the suitability of the land for historic monument purposes.

Any adverse comments will be reviewed by the State Director. In the absence of any adverse comments, the classification will become effective 60 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: August 21, 1998.

Scott Powers,

Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 98–23277 Filed 8–28–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–DN–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of release of draft environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the release of a draft environmental assessment (EA) on a proposal to implement Phase I of road rehabilitation for US Route 209 within the park.

EA Comment Period: Comments on or before September 26, 1998.

Copies available at: Website: www.nps.gov/dewa

Park Headquarters, River Road, Bushkill, PA 18324

Warren County Library, Belvidere, NJ 07823

Kemp Library, East Stroudsburg University, E Stroudsburg PA 18301

State Library of PA, PO Box 1601, Harrisburg, PA 17105

Easton Area Public Library, 6th and Church Street, Easton, PA 18042

Sussex County Library, 125 Morris Turnpike, Newton, NJ 07860

New Jersey State Library, 185 West State Street CN 520, Trenton, NJ 08625

Eastern Monroe Public Library, 1002 North Ninth Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Pike County Library, 201 Broad Street, Milford, PA 18337

This draft environmental assessment, prepared by the National Park Service, deals with the environmental consequences of Phase I of proposed road rehabilitation of US Route 209. The project is proposed just south of the Milford town limits, with the rehabilitation of culverts, bridges and retaining walls between Bushkill and Milford. Specifically, this project proposes road rehabilitation between mile markers 18.1 and 20.8, and road structure rehabilitation at mile marker 7.8, 10.9, 14.6, 17.4 and 18.3. There will be traffic control and potential traffic delays associated with this work.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: US Route 209 is a primary north-south road along the Pennsylvania -side of the Delaware River, connecting Interstate-80 (I–80) and Interstate-84 (I–84). Within the boundaries of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, US Route 209 is a two-lane, undivided highway connecting the towns of Bushkill and Milford, Pennsylvania. This section of road is maintained by the National Park Service under the Federal Highways Program. The existing road surface has deteriorated and presents some potential safety-hazards. US Route 209 is an important north-south road within the park, and is a critical link for surrounding communities. The maintenance and repair of this road is vital to the annual average of 8,000 vehicles/day which use it.

The EA is available for public comment. Any member of the public may file a written comment. Comments should be addressed to the Superintendent, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, River Road, Bushkill, PA 18324.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Superintendent, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Bushkill, PA 18324, 717–588–2418.

Dated: August 19, 1998.

William G. Laitner,

Superintendent.

Congressional Listing for Delaware Water Gap NRA

Honorable Frank Lautenburg, U.S. Senate, SH–506 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510–3002

Honorable Robert G. Torricelli, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510–3001

Honorable Richard Santorum, U.S. Senate, SR 120 Senate Russell Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Arlen Specter, U.S. Senate, SH–530 Hart Senate Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510–3802

Honorable Paul McHale, U.S. House of Representatives, 511 Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515–3815

Honorable Joseph McDade, U.S. House of Representatives, 2370 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515–3810

Honorable Margaret Roukema, U.S. House of Representatives, 2244 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515–3005

Honorable Tom Ridge, State Capitol, Harrisburg, PA 17120

Honorable Christine Whitman, State House, Trenton, NJ 08625

[FR Doc. 98–23274 Filed 8–28–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–70–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Keweenaw National Historical Park, Michigan

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice—Record of Decision.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Interior, National Park Service, has prepared a Record of Decision on The Final General Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Keweenaw National Historical Park, in Houghton County, Michigan.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Frank Fiala, Superintendent, Keweenaw National Historical Park, P.O. Box 471, Calumet, Michigan 49931–0471. Telephone number 906–337–3168.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

The Department of the Interior, National Park Service, has prepared this Record of Decision on the Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (FGMP/EIS) for Keweenaw National Historical Park, in Houghton County, Michigan. This Record of Decision is a statement of the decision made, the background of the project, other alternatives considered, the basis for the decision, the environmentally preferable alternative, measures to minimize environmental harm, and public involvement in the decision-making process.

