

pinniped deterrence methods should be a research priority for addressing expanding pinniped populations on the West Coast.

3. *Selectively reinstate authority for the intentional lethal taking of California sea lions and Pacific harbor seals by commercial fishermen to protect gear and catch.* Prior to the 1994 Amendments to the MMPA, commercial fishermen were allowed to kill certain pinnipeds as a last resort in order to protect their gear or catch. Although the 1992 NMFS legislative proposal contained provisions to continue such authority, it was not included in the 1994 Amendments to the MMPA. A limited authorization, based on demonstrated need, should be provided to certain commercial fishermen at specified sites to use lethal means, as a last resort, to protect their gear and catch from depredation by California sea lions and Pacific harbor seals until such time that effective non-lethal methods are developed for their specific situation.

4. *Information needs.* An array of additional information is needed to better evaluate and monitor California sea lion and Pacific harbor seal impacts on salmonids and other components of the West Coast ecosystems. Details of such studies are described in the draft report to Congress.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1389(f)

Dated: March 24, 1997.

Hilda Diaz-Soltero,

*Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Amendment of Export Visa Requirements for Certain Man-Made Fiber Products Produced or Manufactured in the People's Republic of China

March 24, 1997.

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs amending visa requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Aldrich, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended; section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854).

Effective on April 1, 1997, for goods produced or manufactured in China and exported on and after April 1, 1997, a part-category visa will be required for textile products in Category 666-C. For textile products in Category 666, other than 666-C, a 666 visa will be required. During the period April 1, 1997 through April 30, 1997, U.S. Customs Service will accept either the new or the old visa. Goods exported on and after May 1, 1997 shall be denied entry if not visaed as 666 (other than 666-C) or 666-C.

See 60 FR 22567, published on May 8, 1995.

Troy H. Cribb,

*Chairman, Committee for the Implementation
of Textile Agreements.*

**Committee for the Implementation of Textile
Agreements**

March 24, 1997.

Commissioner of Customs,

*Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC
20229.*

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directive issued to you on May 3, 1995, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive establishes an export visa arrangement for certain cotton, wool, man-made fiber, silk blend, and other vegetable fiber textiles and textile products, produced or manufactured in the People's Republic of China.

Effective on April 1, 1997, goods produced or manufactured in China and exported on and after April 1, 1997, in Category 666 shall require a 666 (other than 666-C)¹ or 666-C² visa. During the period April 1, 1997 through April 30, 1997, you are directed to accept either the new or old visa. Goods exported on and after May 1, 1997 shall be denied entry if not visaed as 666 (other than 666-C) or 666-C.

Shipments entered or withdrawn from warehouse according to this directive which are not accompanied by an appropriate export visa shall be denied entry and a new visa must be obtained.

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements has determined that this action falls within the foreign affairs exception to the rulemaking provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(1).

Sincerely,

Troy H. Cribb,

*Chairman, Committee for the Implementation
of Textile Agreements.*

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

Cost Comparison Studies

The Air Force is conducting the following cost comparisons in accordance with OMB Circular A-76, Performance of Commercial Activities.

Installation	State	USAF Project Title
Maxwell AFB	AL	General Library.
Maxwell AFB	AL	Grounds Maintenance.
Clear	AK	Power Production.
Eielson AFB	AK	Miscellaneous Services.
Eielson AFB	AK	Admin Telephone PBX.
Elmendorf AFB	AK	Power Production.
Elmendorf AFB	AK	Military Family Housing Management.
Edwards AFB	CA	Base Supply.
Los Angeles AFS	CA	Communication Functions.
Los Angeles AFS	CA	Publications Distribution Office.
Los Angeles AFS	CA	Education Services.
March AFB	CA	Airfield Operations & Weather.

¹ Category 666: all HTS numbers except 6303.92.2000 (Category 666-C).

² Category 666-C: only HTS number 6303.92.2000.

