



**U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection**

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NOV 20 2007

COUNTY JUDGE

The Honorable J.D. Salinas  
Hidalgo County Judge  
PO Box 1356  
Edinburg, Texas 78539

**Subject: Notice of Availability and Public Meeting Announcement for the Draft  
Environmental Impact Statement for Construction, Maintenance, and Operation  
of Tactical Infrastructure, Rio Grande Valley Sector, Texas, U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Border Patrol**

Dear Judge Salinas,

While no final decisions on the fence locations have been made, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), U.S. Border Patrol (USBP), a component of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), hereby announces the availability of and invites public comments on a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq., (NEPA), CBP has prepared the Draft EIS to identify and assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed construction, maintenance, and operation of tactical infrastructure to include a pedestrian fence, access roads, and patrol roads along approximately 70 miles of the U.S./Mexico international border within USBP Rio Grande Valley Sector, Texas (the Proposed Action). The Proposed Action would be implemented in 21 discrete fence sections, which would range from approximately 1 mile to more than 13 miles in length. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to assist USBP agents and officers in gaining effective control of our nation's borders.

The EIS complies with NEPA, the Council on Environmental Quality regulations in 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, and DHS Management Directive 5100.1, *Environmental Planning Program*.

A Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS was published in the Federal Register (72 FR 54276) on September 24, 2007. On November 16, 2007, the Environmental Protection Agency and CBP will publish a Notice of Availability (NOA) and Public Open House Announcement for the Draft EIS in the Federal Register.