

Date: 2/19/2003 9:23 AM

Sender:
To:

(b)(6)(b)(7)(C)

cc:

Priority: Normal

Subject: Environmental Update #16

All--

Here are the environmental issues discussed during the PDT meeting Tuesday, February 18, 2003.

1. The Tucson/Yuma PEIS public comment period extended until 14 February. Approximately 1000 form letters were faxed over the weekend in opposition to the project, but provided no substantive comments. However, a lot of comment letters have been received. GSRC will be develop a schedule once all the comments are received a comment resolution log is prepared.
2. The USFWS indicated to (b)(6) that the draft Yuma BO should be complete within a couple of weeks. Comments on the Tucson BA were received Friday. GSRC will revise the BA and submit it for review ASAP.
3. The draft Naco fence and roadway EA public comment period closed on 18 February. No comments have been received as of today. Assuming no public comments are received, the group agreed to beef up the water demand discussion and quantify the amount of water required for construction, but not to delay the release of the Final EA due to the pending hydrology study that GSRC currently has underway. (b)(6) will review historic records of water purchases to provide additional confirmation of the water demand estimates.
4. The draft Ephraim Ridge reclamation EA public comment period closed on February 18. As of Friday, February 14, three public comment letters were received.
5. The Nogales Infrastructure EA (roadways and portable lights) is under preparation and is scheduled to be submitted on February 26.
6. The WWD permit application was submitted in late November. GSRC has prepared a 404(b)(1) evaluation, and will submit a brief EA and public notice that the USACE Regulatory Functions Branch normally prepare for use by the USACE Los Angeles District. These efforts are intended to expedite the permit process.
7. The final CR survey reports for Naco and Douglas have been submitted to (b)(6) for coordination with the SHPO. The coordination on the Programmatic MOA can be re-established upon acceptance of this report.
8. (b)(6) has not received a response to his inquiry to HQ INS regarding the applicability of a CATEX for the road maintenance at Sonoita. HDR will develop a SOW to proceed with an EA, or at least, CR and bio surveys.

9. The PDT confirmed that the INS Regional Environmental Officer will be the POC identified on the title sheet.

10. The Naco and Douglas Station Supplemental Cumulative Effects EA is being prepared and will be submitted NLT March 12.

11. The Crawford Hill RVS installation preparation is scheduled to begin this week.

12. (b)(6) will provide a revised site evaluation report for the Nogales RVS sites by Tuesday, February 25. The two alternate sites will need to be surveyed. (b)(6) will attempt to get a decision/funds on developing access road designs.

13. Upcoming projects that will need to be expedited are as follows, in order of priority: Operation Desert Grip II, 44 Emergency Beacons, Four Checkpoints (Ajo and Casa Grande Stations), and Nogales Station EBS/EA.

As usual, please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.
Thanks.

(b)(6)