section 101(a)(5)(D) have been met and the authorization can be issued.

Authorization

For the above reasons, NMFS has issued an incidental harassment authorization for 1 year for the above described activity provided mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements described in the IHA are undertaken.

Dated: July 15, 1997.

Patricia A. Montanio,

Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 97–19793 Filed 7-25-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–F

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Demilitarization of Chemical Agents and Munitions Stored at Pine Bluff Arsenal, Arkansas

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Record of Decision.

SUMMARY: Consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, this announces the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) which documents and explains the Department of the Army's decision to construct and operate a full-scale chemical agent disposal facility located in the northeastern area of the Pine Bluff Arsenal (PBA), Arkansas (identified as Site A in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)). The Army has determined that the Revised Final EIS adequately addresses the potential impacts of the Army's actions relating to the disposal of chemical agents and munitions stored at PBA. The Army has also determined that the conclusions in the Revised Final EIS establish that the decision to implement on-site incineration at site A provides maximum protection of the environment, the general public, and workers at the disposal facility. The Army plans to dispose of 3,850 tons of chemical agents stored at PBA consistent with the terms of the ROD.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A comparison was made of the potential impacts of six different locations at PBA for the facility. The six locations were identified using criteria based on safety and compatibility with current PBA activities. The selected site, located in the northeastern part of the Arsenal, has the advantage of being previously disturbed by construction of the BZ disposal facility and the ready availability of utilities. Additionally, it was found to result in equivalent or lower potential adverse ecological impacts as compared to the other five sites evaluated. Potential impacts from alternative operating schedules for the proposed disposal facility were also evaluated. It was found that operating the plant continuously on a daily basis would result in lower human health risks than operating the plant only for one shift. Based on these impact analyses, it is concluded that conducting disposal operations at the northern site for three shifts per day is the preferred environmental alternative for implementing on-site disposal.

COPIES: To obtain copies of the ROD, contact the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization, Data and Document Control Center, at (410) 671–4901 or Mr. Jeff Lindblad, Pine Bluff Chemical Activity, at (501) 540–2429. For more information, contact Ms. Catherine Herlinger, Office of the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization, at (410) 671–3629.

Dated: July 21, 1997.

Raymond J. Fatz,

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health), OASA (I, L&E).

[FR Doc. 97–19767 Filed 7–25–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710–08–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Reformation Study, Atlantic Coast of Long Island, From Fire Island Inlet to Montauk Point, New York

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DOD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The New York District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to begin preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for proposed measures for storm damage protection for the Atlantic Coast of Long Island, from Fire Island Inlet to Montauk Point, New York (study area). This project is necessary due to continual erosion leading to a decrease in the width of beach and a loss of beach material during severe storms and hurricanes. Due to the erosion and the lack of sufficiently high beaches, berms or dune systems, residential and commercial developments have become increasingly susceptible to storm damage from flooding and wave attack.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Attn: Stephen A. Couch, Study Manager, (212) 264–9077

Attn: Peter M. Weppler, EIS Coordinator, (212) 264–4663, Planning Division, Corps of Engineers, New York District, 26 Federal Plaza, New York, New York 10278–0090

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The overall Fire Island Inlet to Montauk Point, New York, Combined Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project was authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1960 in accordance with the recommendations of the Chief of Engineers in House Document No. 425, 86th Congress dated June 21, 1960. The original authorized project provided for beach erosion control and hurricane protection along five reaches by means of widening the beaches along the developed areas, raising the dunes by artificial placement of suitable sand, grass planting on the dunes, and construction of interior drainage structures at Mecox Bay, Sagaponack Lake, and Georgica Pond. The project authorized construction of 50 groins subject to determination of their actual need. The authorization was subsequently modified by Section 103 of the River and Harbor Act of October 12, 1962, Section 31 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974, Section 502 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, and Section 102 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992. These modifications were made primarily to adjust the cost sharing provisions of the authorized project.

1. Location and Description of Proposed Action

The project area is located entirely in Suffolk County, Long Island, New York, along the Atlantic and bay shores of the towns of Babylon, Islip, Brookhaven, Southampton and Easthampton. The study area is approximately 83 miles long. The study area includes three large estuarial bays. Great South Bay is connected to the Atlantic Ocean through Fire Island Inlet, which is a federal navigation channel. Similarly, Moriches Bay and Shinnecock Bay are connected to the ocean through Moriches and Shinnecock Inlets, respectively, which are also federal navigation channels. Great South Bay, Moriches Bay and Shinnecock Bay are connected by narrow channels behind the barrier. The westernmost portion of the study area, Fire Island Inlet, is located approximately 52 miles by water east of