

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 072806C]

Marine Mammals; File No. 87-1851

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application for permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Daniel P. Costa, Ph.D., Department of Biology and Institute of Marine Sciences, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064, has applied for a permit to conduct research on pinnipeds in Antarctica and California.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before September 5, 2006.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301)713-2289; fax (301)427-2521; and

Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; phone (562)980-4001; fax (562)980-4018.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301) 427-2521, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period.

Comments may also be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing email comments is NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: File No. 87-1851.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy Sloan, (301)713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et*

seq.), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222-226).

The applicant proposes to conduct two projects over a 5-year period. Project I involves research in Antarctica to conduct tagging studies and physiological measurements on up to 35 Crabeater seals (*Lobodon carcinophagus*), 35 southern elephant seals (*Mirounga leonina*), 10 leopard seals (*Hydrurga leptonyx*), 10 Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddellii*), and five Ross seals (*Ommatophoca rossii*) of any age annually. Procedures would include capture, sedation, ultrasound, morphometrics, isotope and Evans blue dye administration, blood sampling, tagging/marking, instrument attachment, stomach lavage, specimen collection (whisker, claw, tooth, muscle and blubber biopsy), and recapture to remove instruments. An additional 50 juvenile southern elephant seals would be captured, weighed, measured, and flipper tagged annually. An additional 10 adult leopard seals, 10 adult Weddell seals, and 30 adult female southern elephant seals would have flipper tags applied annually. Up to 100 additional southern elephant seals and 100 additional seals of the other four species combined would be harassed annually incidental to these activities. The applicant also requests unintentional research-related mortality of up to three seals of any of these five seal species annually, not to exceed eight seals over the five years of the permit. Tissue samples would be imported into the United States.

Project II would involve research on California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*) to investigate foraging, diving, energetics, food habits, and at-sea distribution along the California coast. Procedures would include capture, sedation, morphometrics, isotope and Evans blue dye administration, blood sampling, tagging/marking, instrument attachment, stomach lavage and enema, blubber/muscle biopsy, metabolic measurements, stomach temperature telemeters, and milk sampling. Up to 100 pups/juveniles and 100 adults would be sampled annually, with some or all of the procedures performed. Harassment of unlimited numbers of California sea lions, harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*), northern elephant seals (*Mirounga augustirostris*), and northern fur seals (*Callorhinus ursinus*) and up to

20 threatened Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) annually incidental to these activities is requested. The applicant also requests unintentional research-related mortality of up to five California sea lions over the course of the permit.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of these applications to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: July 28, 2006.

Tammy C. Adams,

Acting Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Navy**

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Development of the Westside of Marine Corps Base Quantico, Including the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Action, Marine Corps Base Quantico (MCBQ), Virginia

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), and applicable Marine Corps Order P5090.2A, guidelines for NEPA, the Marine Corps announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the development of the westside of MCBQ, including the 2005 BRAC action at MCBQ, VA. The Marine Corps previously published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Vol. 67 FR 37405) for the development of the westside of MCBQ on May 29, 2002. This NOI cancels the previous NOI, and establishes the opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed action which now includes the BRAC 2005 actions at MCBQ.

The Marine Corps will hold a public scoping meeting open house for the purpose of further identifying the scope of issues to be addressed in the EIS. Written and recorded comments will be accepted during this time. To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action will be addressed, representatives from MCBQ will be

available to answer questions and solicit public comments from all interested parties during the open house.

Following future publication of the draft EIS, at a time to be determined, a second public meeting will be held to address comments on the draft document.

