

These advances in technology are the driving factor for this expansion.

Alternative I was chosen because it best meets the Army's need for additional training land. There are impacts to many natural resources expected as part of the proposed action. Mitigation has been proposed to offset the impacts identified in the SFEIS. Even taking into account this mitigation, however, there will still be significant impacts to threatened and endangered species, loss of vegetation cover, loss and disruption of soil surfaces, and loss of wilderness characteristics to adjacent wideness areas.

The decision also restates the army's continuing commitment to environmental stewardship by implementing mitigation and monitoring measurers to offset potential reverse environmental impacts associated with the preferred alternative, as identified in the SFEIS and the ROD.

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for copies of the Army's ROD may be made to: Ms. Jennifer Barry, NTC Land Expansion Program, ATTN: AFZJ-ST, Strategic Planning Division, P.O. 105004, Fort Irwin, California, 93210, or by calling (760) 380-6174, or by sending an e-mail to [Jennifer.Barry@Irwin.army.mil](mailto:Jennifer.Barry@Irwin.army.mil).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Please contact Ms. Jennifer Barry, or Mrs. Nicole Lileikis, AFZJ-SP Strategic Planning Division, P.O. 10309, Fort Irwin, CA 92311. Interested parties may also call (760) 380-6174.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The project involves acquisition of approximately 127,000 new acres on the east and southwest sides of the existing NTC and the return to training use of approximately 23,000 acres in the south that are currently restricted from military training. Implementation of the Preferred Alternative as outlined in the SFEIS will occur in a phased approach. Training will occur in the Eastgate parcel first, followed by the UTM 90 (the southern edge of Fort Irwin), and the last area on which training will begin will be the western area.

The Preferred alternative best meets the purpose and need for training at Fort Irwin and is crucial to achieving a trained military to provide for the current and future national security of the country.

The selected alternative has significant impacts, which are described in the SFEIS. Among these are impacts to the Desert Tortoise. The action also includes mitigation measures that will support conservation and management of the tortoise. The SFEIS discusses a Biological Opinion issued by the U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service on the effects of the proposed action on both the Desert Tortoise and another threatened or endangered species, the Lane Mountain Milk Vetch. The SFEIS also includes a Supplemental Biological Assessment prepared by the Army that addresses the crucial habitat of the Desert Tortoise.

Copies of the SFEIS ROD can be found at the following libraries for public reading: Library of Congress; Riverside Main Library; San Diego County Library; San Bernardino County Libraries at the following locations—Hesperia, San Bernardino, Apple Valley, Trona, Barstow, Big Bear, Lucerne Valley, Victorville, Wrightwood, and Yucca Valley.

The Record of Decision is also posted at the Land Expansion Web site <http://www.fortirwinlandexpansion.com>.

Dated: March 14, 2006.

**Addison D. Davis, IV,**

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

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**BILLING CODE 3710-08-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Navy

#### Meeting of the Board of Advisors (BOA) to The President, Naval Postgraduate School (NPS)

**AGENCY:** Department of the Navy, DOD.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The purpose of the meeting is to elicit the advice of the board on the Naval Service's Postgraduate Education Program and the collaborative exchange and partnership between NPS and the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT). The board examines the effectiveness with which the NPS is accomplishing its mission. To this end, the board will inquire into the curricula; instruction; physical equipment; administration; state of morale of the student body, faculty, and staff; fiscal affairs; and any other matters relating to the operation of the NPS as the board considers pertinent. This meeting will be open to the public.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 18, 2006, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Wednesday, April 19, 2006, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. All written comments regarding the NPS BOA should be received by April 7, 2006, and be directed to President, Naval Postgraduate School (Attn: Jaye Panza), 1 University Circle, Monterey, CA 93943-5000 or by FAX 831-656-3145.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Naval Postgraduate School, Herrmann Hall, 1 University Circle, Monterey, CA.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jaye Panza, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA 93943-5000, telephone number 831-656-2514.

Dated: March 9, 2006.

**Eric McDonald,**

*Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate Generals Corps, U.S. Navy, Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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**BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[OE Docket No. PP-304]

### Application for Presidential Permit; Generadora del Desierto SA de C.V.

**AGENCY:** Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, DOE.

**ACTION:** Notice of Application.

**SUMMARY:** Generadora del Desierto SA de C.V. (GDD) has applied for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S. border with Mexico.

**DATES:** Comments, protests, or requests to intervene must be submitted on or before April 19, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments, protests, or requests to intervene should be addressed as follows: Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-0350.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ellen Russell (Program Office) 202-586-9624 or Michael T. Skinker (Program Attorney) 202-586-2793.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The construction, operation, maintenance, and connection of facilities at the international border of the United States for the transmission of electric energy between the United States and a foreign country is prohibited in the absence of a Presidential permit issued pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 10485, as amended by EO 12038.

On September 23, 2005, GDD, a Mexican corporation and wholly-owned affiliate of North Branch Holding, LLC, filed an application with the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) for a Presidential permit. GDD proposes to construct a double-circuit 500-kilovolt (500-kV) electric transmission line across the U.S.-