Decision

The National Park Service will implement the proposed action as described in the Alternative 4 and Actions Common to All sections in the Final General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement issued in June 1998.

The intent of the proposed action is to create a dynamic national park area that commemorates the significance of copper mining on the Keweenaw Peninsula. Over time, the National Park Service will establish a strong public presence in the Quincy and Calumet park units through ownership, management, and interpretation of key resources. Also, through technical and financial assistance to the community, the National Park Service will be a contributing member of an organized and active partnership of local

government and community groups that will work toward preservation and interpretation of park and area resources. This approach will in the long term best meet the purposes of Public Law 102–543 and provide the broadest level of resource protection and visitor services for the park and its cooperating sites.

In concept, this plan would be implemented by gradually building park funding and a staff of professionals to provide increased financial and technical assistance to the partners and cooperating sites and other community groups to facilitate the preservation, maintenance, and interpretation of resources. Once a strong assistance program is established, the NPS would begin a concerted program to acquire or otherwise protect and interpret significant properties in the Calumet and Quincy units of the park, as funding and staffing levels and legal constraints permit.

Initially, visitors will depend primarily on the preservation accomplishments and interpretive programs of park cooperating sites and others to gain an understanding of the park and region and its significance. Gradually visitors will experience a much more traditional national park visit as more resources within the park boundary are preserved and interpreted by the park and community. At least one property in each unit will be leased or acquired for park administrative and visitor use facilities, with the intent that a Quincy visitor facility will provide most visitors the first point of introduction and orientation to the park, and that the park headquarters and additional visitor orientation services will be located in Calumet.

The Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was established as part of Public Law 102–543 to, among other things, advise and assist the Secretary of the Interior in the planning and implementation of this general management plan. Toward this end, the commission will serve as the catalyst to bring interested public and private agencies on the Keweenaw Peninsula together and help facilitate and organize their activities toward achieving the intent of Public Law 102–543 and the park's general management plan. While the responsibility and authority for the management of the park will remain with the NPS, the Park Service will pursue through appropriate methods the amendment of Public Law 102–543 to activate the commission's operating authorities. These authorities will allow the Commission the ability to conduct educational programs, accept donations, and acquire real property to further the purposes of Public Law 102–543.

A limited number of cooperative sites will be established that represent a unique story that is not well represented within park boundaries. These sites would be eligible for funding or assistance from the Commission and the partnership and consultative assistance from the NPS. The NPS would have no liability for the sites. Within park boundaries, the NPS can enter into cooperative agreements with owners of nationally significant historic properties and they would be eligible for specific NPS financial and technical assistance, regardless of whether they are designated cooperating sites.

The NPS will use various methods of leasing, acquiring, or otherwise protecting properties primarily in the core industrial areas in the park. Department of the Interior policy 602 DM 2, section 2.4, regulates acquisition of real property contaminated by hazardous material. This policy allows a degree of flexibility that is not permitted by language in the legislation that created Keweenaw National Historical Park (KEWE). The NPS will seek, through legislative processes, to modify that language, thereby assuring KEWE is on the same footing as other parks in the system with regard to property acquisition. A land protection plan will be developed for the park and will establish priorities for acquisition of lands or interests in lands.

Additional future studies and plans will be needed to implement the broad guidance of the general management plan, such as historic structure reports, a historic resource study, a cultural landscape report, an ethnographic overview, oral history interviews, a comprehensive interpretive plan, a resource management plan, a boundary study, and hazardous substances surveys for lands proposed for acquisition.