DATES: All written comments must be received by September 8, 2006. The public scoping meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 22, 2006, at the Ramada Inn, 4316 Inn Street, Triangle, VA between 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Agencies and the public are also encouraged to provide written comments in addition to, or in lieu of, oral comments at the scoping open house. Written comments and requests for inclusion on the EIS mailing list may be submitted to: Commander, NREA Branch (B 046), Attn: J. Gardner, 3250 Catlin Avenue, Marine Corps Base, Quantico, VA 22134-0855.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Jeff Gardner, 703-432-6770. Please submit requests for special assistance, sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired, or other auxiliary aids at the public meeting to Mr. Gardner by August 14, 2006.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: MCBQ is a 60,000-acre combat education and training base located approximately 30 miles south of Washington DC. The 2005 BRAC law has directed the relocation and collocation of Military Department Investigation Agencies and the Department of Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency to MCBQ. This is expected to add approximately 3,000 personnel at MCBQ by 2011. Other Federal and Marine Corps initiatives are expected to continue to identify MCBQ as a possible site for relocation. As part of a long-range planning effort to accommodate these anticipated requirements, the Quantico Land Use Plan, I-95 West, was developed for the Marine Corps which evaluated potential areas within the installation that are the most suitable/practical for locating new development, including the BRAC 2005 actions, without impacting its primary mission of military education and training. The age and deteriorating condition of many facilities on the Mainside of MCBQ dictate a need for their replacement. Space available for new development or redevelopment is limited due to many factors including acreage, current land use, topography, and environmental constraints. To eliminate existing incompatible land uses and better utilize land within the installation, MCBQ has identified two parcels within the westside of MCBQ (hereon referred to as the Westside Development Area)

for potential future development. These areas were determined to have suitable acreage for the proposed development, reduced construction costs, and are not overly constrained by environmental or operational factors. These locations are: the Russell Road parcel and MCB-1 parcel. The proposed action for this EIS is to use the Westside Development Area of MCBQ for relocation of existing and future potential base functions and to accommodate the BRAC 2005 actions. The components of the proposed action include construction and operation of new facilities with a mix of uses to include administrative, warehouse, maintenance, and industrial facilities and the necessary infrastructure, road improvements, and security measures to support the proposed action.

A range of alternatives was developed to assess the proposed action based on the *Quantico Land Use Plan, I-95 West* (MCBQ, 2006). This study identified potential development scenarios based on present and future mission needs and land use analysis. Alternatives to implement the proposed action include four intensities of development and two proposed alternative locations for implementing the BRAC action. For each development intensity alternative, sub-alternatives analyzing development at either Location A or Location B will be addressed. First alternative, high-intensity development would add up to 10,000 personnel, including 3,000 under BRAC. The construction would include facilities designed primarily for administrative and operational functions, including warehousing, maintenance, and support facilities. Parking and road improvements would be included. Second alternative, medium-intensity development would add up to 7,000 personnel, including 3,000 under BRAC. The construction under this alternative would remain mixed use with a lower intensity of administrative facilities and include parking and road improvements. Third alternative, low-intensity development would add 5,000 personnel, including 3,000 under BRAC. The majority of the construction under this alternative would include warehousing and maintenance facilities and to a lesser extent administrative and operational facilities. Road improvements would be limited to those necessary to accommodate the BRAC action. Additionally, a fourth alternative, the BRAC Action alternative, would add only the development required to accommodate those personnel (3,000) associated with the BRAC 2005 action. The construction footprint would include 70 to 100 acres of land,

construction of approximately 735,000 square feet of new construction, and improvement of existing roads. The No Action Alternative will also be evaluated as required by NEPA. The EIS will address the following environmental areas: topography, geology, and soils; water and biological resources; air quality; noise; infrastructure and utilities; traffic; cultural resources; land use; socioeconomics; and hazardous waste and materials.

Dated: July 27, 2006.

M.A. Harvison,

Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Navy, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP06-443-000]

Alliance Pipeline L.P.; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

July 27, 2006.

Take notice that on July 24, 2006, Alliance Pipeline L.P. (Alliance) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Original Volume No. 1, the following tariff sheets, to become effective August 1, 2006:

Second Revised Sheet No. 2
Original Sheet No. 277E

Alliance states that copies of its filing have been mailed to all customers, state commissions, and other interested parties.

Any person desiring to intervene or to protest this filing must file in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214). Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a notice of intervention or motion to intervene, as appropriate. Such notices, motions, or protests must be filed in accordance with the provisions of Section 154.210 of the Commission's regulations (18 CFR 154.210). Anyone filing an intervention or protest must serve a copy of that document on the Applicant. Anyone filing an intervention or protest on or before the intervention or protest date need not serve motions to intervene or protests on persons other than the Applicant.