

Environmental Protection Specialist, Environmental Management Division, USIBWC, 4171 North Mesa Street, C-310, El Paso, Texas 79902. A public hearing is scheduled from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 27, 2004 at the USIBWC Headquarters, First Floor Conference Room, 4171 North Mesa Street, El Paso, Texas 79902 to present your verbal or written comments.

Copies of the DEIS are available for inspection and review at the following locations: Branigan Memorial Library, 200 East Picacho Avenue, Las Cruces, New Mexico; El Paso Public Library, 501 North Oregon Street, El Paso, Texas; New Mexico State University Library, Las Cruces, New Mexico; University Library, The University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas; and United States Section, International Boundary and Water Commission, 4171 North Mesa Street, El Paso, Texas. A copy of the DEIS will also be posted at the USIBWC Web site at www.ibwc.state.gov "IBWC News."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Douglas Echlin, Lead Environmental Protection Specialist, Environmental Management Division, USIBWC, 4171 North Mesa Street, C-310, El Paso, Texas 79902 or call 915/832-4741. e-mail: dougechlin@ibwc.state.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The USIBWC is evaluating long-term river management alternatives for the Rio Grande Canalization Project (RGCP), a narrow river corridor that extends 105.4 river miles along the Rio Grande, from below Percha Dam in Sierra County, New Mexico to American Dam in El Paso, Texas. The RGCP is operated and maintained by the USIBWC and was constructed to facilitate water deliveries to the Rincon and Mesilla Valleys in New Mexico, El Paso Valley in Texas, and Juarez Valley in Mexico. The project also includes a levee system for flood control.

The USIBWC currently implements operation and maintenance procedures to enhance ecosystem functions within the RGCP; however, alterations to the river and floodway from events that pre-date RGCP construction continue to affect the river and floodway. Therefore, USIBWC recognizes the need to accomplish flood control, water delivery, and operations and maintenance activities in a manner that enhances and restores the riparian ecosystem.

River management alternatives were considered and developed over a three-year-long public consultation process that included input from the general public and stakeholders such as regulatory agencies, irrigation districts,

and environmental organizations. The No Action Alternative and three potential action alternatives were selected for further evaluation in the DEIS. Levee rehabilitation, changes associated with grazing leases to improve erosion control, floodway management, and river restoration including aquatic habitat diversification and riparian vegetation development are measures considered in the action alternatives. The USIBWC will select a preferred alternative after public comment on the DEIS.

A copy of the DEIS has been filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in accordance with 40 CFR parts 1500-1508 and USIBWC procedures. Written comments concerning the DEIS will be accepted at the address provided above until February 10, 2004.

Dated: December 18, 2003.

Mario Lewis,
General Counsel.

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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Notice of Permits Issued Under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice of permits issued under the Antarctic Conservation of 1978, Public Law 95-541.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is required to publish notice of permits issued under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978. This is the required notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nadene G. Kennedy, Permit Office, Office of Polar Programs, Rm. 755, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Science Foundation published notices in the **Federal Register** of permit applications received from the following applicants on:

William Gilmore (2004-011), August 19, 2003; Howard Evans (2004-005), September 29, 2003; Paul R. Renne (2004-017), October 27, 2003; and Thomas A. Day (2004-018), November 10, 2003.

Permits were issued to these four applicants on December 15, 2003.

Nadene G. Kennedy,
Permit Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-31617 Filed 12-23-03; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

EarthScope Science and Education Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), the National Science Foundation announces the following meeting:

Name: EarthScope Science and Education Advisory Committee (#16638).

Dates/Time: 8 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 21, 2004, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday, January 22 and 23, 2004. 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Saturday, January 24, 2004.

Place: Sheraton 4-Points Hotel, 1201 K Street NW., Washington, DC.

Type of Meeting: Part-Open (see agenda below).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. James H. Whitcomb, Division of Earth Sciences, National Science Foundation, Suite 785, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230, Phone 703-292-8553.

Minutes: May be obtained from the contact person listed above.

Purpose of Meeting: To carry out EarthScope proposal and management review, including program evaluation, GPRA assessments, and access to privileged materials; and to provide advice, recommendations, and oversight concerning EarthScope construction, operation, science and education support.

Agenda:

January 21, 2004

8 p.m.-9 p.m. Closed—Discussions regarding proposals and personnel decisions.

January 22, 2004

8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Open—Review of EarthScope Execution Plan.

1 p.m.-5 p.m. Closed—Review of funding decisions for personnel and subcontracts for construction phase of EarthScope.

January 23, 2004

8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Open—Advise on education and outreach Management structure, and revision of volcanic area instrumentation.

January 24, 2004

8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Closed—Review of proposal actions and discussion of proposals still under review.

Reason for Closing: Session having to do with proposal and awards for specific grants, contracts, or other arrangements may properly be closed to the public under 5 U.S.C. 522b(c)(4), (6),