

agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Until OMB approves a collection of information, you are not obligated to respond.

Comments: Before submitting an ICR to OMB, PRA section 3506(c)(2)(A) requires each agency “* * * to provide notice * * * and otherwise consult with members of the public and affected agencies concerning each proposed collection of information * * *”.

Agencies must specifically solicit comments to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the agency to perform its duties, including whether the information is useful; (b) evaluate the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) minimize the burden on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Agencies must also estimate the “non-hour cost” burdens to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of information. Therefore, if you have costs to generate, maintain, and disclose this information, you should comment and provide your total capital and startup cost components or annual operation, maintenance, and purchase of service components. You should describe the methods you use to estimate major cost factors, including system and technology acquisition, expected useful life of capital equipment, discount rate(s), and the period over which you incur costs. Capital and startup costs include, among other items, computers and software you purchase to prepare for collecting information, monitoring, and record storage facilities. You should not include estimates for equipment or services purchased: (i) Before October 1, 1995; (ii) to comply with requirements not associated with the information collection; (iii) for reasons other than to provide information or keep records for the Government; or (iv) as part of customary and usual business or private practices.

We will summarize written responses to this notice and address them in our submission for OMB approval. As a result of your comments, we will make any necessary adjustments to the burden in our submission to OMB.

Public Comment Policy: Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual

respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the record a respondent’s identity, as allowable by the law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

MMS Information Collection Clearance Officer: Jo Ann Lauterbach, (202) 208-7744.

Dated: April 17, 2003.

E.P. Danenberger,
Chief, Engineering and Operations Division.
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the North Shore Road in Great Smoky Mountains National Park

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), the National Park Service (NPS) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze alternatives for resolving issues related to the North Shore Road. The purpose of this action is to discharge and satisfy any obligations on the part of the United States that presently exist as the result of the Memorandum of Agreement of October 8, 1943, between the U.S. Department of Interior, Tennessee Valley Authority, Swain County, North Carolina, and the state of North Carolina. The public scoping process for this EIS has been initiated with issuance of this notice. The purpose of the scoping process is to elicit public comment regarding the full spectrum of public issues and concern, including a suitable range of alternatives, the nature and extent of potential environmental impacts, and appropriate mitigation strategies, which should be addressed in the EIS process.

DATES: Beginning in the spring of 2003, public scoping meetings will be conducted in the vicinity of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The location, date, and time of the meetings

and deadlines for written comments will be announced via local and regional media as follows: The Smoky Mountain Times, Bryson City, NC; The Cherokee One Feather, Cherokee, NC; The Mountaineer, Waynesville, NC; The Sylva Herald, Sylva, NC; Asheville Citizen Times, Asheville, NC; The Smoky News, Waynesville, NC; The Mountain Press, Sevierville, TN; The Knoxville News-Sentinel, Knoxville, TN; The Daily Times, Maryville, TN; and other major newspapers in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina and Tennessee. Announcements will also be placed on the following Web sites: www.nps.gov\grsm and www.efl.fhwa.dot.gov. All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to attend these meetings to comment orally and/or provide written comments or suggestions during the scoping period.

ADDRESSES: Any comments or requests for information should be addressed to Superintendent, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, 107 Park Headquarters Road, Gatlinburg, TN 37738.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

North Shore Road EIS, Attn: Superintendent, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, 107 Park Headquarters Road, Gatlinburg, TN 37738, Telephone: 865/436-1207 or Fax: 865/436-1220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In July, 1943, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI), the state of North Carolina, and Swain County, North Carolina, entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that dealt with the creation of Fontana Dam and Reservoir and the flooding of lands and roads within Swain County. As part of that agreement, 44,170 acres of land were ultimately transferred to the DOI and made part of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (Park). The MOA also contained a provision by which the DOI was to construct a road through the Park, along the north shore of the newly formed Fontana Reservoir, to replace the flooded NC 288. The obligation of the DOI to construct the road was subject to and contingent on the appropriation by Congress of all funds necessary for the road’s construction. The United States was at war when the MOA was executed and so no funds could be appropriated for construction. After the war, between 1948 and 1970, the DOI, through the National Park Service (NPS), built 7.2 miles of the proposed road.