Background of Project

The concept of a park to commemorate the significance of copper mining on the Keweenaw Peninsula surfaced in northern Michigan in 1974. In response to a congressional request, the National Park Service prepared national historic landmark nominations that resulted in the establishment in 1989 of the Quincy Mining Company Historic District and the Calumet Historic District. A Study of Alternatives, Proposed Keweenaw National Historical Park, was prepared in 1991 and its findings led Congress to pass Public Law 102–543 on October 27, 1992. Public Law 102–543 established Keweenaw National Historical Park as a unit of the National Park System. The purposes of the legislation are to (1) preserve the nationally significant historical and cultural sites, structures, and districts of a portion of the Keweenaw Peninsula in the State of Michigan for the education, benefit, and inspiration of present and future generations; and (2) to interpret the historic synergism between the geological, aboriginal, sociological, cultural, technological, and corporate forces that relate the story of copper on the Keweenaw Peninsula.

The legislation also established the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission to advise and assist the Secretary of Interior. While the legislation identified operating authorities for the Commission, President Bush did not activate those authorities due to incongruities in the language related to how Commission members were appointed. These operating authorities, once activated, will provide the avenue by which much of the legislative intent, especially as it relates to the preservation and interpretation of resources outside the park boundaries, can be realized.

The Quincy unit, with about 1,120 acres, is just northeast of the city of Hancock and adjacent to Portage Lake. It includes the remnant structures and mines of the Quincy Mining Company and its associated historic landscape, including the Quincy Smelter. About 11 miles to the northeast is the Calumet unit. It includes about 750 acres of remnant administrative and mine buildings and the associated historic landscape of the Calumet and Hecla Mining Company, and the supporting commercial and residential areas of the Village of Calumet and Calumet Township.

Other Alternatives Considered

The Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement describes four alternatives for management actions, the environment that would be affected by those alternatives, and the environmental consequences of implementing the alternative actions. The major topic areas covered in each alternative are visitor experience and interpretation, financial and technical preservation assistance, acquisition of properties, development and use of properties, administration and operation, and implementation. An earlier preliminary management concept looked at NPS acquisition and management of virtually every significant property in the two park units. This was considered but rejected due to cost and contradiction of the partnership approach to

management envisioned by the park's enabling legislation.

The three alternatives that have been considered in addition to the Alternative 4 proposed action can be characterized as follows:

Alternative 1, the no-action alternative, proposes no changes in the current management direction. Visitors would still rely primarily on the services provided by groups like the Quincy Mine Hoist Association and Coppertown USA and other sites to learn about the historic resources and the history of copper mining on the Keweenaw. Calumet would remain primarily a self-discovery area, although some information would be available at park headquarters and other places. The park staff would continue to work in partnership with the community to find ways to protect resources and provide visitor services. These efforts would be limited by minimal NPS staffing and funding.

The community assistance alternative, alternative 2, would place the community at the forefront of implementing preservation actions and interpretive and educational programs at sites throughout the park. The protection of the park's significant resources would be vested in the local governments through the designation of local historic districts and preservation ordinances. The National Park Service would remain primarily in the background in a support role, providing a comprehensive program of technical and financial assistance to the community to help make their actions a success. The primary areas of interaction between NPS staff and visitors would be at a destination visitor facility in the Quincy unit; basic visitor services and administrative offices would be provided in a facility at Calumet.

Alternative 3 proposes a much more traditional park experience in the core industrial areas of each park unit. As funding and staffing levels allowed, the NPS would invest substantially in each of the core industrial areas by acquiring significant properties, conducting resource preservation, and adaptively using the structures. Interpretive staff and media would be located at key sites. Partnerships would be established and technical and financial assistance provided in order to advance preservation of core industrial area resources. Preservation and interpretation of resources outside the core areas would be dependent on the efforts of the community.

Basis For Decision

Alternative 4, the selected action, combines the best aspects of alternatives 2 and 3. This results in potentially the broadest level of resources protection, interpretation, visitor services, and the optimum opportunity for high quality visitor experiences. This approach remains true to a major partnership approach by placing significant emphasis on the role of the advisory commission and park partners, yet ensures the National Park Service will have a very public role in the management and interpretation of resources.