Installation	State	USAF Project Title
March AFB	CA	Transient Aircraft Maintenance.
March AFB	CA	Base Operating Support (BOS).
Onizuka AFS	CA	Utilities Plant.
Vandenberg AFB	CA	Base Operating Support.
Vandenberg AFB	CA	Structural Maintenance.
Buckley ANGB	CO	Airfield Management.
Falcon AFB	CO	Communication O&M.
Falcon AFB	CO	Utilities Plant.
Peterson AFB	CO	Base Operating Support.
Eglin AFB	FL	Library.
Eglin AFB	FL	Education Services.
Eglin AFB	FL	Acquisition Security.
Eglin AFB	FL	Civil Engineering.
Homestead AFB	FL	Airfield Operations & Weather.
Homestead AFB	FL	Base Operating Support.
Hurlburt Com Field	FL	Grounds Maintenance.
Hurlburt Com Field	FL	Transient Aircraft Maintenance.
Patrick AFB	FL	Base Operating Support.
Tyndall AFB	FL	BOS & Backshop Aircraft Maintenance.
Dobbins AFB	GA	Control Tower Operations.
Dobbins AFB	GA	Communication Functions.
Dobbins AFB	GA	Weather Services.
Dobbins AFB	GA	Base Operating Support.
Robins AFB	GA	Audiovisual.
Robins AFB	GA	Military Family Housing Maintenance.
Ramstein AB	Germany	Mess Attendants.
Spangdahlem AB	Germany	Mess Attendants.
Grissom	IN	Airfield Operations & Weather.
Grissom	IN	Transient Aircraft Maintenance.
Grissom	IN	Base Operating Support.
New Orleans NAS	LA	Base Operating Support.
Hanscom AFB	MA	Audiovisual.
Hanscom AFB	MA	Data Automation.
Hanscom AFB	MA	Vehicle O&M.
Hanscom AFB	MA	Laboratory Support Services.
Otis ANGB	MA	Transient Aircraft Maintenance.
Westover AFB	MA	Control Tower Operations.
Westover AFB	MA	Weather Services.
Westover AFB	MA	Base Operating Support.
Andrews AFB	MD	Administrative Support.
Minneapolis/St Paul	MN	Communication Functions.
Minneapolis/St Paul	MN	Base Operating Support.
Columbus AFB	MS	Base Operating Support.
Keesler AFB	MS	Technical Training Center, Equip. Maint.
Malmstrom AFB	MT	Base Supply.
Multiple Installations	Multi	Technical Training, Electronic Printing Training.
McGuire AFB	NJ	Military Family Housing Maintenance.
Cannon AFB	NM	Military Family Housing Maintenance.
Kirtland AFB	NM	Base Supply.
Kirtland AFB	NM	PMEL.
Kirtland AFB	NM	VEHICLE O&M.
Nellis AFB	NV	Military Family Housing Maintenance.
Niagara Falls IAP	NY	Weather Services.
Niagara Falls IAP	NY	Base Operating Support.
Wright-Patterson AFB	OH	Base Operating Support.
Youngstown Municipal Arpt	OH	Base Operating Support.
Tinker AFB	OK	Communication Functions.
Greater Pittsburgh Arpt	PA	Base Operating Support.
Willow Grove NAS	PA	Base Operating Support.
Brooks AFB	TX	Laboratory Support Services.
Carswell AFB	TX	Base Operating Support.
Lackland AFB	TX	Grounds Maintenance.
Lackland AFB	TX	Animal Caretaking.
Laughlin AFB	TX	Aircraft Maintenance.
Laughlin AFB	TX	Base Communications.
Sheppard AFB	TX	Technical Training, Telephone Systems.
Hill AFB	UT	Grounds Maintenance.
Hill AFB	UT	Recreational Support.
Gen Mitchell Field	WI	Base Operating Support.
F E Warren AFB	WY	Base Supply.

Carolyn A. Lunsford.

Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.
[FR Doc. 97-7904 Filed 3-27-97; 8:45 am]
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Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers**Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement to Evaluate a Permit Application by Empire, Ltd.**

AGENCY: Corps of Engineers, DoD.
ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: Empire, Ltd., of Wood-Ridge, New Jersey, has submitted an application for a Department of the Army permit to discharge 2.5 million cubic yards of dredged and/or fill material into 206 acres of waters of the United States, including wetlands, to facilitate the construction of a commercial mall with retail and office space, hotel, light industrial facilities, roads, and infrastructure. The discharge of dredged and/or fill materials into waters of the United States requires a Department of the Army Permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process will assist the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in determining whether to issue or deny a permit for the project under these authorities. This action is taking place in accordance with the USACE procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (33 CFR Parts 230 and 325).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Joseph J. Seebode, Chief, Regulatory Branch, New York District Corps of Engineers, 26 Federal Plaza, Room 1937, New York, New York 10278-0090, Telephone (212) 264-3996.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**1. Project Description**

Empire, Ltd. submitted an application for a Department of the Army permit to discharge approximately 2.5 million cubic yards of dredged and/or fill material into 206 acres of waters and wetlands, to create dry land to facilitate the construction of a major commercial development project. The project, known as Meadowlands Mills, would include a shopping mall, entertainment center, office complex, hotel, mass transit center, light industrial facilities, and associated parking structures and roadways. The project is proposed to be developed by Empire, Ltd., and the Mills Corporation of Arlington, Virginia. The work is proposed on a 592 acre site

containing wetlands and open waters adjacent to the Hackensack River within the Hackensack Meadowlands District in the Townships of Carlstadt, Moonachie, and South Hackensack, Bergen County, New Jersey. The applicant has submitted a wetlands mitigation plan with the application proposing enhancement, creation, and preservation activities, to establish approximately 380 acres of higher value wetlands onsite.

On February 6, 1997, USACE completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the Corps of Engineers and Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA. The EA was prepared utilizing information made available through the public interest process until that date, including the issuance of a public notice and the conduct of two public hearings in the vicinity of the project. The EA concluded that USACE will require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement to process the application.

2. Reasonable Alternatives

In addition to the no action alternative, reasonable alternatives to be considered include the following:

- a. Off-site alternatives to construction as proposed
- b. On-Site alternatives to construction as proposed
- c. Construction Techniques

3. EIS Scoping

As part of the EIS scoping process, comments on the proposed scope of the EIS will be accepted until 45 days after the publication of this Notice of Intent in the **Federal Register**; all comments should be addressed to the contact person indicated above. In addition to receiving written comments, the USACE will receive oral comments during a public scoping meeting scheduled for the latter part of the scoping period. Notice of the public scoping meeting will be made through mailings and/or legal notices in local newspapers.

4. Public Participation in the EIS Process

The EIS process will provide opportunities for full participation by interested federal, state, and local agencies, as well as other interested organizations and the general public. All interested parties are encouraged to submit their names and addresses to the contact person indicated above for inclusion on the distribution list for the draft and final EIS and any related public notices.

5. Federal Agency Participation in the EIS Process

Federal agencies with an interest in this EIS effort are requested to participate as cooperating agencies pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1501.6. All interested federal agencies are requested to submit a letter of intent to Colonel Gary Thomas, Corps of Engineers, District Engineer.

John R. Hartmann,
Chief, Operations Division.
[FR Doc. 97-7906 Filed 3-27-97; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[Docket No. EA-142]

Application To Export Electric Energy; Eastern Power Distribution, Inc.

AGENCY: Office of Fossil Energy, DOE.
AGENCY: Notice of application.

SUMMARY: Eastern Power Distribution, Inc. (EPD), a power marketer, has submitted an application to export electric energy to Canada pursuant to section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act.
DATES: Comments, protests or requests to intervene must be submitted on or before April 28, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments, protests or requests to intervene should be addressed as follows: Office of Coal & Power Im/Ex (FE-52), Office of Fossil Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585 (FAX 202-287-5736).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Xavier Puslowski (Program Office) 202-586-4708 or Michael Skinker (Program Attorney) 202-586-6667.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Exports of electricity from the United States to a foreign country are regulated and require authorization under section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act (FPA) (16 U.S.C. 824a(e)).

On March 7, 1997, EPD filed an application with the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) for authorization to export electric energy to Canada as a power marketer, pursuant to section 202(e) of the FPA. Specifically, EPD has proposed to transmit to Canada electric energy purchased from suppliers in the United States and Mexico.

EPD would arrange for the exported energy to be transmitted to Canada, over the international transmission facilities owned by Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Bonneville Power Administration, Citizens Utilities,