

DATES: Submit comments by January 18, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Jack Sands, Project Manager, Walla Walla District, Corps of Engineers, CENWW-PM-PPM, 201 North Third Avenue, Walla Walla, WA 99362, phone (509) 527-7287, or Ms. Sandra Simmons, NEPA Coordinator, Walla Walla District, Corps of Engineers, CENWW-PD-EC, 201 North Third Avenue, Walla Walla, WA 99362, phone (509) 527-7265.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District (Corps) has the responsibility to operate and maintain the congressionally authorized Federal navigation channel in the lower Snake River from McNary reservoir on the mid-Columbia River up the Snake River to Lewiston, Idaho at the confluence of the Snake and Clearwater Rivers. The Corps is authorized by Congress to maintain a channel 250 feet wide and 14 feet deep as measured at minimum regulated flows. Historically the Corps has routinely dredged accumulated sediments from the navigation channel to maintain its operational efficiency. The Corps has not performed maintenance dredging in the channel since the winter of 1998-1999.

Presently sediment has accumulated in the Federal navigation channel to the point that the channel is less than 14 feet deep at minimum pool at several locations. Sediment has also accumulated in port berthing facilities in the Lewiston-Clarkston area, reducing the water depth at those facilities to less than 14 feet. The shallow water depths in the Federal channel and port facilities are interfering with commercial navigation and creating a potentially hazardous situation. Barge companies and commercial vessels are having difficulty accessing port facilities and navigating the federal channel due to shallow conditions. In response to these conditions they have made costly operational changes. Additional sediment accumulation could render these operational changes ineffective and increase the potential for safety hazards and additional economic impact.

The Corps recognizes the need to restore the authorized depth of the navigation channel and port facilities, and that additional sediment is likely to accumulate with each successive spring runoff. Therefore, the Corps proposes to take action at the first opportunity following the spring 2005 runoff to address the accumulated sediment. The local ports will fund any actions the Corps takes within the port facilities.

The Corps will consider both dredging and non-dredging measures, either separately or in combination. Measures identified to date include no action, sediment reduction, reservoir drawdown/flushing, dredging with traditional protocols, and dredging with beneficial use of dredged material.

At this time, the Corps does not plan to conduct public scoping meetings for this EIS. However, affected Federal, state, and local agencies; Indian tribes; and other interested organizations and individuals are invited to provide input to the Corps on the scope of this EIS. To ensure consideration, input on the scope should be provided to the Corps by comment date (*see DATES*).

Additional opportunities for public input on the EIS will be provided during the normal review periods for the draft and final EIS.

The draft EIS is currently scheduled to be available for public review in early 2005.

Randy L. Glaeser,

LTC, EN, Commanding.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Coastal Engineering Research Board; Meeting

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), announcement is made of the following committee meeting:

Name of Committee: Coastal Engineering Research Board (CERB).

Date of Meeting: 6-7 January 2005.

Place: Hyatt Regency DFW, DFW Airport, Texas.

Time: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (6 January 2005). 8 a.m. to 12 noon (7 January 2005).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Inquiries and notice of intent to attend the meeting may be addressed to Colonel James R. Rowan, Executive Secretary, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Waterways Experiment Station, 3909 Halls Ferry Road, Vicksburg, Mississippi 39180-6199.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Proposed*

Agenda: An Executive Session of the Board will meet to discuss action items from past meetings and ongoing initiatives.

This meeting is open to the public, but since seating capacity of the meeting room is limited, advance notice of intent to attend, although not required, is requested in order to assure adequate arrangements for those wishing to attend.

Brenda S. Bowen,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7848-4]

Request for Nominations to the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of request for nominations.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency invites nominations to fill vacancies on its National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT). The Agency seeks qualified senior-level decision makers from diverse sectors throughout the United States to be considered for appointments. EPA encourages interested applicants to send their resumes and qualifications as soon as possible. Additional avenues and resources may be utilized in the solicitation of nominees.

ADDRESSES: Submit nominations to: Ms. Sonia Altieri, Designated Federal Officer, Office of Cooperative Environmental Management, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1601E), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460.

Background: NACEPT is a Federal advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92463. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency established NACEPT in 1988 to provide independent advice to the EPA Administrator on a broad range of environmental policy, technology and management issues. NACEPT consists of a representative cross-section of EPA's partners, stakeholders, and constituents who provide timely advice and recommendations on environmental issues, and serve as a sounding board for new strategies that EPA is developing.

We anticipate the Council addressing issues related to environmental technology, environmental foresight,