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). Because of these court rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the designated comment period so that substantive comments and objections are made available to the Forest Service at a time when it can meaningfully consider them and respond to them in the final Environmental Impact Statement.

No Permits or special authorizations would be required. The Six Rivers National Forest is the lead agency for preparation of this document. There are no cooperating agencies on this project. Consultation will occur with local tribes, National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. S.E. "Lou" Woltering, Forest Supervisor, Six Rivers National Forest, is the responsible official. In making the decision, the Responsible Official will consider the comments; responses; disclosure of environmental consequences; and applicable laws, regulations and policies. The Responsible Official will state the rationale for the chosen alternative in the Record of Decision.

Dated: October 23, 2000.

S.E. "Lou" Woltering,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 00-27728 Filed 10-27-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Change to Section IV of the Virginia Field Office Technical Guide

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of proposed changes in the Virginia NRCS Field Office Technical Guide for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It has been determined by the NRCS State Conservationist for Virginia that changes must be made in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide specifically in practice standards: #7021, Agrichemical Handling Facility; #314, Brush Management; #327, Conservation Cover; #328, Conservation Crop Rotation; #330, Contour Farming; #329B, Residue Management, Mulch Till; and #329C, Residue Management, Ridge Till to account for improved technology. These practices will be used to plan and install conservation

practices on cropland, pastureland, woodland, and wildlife land.

DATES: Comments will be received on or before November 29, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Inquire in writing to M. Denise Doetzer, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 209, Richmond, Virginia 23229-5014; Telephone number (804) 287-1665; Fax number (804) 287-1738. Copies of the practice standards will be made available upon written request to the address shown above or on the Virginia NRCS web site. http://www.va.nrcs.gov/Data_Tech_Refs/Standards&Specs/EDITStds/EditStandards.htm.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after enactment of the law to NRCS Field Office technical guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days, the NRCS in Virginia will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period, a determination will be made by the NRCS in Virginia regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of change will be made to the subject standards.

Dated: October 19, 2000.

M. Denise Doetzer,

State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Richmond, Virginia.

[FR Doc. 00-27558 Filed 10-27-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-16-M

CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD

Sunshine Act Meeting

The United States Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board announces that it will convene a Public Meeting beginning at 9:30 a.m. local time on November 8, 2000, at 2175 K Street, Second floor (Conference rooms of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia) Washington, DC.

Topics will include:

1. Presentation of recommendations for the CSB investigation into the March 4, 1998, incident at a Sonat Incorporated crude oil and natural gas production and separation facility near Pitkin, Louisiana.

2. Update on the recommendations resulting from the Board investigation

into an incident at the Morton International, Inc. Plant in Paterson, New Jersey on April 8, 1998.

3. Update on the CSB investigation into the February 23, 1999, fire that occurred at the fractionator tower in the 50 crude oil processing unit at the Tosco "Avon" refinery in Martinez, California.

4. Update on review of open investigation files (Independent Fireworks, Sonat II, Equilon, Concept Sciences, and Condea Vista).

5. Update on the CSB Hiring Plan Initiative.

6. Board Initiatives with other Federal agencies;

7. Discussion of Board documents (Sonat Investigation Report, CSB five-year Strategic Plan, Memoranda of Understanding with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and GAO Report—Coordination between various Federal Agencies).

8. CSB budget for FY 2001.

9. CSB Notation memorandums.

10. Update on Board Member activities.

11. Tentative date for next Board meeting.

The meeting will be open to the public. For more information, please contact the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board's Office of External Relations, (202) 261-7600, or visit our website at: www.csb.gov.

Christopher W. Warner,

General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 00-27847 Filed 10-25-00; 4:28 pm]

BILLING CODE 6350-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Export Administration

Information Systems Technical Advisory Committee; Notice of Partially Closed Meeting

The Information Systems Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) will meet on November 15 & 16, 2000, 9 a.m., in the Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 3884, 14th Street between Pennsylvania Avenue and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC. The ISTAC advises the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration on technical questions that affect the level of export controls applicable to information systems equipment and technology.

November 15

Public Session

1. Update on low-power microprocessors and industry trends

2. Discussion on Bureau of Export Administration initiatives

3. Committee planning for 2001

4. Comments or presentations from the public

November 15 & 16

Closed Session

5. Discussion of matters properly classified under Executive Order 12958, dealing with U.S. export control programs and strategic criteria related thereto.

A limited number of seats will be available for the public session. Reservations are not accepted. To the extent time permits, members of the public may present oral statements to the ISTAC. The public may submit written statements at any time before or after the meeting. However, to facilitate distribution of public presentation materials to Committee members, the ISTAC suggests that public presentation materials or comments be forwarded before the meeting to the address listed below: Ms. Lee Ann Carpenter, OSIES/EA/BXA MS: 3876, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th St. & Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20230.

The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the delegate of the General Counsel, formally determined on September 10, 1999, pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, that the series of meetings or portions of meetings of this Committee and of any Subcommittees thereof dealing with the classified materials listed in 5 U.S.C. 552(c)(1) shall be exempt from the provisions relating to public meetings found in section 10(a)(1) and (a)(3), of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The remaining series of meetings or portions thereof will be open to the public.

A copy of the Notice of Determination to close meetings or portions of meetings of this Committee is available for public inspection and copying in the Central Reference and Records Inspection Facility, Room 6020, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC. For more information or copies of the minutes call Lee Ann Carpenter, 202-484-2583.

Dated: October 24, 2000.

Lee Ann Carpenter,

Committee Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-27707 Filed 10-27-00; 8:45 am]

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