

However, not every diversion structure can be potentially combined with one or more of the other diversions. The combination of the Farm Creek, Jasper-Pike and New Tabby diversions as described under Alternative 3 is not approved to be combined into a single diversion because cumulative depletions of stream flows in the intervening approximately 1.4 miles of Duchesne River channel between the Farm Creek and Jasper-Pike diversions would cause a substantial adverse impact that would not be compensated for by the elimination of one or two of the diversions from the river. Alternative 3 was formulated to include consolidation of diversions that appeared feasible and reasonable based on physical and logistical considerations. At this time, potential legal, social, and institutional constraints have only been considered at a cursory level. Further examination of consolidation options could preclude some projects from being implemented. In those instances wherein Alternative 3 is determined not to be feasible, and in the case of the Farm Creek, Jasper-Pike and New Tabby diversions, Alternative 2 is selected for implementation. Alternative 2 involves the rehabilitation or construction of a new diversion facility on the Duchesne or Strawberry River at or in very close proximity to the location of the existing diversions.

The Final Environmental Assessment is a programmatic analysis. Potential environmental impacts addressed in the EA are those impacts that would be expected regardless of the diversion dam that is rehabilitated. Potential impacts to wetlands, threatened and endangered species and cultural resources generally are site specific and/or require special permits. As a subsequent decision to rehabilitate or reconstruct a particular diversion structure is made, the site-specific impacts will be assessed using a site-specific environmental evaluation checklist. If no additional impacts beyond those assessed in this EA are identified, the checklist will be approved as a decision document, and no further NEPA analysis will be conducted.

If any item on the checklist has not been satisfied, or if a project is expected to create impacts not described in the EA, to create impacts greater in magnitude or duration than described in the EA or would require mitigation measures that are not described in the EA to keep impacts below significant levels, a Supplemental EA (SEA) to address site specific impacts would be prepared for each diversion dam concurrent with the preparation of the

final engineering or design report for a specific structure.

The EA was developed with the public in accordance with the Commission's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) rule (43 CFR part 10010.20). The Final EA and Decision Notice were sent to 28 agencies and individuals on May 2, 2003.

The EA is related to other potential future actions, specifically the detailed design and implementation of diversion dam replacements or rehabilitation. The programmatic perspective has been considered in the document. Future construction projects may require separate or supplemental NEPA compliance.

**ADDRESSES:** Address all comments and/or requests for further information to Mark Holden, Projects Manager, Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission, 102 West 500 South, Suite 315, Salt Lake City, UT, 84101.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mark Holden, Projects Manager, 801-524-3146 [mholden@uc.usbr.gov](mailto:mholden@uc.usbr.gov).

Dated: May 2, 2003.

**Michael C. Weland,**

*Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission Executive Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Research Advisory Committee On Gulf War Illnesses; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses will meet on June 16-17, 2003, at the Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Room 230, Washington, DC. The meeting on June 16 will convene at 8:30 a.m. and adjourn at 5 p.m. The meeting on June 17 will convene at 8:30 a.m. and adjourn at 3:30 p.m. Both meetings will be open to the public.

The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice and make recommendations to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on proposed research studies, research plans and research strategies relating to the health consequences of military service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Persian Gulf War.

On June 16, the Committee will hear research presentations from representatives of the Midwest Research

Institute, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories and Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute. The Committee will also receive an update on VA research from the VA's Chief Research and Development Officer. On June 17, the Committee will hear presentations on and discuss new research and reports. The Committee plans to discuss and develop recommendations and a work plan. Time will be available for public comment on both days.

Members of the public may submit written statements for the Committee's review to Ms. Laura O'Shea, Committee Manager, Department of Veterans Affairs (008A1), 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. Any member of the public wishing further information should contact Ms. Laura O'Shea at (202) 273-5031.

Dated: May 7, 2003.

By Direction of the Secretary.

**E. Philip Riggan,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Task Force; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that a meeting of the VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Task Force will be held on Thursday, May 29, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Friday, May 30, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., in Room 230, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC. The meeting is open to the public.

The purpose of the Task Force is to conduct an independent review of the VR&E Program within the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA). The Task Force will provide recommendations to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on improving the Department's ability to provide comprehensive services and assistance to veterans with service-connected disabilities and employment handicaps in becoming employable, and obtaining and maintaining suitable employment. The Task Force will also assess independent living services provided by VBA.

Both sessions of the May 29-30 meeting will focus on briefings for Task Force members by providers of vocational rehabilitation services and those who oversee VA's delivery of