

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 48,000.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: The cost to the government for this work is included in the total cost of the 1997 Economic Census, estimated to be \$218 million.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: April 15, 1996.

Linda Engelmeier,

Acting Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 96-9726 Filed 4-18-96; 8:45 am]

Billing Code 3510-07-P

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Weather Service Modernization and Associated Restructuring

AGENCY: National Weather Service (NWS), NOAA, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice and opportunity for public comment.

SUMMARY: The National Weather Service is publishing proposed certifications for the proposed consolidations of:

- (1) Residual Minneapolis Weather Service Office (RWSO) into the future Minneapolis WFO;
- (2) Columbus Weather Service Office (WSO) into the future Birmingham, Tallahassee, and Atlanta Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs);
- (3) Residual Lubbock WSO into the future Lubbock WFO;
- (4) Macon WSO into the future Atlanta and Tallahassee WFOs;
- (5) Residual Portland, OR WSO into the future Portland, OR WFO; and

(6) Salem, OR WSO into the future Portland, OR WFO.

In accordance with Pub. L. 102-567, the public will have 60-days in which to comment on these proposed consolidation certifications.

DATES: Comments are requested by June 18, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the proposed consolidation packages should be sent to Janet Gilmer, Room 12316, 1325 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, telephone 301-713-0276. All comments should be sent to Janet Gilmer at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julie Scanlon at 301-713-1413.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NWS anticipates consolidating:

- (1) the Residual Indianapolis Weather Service Office (RWSO) with the future Indianapolis WFO;
- (2) the Residual Minneapolis Weather Service Office (RWSO) with the future Minneapolis WFO;
- (3) the Columbus Weather Service Office (WSO) with the future Birmingham, Tallahassee, and Atlanta Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs);
- (4) the Residual Lubbock WSO with the future Lubbock WFO;
- (5) the Macon WSO with the future Atlanta and Tallahassee WFOs;
- (6) the Residual Portland, OR WSO with the future Portland, OR WFO; and
- (7) the Salem, OR WSO with the future Portland, OR WFO. In accordance with section 706 of Pub. L. 102-567, the Secretary of Commerce must certify that these consolidations will not result in any degradation of service to the affected areas of responsibility and must publish the proposed consolidation certifications in the FR. The documentation supporting each proposed certification includes the following:

- (1) a draft memorandum by the meteorologist-in-charge recommending the certification, the final of which will be endorsed by the Regional Director and the Assistant Administrator of the NWS if appropriate, after consideration of public comments and completion of consultation with the Modernization Transition Committee (the Committee);
- (2) a description of local weather characteristics and weather-related concerns which affect the weather services provided within the service area;
- (3) a comparison of the services provided within the service area and the services to be provided after such action;
- (4) a description of any recent or expected modernization of NWS operation which will enhance services in the service area;

(5) an identification of any area within the affected service area which would not receive coverage (at an elevation of 10,000 feet) by the next generation weather radar network;

(6) evidence, based upon operational demonstration of modernized NWS operations, which was considered in reaching the conclusion that no degradation in service will result from such action including the WSR-88D Radar Commissioning Report(s), User Confirmation of Services Report(s), and the Decommissioning Readiness Report (as applicable); and

(7) a letter appointing the liaison officer.

These proposed certifications do not include any report of the Committee which could be submitted in accordance with sections 706(b)(6) and 707(c) of Pub. L. 102-567. At their December 14, 1995 meeting the members "... resolved that the MTC modify its procedure to eliminate proposed certification consultations of noncontroversial closings, consolidations, relocations, and automation certifications but will provide final consultation on certifications after public comment and before final submission to the Secretary of Commerce."

Documentation supporting the proposed certifications is too voluminous to publish in its entirety. Copies of the supporting documentation can be obtained through the contact listed above.

Draft memoranda by the respective meteorologists-in-charge recommending the certifications are being published as an appendix to this notice.

Once all public comments have been received and considered, the NWS will complete consultation with the Committee and determine whether to proceed with the final certifications. If decisions to certify are made, the Secretary of Commerce must publish the final certifications in the FR and transmit the certifications to the appropriate Congressional committees prior to consolidating the offices.

Dated: April 12, 1996.

Elbert W. Friday, Jr.,

Assistant Administrator for Weather Services.

Appendix—Draft Memoranda

Memorandum For: Richard P. Augulis,
Director, Central Region

From: Craig M. Edwards, MIC, NWSFO
Minneapolis, MN

Subject: Recommendation for Consolidation Certification.

In March 1995, a change of operations occurred when most personnel and most services provided by the WSFO at Minneapolis were transferred to the future

WFO site in Chanhassen, Minnesota. At that time, a Residual Weather Service Office (RWSO) was left in Minneapolis to continue the surface and radar observational programs. Since that time, the WSR-57 radar was decommissioned.

After reviewing the attached documentation and responding to all clients concerned about consolidation of services, I have determined, in my professional judgement, consolidation of the RWSO Minneapolis Office with the future Minneapolis Weather Forecast Office (WFO) at Chanhassen will not result in any degradation in weather services to the Minneapolis service area. Accordingly, I am recommending you approve this action in accordance with section 706 of Public Law 102-567. If you concur, please endorse this recommendation and forward this package to the Assistant Administrator for Weather Services for final certification. If Dr. Friday approves, he will forward the certification to the Secretary for approval and transmittal to Congress.

