

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**Office of Community Oriented Policing Services; Methamphetamine Initiative**

AGENCY: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, Department of Justice.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the finding of no significant impact and the environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Assessment, which is available to the public, concludes that the methamphetamine investigation and clandestine laboratory closure activities of the Methamphetamine Initiative will not have significant impact on the quality of the human environment given adherence to all applicable laws and regulations.

ADDRESSES: For copies of the Environment Assessment, please contact: COPS Grants Administration Division, 1100 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20530; Phone: (202) 616-3031 or 1-800-421-6770.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The U.S. Department of Justice Response Center, 1-800-421-6770 and ask to speak with your Grant Program Specialist.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In Fiscal Year 2003, the COPS Office prepared an Environmental Assessment for its methamphetamine law enforcement programs, with specific application for the Methamphetamine Initiative. This Environmental Assessment was prepared as required by the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508), implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et al.*) The Methamphetamine Initiative addressed a broad array of law enforcement initiatives pertaining to the investigation of methamphetamine trafficking in many heavily impacted areas of the country. For the purposes of this program, funded items may include training of law enforcement officers in methamphetamine-related issues; collection and maintenance of intelligence and information relative to methamphetamine trafficking and traffickers; investigation, arrest and prosecution of producers, traffickers and users of methamphetamine; interdiction and removal of laboratories, finished products, and precursor chemicals and other elements necessary to produce methamphetamine; transportation and storage of finished products, and precursor chemicals, and other elements necessary to produce methamphetamine; and preventive

efforts to reduce the spread and use of methamphetamine. Individual projects will reflect a concentration on program areas consistent with Congressional appropriations.

Among the many challenges faced by law enforcement agencies in the Methamphetamine Initiative will be discovery, interdiction, and dismantling of clandestine drug laboratories. These lab sites, as well as other methamphetamine crime venues must be comprehensively dealt with in compliance with a variety of health, safety and environmental laws and regulations. The COPS Office requires that recipients, when encountering illegal drug laboratories, use grant funds to effect the proper removal and disposal of hazardous materials located at those laboratories and directly associated sites in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Overview*Environmental Assessment*

The COPS Office will award grants to State and local criminal justice agencies for the FY 2004 COPS Methamphetamine Initiative. The Environmental Assessment concludes that the funding of this program will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment given adherence to all applicable laws and regulations. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared for the funding of this program.

Dated: March 18, 2004.

Carl R. Peed,

Director, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

[FR Doc. 04-7425 Filed 4-1-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-AT-M

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**Office of Justice Programs**

[OJP (OVW) Docket No. 1398]

Meeting of the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women

AGENCY: Office on Violence Against Women, Justice.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming public meeting of the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women (hereinafter "the Committee").

DATES: The meeting will take place on April 15, 2004, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.,

and on April 16, 2004, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

ADDRESS: The meeting will take place at the St. Gregory Hotel, 2033 M Street, NW., Washington, DC, 20036.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jana Sinclair White, The National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women, 810 Seventh Street, NW., Washington, DC 20531. Telephone: (202) 353-4343. E-mail: Whitej@ojp.usdoj.gov. Fax: (202) 307-3911. You may view the Committee's Web site at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo/nac/welcome.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee is chartered by the Attorney General, and co-chaired by the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services (the Secretary), to provide the Attorney General and the Secretary with practical and general policy advice concerning implementation of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, the Violence Against Women Act of 2000, and related laws, and will assist in the efforts of the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services to combat violence against women, especially domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

In addition, because violence is increasingly recognized as a public health problem of staggering human cost, the Committee will bring national attention to the problem of violence against women and increase public awareness of the need for prevention and enhanced victim services.

This meeting will primarily focus on the Committee's work; there will, however, be an opportunity for public comment on the Committee's role in providing general policy guidance on implementation of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, the Violence Against Women Act of 2000, and related legislation.

Meeting Format

This meeting will be held according to the following schedule:

1. *Date:* Thursday, April 15, 2004.

Time: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; including breaks and a working lunch.

2. *Date:* Friday, April 16, 2004.

Time: 9 a.m.-2 p.m., including breaks and a working lunch.

The meeting on April 15, 2004 will begin with consideration of the draft report prepared by the drafting subcommittee of the Advisory Committee. Time will be reserved for comments from the public, beginning at 11:30 a.m. and ending at 12 noon. See the section below on Reserving Time for

Public Comment, for information on how to reserve time on the agenda.