Environmentally Preferable Alternative

Environmentally preferable is defined as ''the alternative that will promote the national environmental policy as expressed in NEPA's section 101. Ordinarily, this means the alternative that causes the least damage to the biological and physical environment; it also means the alternative which best protects, preserves, and enhances historic, cultural, and natural resources'' (Forty Most Asked Questions Concerning CEQ's National Environmental Policy Act Regulations, 1981).

Alternative 4, the selected action, is the environmentally preferable action. It best meets the full range of national environmental policy goals as stated in NEPA's section 101. Alternative 4 combines the two major resource preservation strategies presented in alternatives 2 and 3. A comprehensive financial and technical assistance program will provide more opportunities for the community to accomplish preservation and education efforts within the park and surrounding community. A strong partnership between all entities will help ensure good communication and effective decision making regarding the highest and best use of available funds and expertise. And, a strong NPS presence will show Federal commitment to and leadership in resource preservation and management. The NPS acquisition program will result in additional protection of structures and landscapes. The emphasis on preserving and adaptively using the many historic structures limits the future need for significant new development and natural resource disturbance.

Measures To Minimize Environmental Harm

All practicable measures to avoid or minimize environmental impacts that could result from implementation of the selected action have been identified and incorporated in the selected action. These measures are presented in the FGMP/EIS. However, due to the programmatic nature of the general management plan, specific implementation projects will be reviewed as necessary for compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, and other applicable Federal and State laws and regulations prior to project clearance and implementation. Specific measures to minimize environmental harm will be included in implementation plans called for (as necessary) by the FGMP/EIS. These plans include: a historic resource study, a cultural landscape report, historic structure reports, an ethnographic assessment, a resource management plan, development concept plans, schematic design documents, archeological surveys, a land protection plan, level 1, 2, and 3 hazardous substances surveys, and a boundary study.

The following measures will be implemented by Keweenaw National Historical Park to avoid or minimize environmental harm as a result of implementing the selected action, or to enhance protection of resources on the Keweenaw Peninsula.

- Keweenaw National Historical Park will work cooperatively with the advisory commission, state, county, township, city, and village agencies, community organizations, and individual landowners to preserve and manage resources and provide for public use. Key to this is assisting local jurisdictions in establishing local historic districts and preservation ordinances. Ordinances would promote both preservation of historic properties and compatible design of new development in the park. This will lead to enhanced protection of landscapes and structures, as well as to enhanced enjoyment of these resources by the public.
- The park will establish preservation financial assistance grants to encourage preservation projects by private property owners. Grant criteria would include adherence to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.
- The park will engage in additional study, data collection, and monitoring, especially of archeological and ethnographic resources, cultural landscapes, historic structures, and visitor uses to provide the knowledge base needed to make informed decisions for the long-term protection and preservation of park resources.
- The park will acquire and provide appropriate architectural treatment and use of some historic structures. Treatments will conform to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. Prior to acquisition the resources proposed for acquisition will be surveyed to

determine the nature and extent of hazardous materials contamination, if any.

• Short- and long-term soil disturbance and vegetation loss from construction activities, including parking areas, pulloffs, walkways, utility lines, public facilities, and landscape restoration, will be minimized through appropriate erosion control and revegetation and placement of facilities on previously disturbed areas wherever possible.

Public Involvement

Public scoping meetings for the general management plan were held in the Keweenaw area in 1994 and 1995, including meetings with the Commission and park partners. A scoping newsletter with comment form was distributed in May 1995. Park issues, vision statements, purpose and significance statements, and interpretive themes were drafted as part of this process.

