

10 PUBLIC REVIEW PROCESS AND RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

Public involvement in the review of draft supplemental environmental impact statements (SEISs) is stipulated in 40 CFR Part 1503 of the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and in OPNAVINST 5090.1B. These regulations and guidance provide for active solicitation of public comment via the scoping process, public comment periods, and public hearings. This chapter has been prepared to document the public involvement process in preparation of the Draft SEIS. This chapter in the Final SEIS will present responses to questions and comments raised by individual commentors during the public comment period on the Draft SEIS.

10.1 Public Review Process

The Notice of Intent (NOI) for this SEIS was published in the *Federal Register* on July 28, 2003 (FR Vol. 68 No. 144). It broadly described the decision to prepare a supplemental analysis to provide additional information regarding the environment that could be potentially affected by employment of SURTASS LFA sonar and additional information related to mitigation of the potential impacts of the system.

10.1.1 Filing and Distribution of the Draft SEIS

Commencing in November 2005, copies of the Draft SEIS will be distributed to agencies and officials of federal, state, and local governments, citizen groups and associations, and other interested parties.

10.1.2 Public Review Period and Public Hearings

A 45-day public review and comment period on the Draft SEIS will commence when the Notice of Availability (NOA) is published in the *Federal Register*. During this period, public hearings will be held in:

- Washington, DC;
- San Diego, CA; and
- Honolulu, HI.

Notification for the public hearings will be published in the *Federal Register* and in local newspapers. The hearings will be conducted in accordance with NEPA requirements.

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