The meeting scheduled for April 16, 2004, will also begin with consideration of the draft report prepared by the drafting subcommittee of the Advisory Committee.

Attending the Meeting

The meeting will be open to the public. Registrations for public attendance will be accepted on a space-available basis. Members of the public who wish to attend must register at least six (6) days in advance of the meeting by contacting Jana Sinclair White at the e-mail address or fax number listed above. Access to the meeting will not be allowed without registration, and all attendees will be required to sign in at the meeting registration desk. Please bring photo identification and allow extra time prior to the meeting.

Individuals who will need special accommodations for a disability in order to attend the meetings should notify Jana Sinclair White at the above e-mail address or by fax, no later than April 9, 2004. We will attempt to meet requests after this date, but cannot guarantee availability of the requested accommodation. The meeting site is accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Submitting Written Comments

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments to the Committee, by April 9, 2004, by e-mail to whitej@ojp.usdoj.gov; or by fax on (202) 307-3911.

Reserving Time for Public Comment

If you are interested in participating during the public comment period of the meeting, on the implementation of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and the Violence Against Women Act of 2000, you are requested to reserve time on the agenda by contacting the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, by e-mail or fax. Please include your name, the organization you represent, if appropriate, and a brief description of the issue you would like to present. Participants will be allowed approximately 3 to 5 minutes to present their comments, depending on the number of individuals who reserve time on the agenda. Participants are also encouraged to submit two written copies of their comments at the meeting.

Given the expected number of individuals interested in providing comments at the meetings, reservations for presenting comments should be made as soon as possible. Persons who are unable to obtain reservations to

speak during the meetings are encouraged to submit written comments, which will be accepted at the meeting site or may be e-mailed to the Committee at the e-mail address listed under the section on Submitting Written Comments.

Notice of this meeting is required under section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Diane M. Stuart,

Director, Office on Violence Against Women.
[FR Doc. 04-7565 Filed 4-1-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-18-P

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Bureau of Prisons

Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

AGENCY: Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Department of Justice.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

SUMMARY: Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for development of a medium-security Federal correctional institution by the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Prisons. The area under consideration for correctional facility development includes southern West Virginia.

Background

The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) is responsible for carrying out judgments of the Federal courts whenever a period of confinement is ordered. The mission of the BOP is to protect society by confining offenders in the controlled environments of prisons and community-based facilities that are safe, humane, cost-efficient and appropriately secure, and that provide work and other self-improvement opportunities to assist offenders in becoming law-abiding citizens.

As of March 29, 2004, approximately 148,655 inmates are housed within the 105 Federal correctional facilities that have levels of security ranging from minimum to maximum. At the present time, the Federal inmate population exceeds the combined rated capacities of the 105 Federal correctional facilities.

The continuing inmate population is due in part to Federal court sentencing guidelines which are resulting in longer terms of confinement for serious crimes. The increase in the number of immigration offenders and the effort to combat organized crime and drug

trafficking are also contributing to the increase. Measures being undertaken to manage the growth of the Federal inmate population include construction of new institutions, acquisition and adaptation of facilities originally intended for other purposes, expansion and improvement of existing correctional facilities, and expanded use of contract beds. Adding capacity through these various means allows the BOP to work towards the long-term goal of managing our inmate population growth.

In the face of the continuing increase in the Federal prison population, one way the BOP has extended its capacity is through construction of new facilities. As part of this effort, the BOP has a facilities planning program featuring the identification and evaluation of sites for new facilities. The BOP routinely identifies prospective sites that may be appropriate for development of new Federal correctional facilities. Locations of new Federal correctional facilities are determined by the need for such facilities in various parts of the country and the resources available to meet that need.

The BOP routinely screens and evaluates private and public properties located throughout the nation for possible use and development. Over the past decade, the BOP has examined prospective sites for new correctional facilities development in Kentucky, Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, California, Florida, Arizona, Indiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana among other locations around the country and has undertaken environmental impact studies in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended.

Proposed Action

The BOP is facing increased bedspace shortages throughout the Federal prison system. Over the past decade, a significant influx of inmates has entered the Federal prison system with a large portion of this influx originating from the Mid-Atlantic region.

In response, the BOP has committed significant resources to identifying and developing sites for new correctional facilities throughout this region including construction of facilities in Martin County and McCreary County, Kentucky; Petersburg and Lee County, Virginia; Butner, North Carolina; and Preston County and Gilmer County, West Virginia. Even with the development of these new and expanded facilities, projections show the Federal inmate population