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II. Background

The Office of Pesticide Programs is entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring the safety of the American food supply, the protection and education of those who apply or are exposed to pesticides occupationally or through use of products from unreasonable risk, and general protection of the environment and special ecosystems from potential risks posed by pesticides.

The Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) was established under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), Public Law 92-463 in September 1995, for a 2-year term and renewed every 2 years since that time. EPA has renewed the PPDC Charter for another 2-year term, from November 7, 2003 to November 7, 2005. PPDC provides advice and recommendations to the Office of Pesticide Programs on a broad range of pesticide regulatory, policy and program implementation issues that are associated with evaluating and reducing risks from use of pesticides. The following sectors are represented on the PPDC: Pesticide industry and trade associations; environmental/public interest and consumer groups; farm worker organizations; pesticide user, grower, and commodity groups; Federal and State/local/Tribal governments; the general public; academia; and public health organizations. It is determined that PPDC is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Agency by law.

Copies of the PPDC charter are filed with appropriate committees of Congress and the Library of Congress and are available upon request.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Agriculture, Agricultural workers, Chemicals, Pesticides, Pests, Public health, Risk assessment, Tolerance reassessment.

Dated: December 2, 2003.

James Jones,

Director, Office of Pesticide Programs.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-6646-5]

Environmental Impact Statements and Regulations; Availability of EPA Comments

Availability of EPA comments prepared pursuant to the Environmental Review Process (ERP), under section 309 of the Clean Air Act and section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act as amended. Requests for copies of EPA comments can be directed to the Office of Federal Activities at (202) 564-7146. An explanation of the ratings assigned to draft environmental impact statements (EISs) was published in FR dated April 04, 2003 (68 FR 16511).

Draft EISs

ERP No. D-AFS-K65260-AZ Rating EC2, Rodeo-Chediski Fire Salvage Project, Timber Harvest of Merchantable Dead Trees as Sawtimber and Products other than Lumber (POL), Implementation, Apache-Sitgreaves and Tonto National Forest, Apache, Coconino and Navajo Counties, AZ.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns with potential adverse impacts to water quality and wildlife. The preferred alternative requires harvesting on steep slopes with highly erosive soils which may further impact 303(d) listed streams, aquatic resources and habitat for the Western Spotted Owl.

ERP No. D-AFS-L65428-ID Rating NS, Twin Creek Timber Sale Project, Proposal to Cut and Remove Lodgepole Pine Sawtimber and Road Construction/Reconstruction, Montpelier Ranger District, Caribou National Forest, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permit, Bear Lake County, ID.

Summary: Region 10 has used a screening tool to conduct a limited review of this action. Based upon this screen, EPA does not foresee having any environmental objections to the proposed project.

ERP No. D-AFS-L65435-ID Rating EC2, Mission Brush Project, Proposes Vegetation, Wildlife Habitat, Recreation and Aquatic Improvement Treatments, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Bonners Ferry Ranger District, Bounty County, ID.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns regarding potential adverse impacts to water quality, invasive species, biodiversity, and cumulative impacts.

ERP No. D-HHS-D81034-MD Rating EC2, Integrated Research Facility (IRF) at Fort Detrick Construction and Operation, Adjacent to Existing U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases Facilities, City of Frederick, Frederick County, MD.

Summary: EPA expressed concerns regarding the Laboratory Sewer System's (LSS) possible contamination from biological warfare liquid wastes and radioactive materials to the proposed integrated Research Facility (IRF). EPA requested the FEIS specify the degree of contamination and remedial efforts to mitigate contamination from the LSS and indicate the U.S. Army's commitment to provide follow-up studies on post IRF activities.

ERP No. DA-FTA-K40237-CA Rating LO, Orange County Centerline Project, Transportation Improvements, Updated Information concerning Four New Alternatives and Re-examining an Updated New No Build Alternative, City of Santa Ana through the City of Costa Mesa to the City of Irvine, Funding, Orange County, CA.

Summary: EPA has no objections regarding the environmental impacts of the proposed project.

Final EISs

ERP No. F-AFS-E65087-AL Forest Health and Restoration Project, Proposal to Determine the Desired Future Conditions of all Existing Loblolly Pine Stands, National Forests in Alabama, Bankhead National Forest, Winston, Lawrence and Franklin Counties, AL.

Summary: EPA has no objections to this project, provided mitigation measures and monitoring programs described in the final EIS are implemented.

ERP No. F-AFS-L65409-AK, Licking Creek Timber Sale, Timber Harvest, Implementation, Tongass National Forest, Ketchikan Misty Fiords Ranger District, Revillagigedo Island, Ketchikan, AK.

Summary: No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

ERP No. F-AFS-L65419-ID, Upper and Lower East Fork Cattle and Horse Allotment Management Plans, Updating