In September 1995, a briefing booklet on conceptual planning alternatives was distributed for review and comment, and public meetings were held in Houghton, Calumet, Marquette, and Lansing during the week of September 12, 1995. In February 1996, meetings and briefings were held with members of the advisory commission and park partners on the preliminary draft plan. Substantial revisions were made per those meetings and a revised preliminary draft plan and environmental document was distributed for review during the fall of 1996. On December 10 and 11, 1996, further meetings were held with the advisory commission and other park partners, local agencies, and cooperating sites. Substantive comments focused on concern that the seriousness of the hazardous materials issue had been overstated and presented too negatively; the need to formalize the current informal arrangements between the NPS and cooperating sites; and that formal recognition and establishment of a workable partnership arrangement was needed that did not weaken the authority of the park's advisory commission and treated other groups as partners, not as ''friends'' of the park.

Reflecting many revisions in response to comments on the preliminary draft, the Draft General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement was printed and made available to the public on September 1, 1997. The official review period closed on October 31, 1997. Copies were placed on review in local libraries and government offices and were mailed primarily to the park's mailing list of agencies and organizations. A summary newsletter was distributed to others announcing public meetings and the availability of the draft document. The first meeting was held at Calumet Elementary on September 22, 1997 and approximately 35 attended. A second public meeting was held on September 23, 1997 at Suomi College in Hancock, with about 15 attending. During the 60-day public comment period, seven letters were received. These letters were reproduced in the final document along with agency responses.

The Final General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement was made available for a 30-day no-action period on June 19, 1998. Approximately 250 copies of the FGMP/EIS were distributed primarily to key agencies and organizations. Copies were made available in local libraries and government agencies and upon request. The FGMP/EIS contains a full summary of the public involvement process and substantive comments received.

Approved: August 13, 1998.

David Given,

Acting Regional Director, Midwest Region, National Park Service.

[FR Doc. 98–23273 Filed 8–28–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–70–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Death Valley National Park Advisory Commission; Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Federal Advisory Commission Act that a meeting of the Death Valley National Park Advisory Commission will be held September 16 and 17, 1998; assemble at 8:00 AM at the Quality Inn, 1520 East Main Street, Barstow, California.

The main agenda will include:

• Overview of the General Management Plan (GMP)

• Discussion of GMP alternatives

• Items for Discussion at Upcoming Meetings

The Advisory Commission was established by Pub. L. 3–433 to provide for the advice on development and implementation of the General Management Plan.

Members of the Commission are Janice Allen, Kathy Davis, Michael Dorame, Mark Ellis, Pauline Esteves, Stanley Haye, Sue Hickman, Cal Jepson, Joan Lolmaugh, Gary O'Connor, Alan Peckham, Michael Prather, Robert Revert, Wayne Schulz, and Gilbert Zimmerman.

This meeting is open to the public.

Richard H. Martin,

Superintendent, Death Valley National Park.

[FR Doc. 98–23275 Filed 8–28–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–70–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Delaware and Lehigh Navigation Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission Meeting

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces an upcoming meeting of the Delaware and Lehigh Navigation Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission. Notice of this meeting is required under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463).

Meeting Date and Time: Friday, September 11, 1998; 1:30–4:00 p.m.

Address: Residence of Ben and Carole Walbert, 87 Broadway, Jim Thorpe, PA 18229.

The agenda for the meeting will focus on implementation of the Management Action Plan for the Delaware and Lehigh Canal National Heritage Corridor and State Heritage Park. The Commission was established to assist the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and its political subdivisions in planning and implementing an integrated strategy for protecting and promoting cultural, historic and natural resources. The Commission reports to the Secretary of the Interior and to Congress.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Delaware and Lehigh Navigation Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission was established by Pub. L. 100–692, November 18, 1988.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Denise G. Holub, Chief Financial Officer/Grants Administrator, Delaware and Lehigh Navigation Canal, National Heritage Corridor Commission, 10 E. Church Street, Room A–208, Bethlehem, PA 18018, (610) 861–9345.

Dated: August 20, 1998.

Denise G. Holub,

Chief Financial Officer/Grants Administrator, Delaware and Lehigh Navigation Canal NHC Commission.

[FR Doc. 98–23297 Filed 8–28–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820–PE–M