My recommendation is based on my review of the pertinent evidence and application of the modernization criteria for consolidation of a field office. In summary:

1. A description of local weather characteristics and weather-related concerns affecting the weather services provided in the pre-modernized service area is included as Attachment A.

2. A detailed list of the services currently provided within the Minneapolis, Minnesota service area from the Minneapolis RWSO location and a list of services to be provided from the future Minneapolis WFO location after the proposed consolidation is included as Attachment B. Comparison of these service shows that all services currently provided will continue to be provided after the proposed consolidation. Also, the enclosed map shows the pre-modernized WSO Minneapolis Area of Responsibility (i.e., "Affected Service Area") and the future WFO Minneapolis Area of Responsibility. As discussed below, I find that there will be no degradation of the quality of those services as a result of consolidation.

3. A description of the recent or expected modernization of National Weather Service (NWS) operations which will enhance services in the RWSO Minneapolis, Minnesota, service area is included as Attachment C. The new technology (i.e., ASOS, WSR-88D, and AWIPS) has or will be installed, and will enhance services.

4. A map showing planned NEXRAD coverage at an elevation of 10,000 feet for Minnesota is included as Attachment D. NWS operational radar coverage for the Minneapolis service area will be increased and no area will be missed in coverage.

5. The following evidence, based upon operational demonstration of modernized NWS operations, played a key role in concluding there will be no degradation of service:

A. The WSR-88D Radar Commissioning Report, Attachment E, validates that the WSR-88D meets technical specifications (acceptance test); is fully operational (satisfactory operation of system interfaces and satisfactory support of associated NWS

forecasting and warning services); service backup capabilities are functioning properly; a full set of operations and maintenance documentation is available; and spare parts and test equipment and trained operations and maintenance personnel are available on site.

B. The User Confirmation of Services, Attachment F, documents that all comments have been answered to the satisfaction of the commentors as stated in the Service Confirmation Report. Three negative comments pertained to the vendors, one pertained to less personal service now, one referred to the teletype hard copy of a warning and one comment when the WSR-88D went down. All negative comments were discussed and addressed to the customers' satisfaction. There were no local work-arounds, but one national work-around remains in effect which will not degrade services.

C. The Decommissioning Readiness Report, Attachment G, validates that the existing Minneapolis, Minnesota, WSR-57 radar is no longer needed to support services or products for local office operations.

6. A memorandum assigning the liaison officer for the RWSO Minneapolis service area is included as Attachment H.

I have considered recommendations of the Modernization Transition Committee (Attachment I) and the _____ public comments received during the comment period (Attachment J). On _____, the Committee voted to endorse the proposed consolidation (Attachment K). I believe all negative comments have been addressed to the satisfaction of our customers and I continue to recommend this certification.

Endorsement

I, Richard P. Augulis, Director, Central Region, endorse this consolidation certification.

Richard P. Augulis
Date _____

Attachments are not published in the Federal Register.
465 Weatherlane Road, Alabaster, AL 35007-5079,

Date _____
Memorandum For: Harry S. Hassel, Director,
Southern Region

From:
Gary S. Petti, MIC/Area Manager, NWSFO
Birmingham, AL
Carlos Garza, Jr., MIC/Area Manager,
NWSFO Atlanta, GA
Paul Duval, MIC, NWSO Tallahassee, FL
Subject: Recommendation for Consolidation
Certification, Columbus, GA

After reviewing the attached documentation, we have determined, in our professional judgement, that consolidation of the Columbus Weather Service Office (WSO) with the future Birmingham, Atlanta, and Tallahassee Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) will not result in any degradation in weather services to the Columbus service area. This proposed certification is in accordance with the advance notification provided in the National Implementation Plan. Accordingly,

we are recommending you approve this action in accordance with Section 706 of Public Law 102-567. If you concur, please endorse this recommendation and forward this package to the Assistant Administrator for Weather Services for final certification. If Dr. Friday approves, he will forward the certification to the Secretary for approval and transmittal to Congress.

Our recommendation is based on our review of the pertinent evidence and application of the modernization criteria for consolidation of a field office. In summary:

1. A description of local weather characteristics and weather-related concerns affecting the weather services provided in the Columbus service area is included as Attachment A. As discussed below, we find that providing the services, which address these characteristics and concerns, from future WFOs Birmingham, Atlanta, and Tallahassee will not degrade these services.

2. A detailed list of the services currently provided within the Columbus service area from the WSO Columbus location and a list of services to be provided from the future WFO Birmingham, Atlanta, and Tallahassee locations after consolidation is included as Attachment B. Comparison of these services shows that all services currently provided will continue to be provided after the proposed consolidation. Also, the enclosed map shows the WSO Columbus area of responsibility (i.e., "affected service area") and the future WFO Birmingham area of responsibility. As discussed below, we find that there will be no degradation in the quality of these services as a result of the consolidation.

3. A description of the recent or expected modernization of National Weather Service (NWS) operations which will enhance services in the WSO Columbus service area is included as Attachment C. The new technology (i.e., ASOS, WSR-88D, and AWIPS) has or will be installed and will enhance services.

4. Maps showing planned NEXRAD coverage at an elevation of 10,000 feet for Georgia and Alabama are included as Attachment D. NWS operational radar coverage for the specific service area will be increased and no area will be missed in coverage.

5. The following evidence, based upon operational demonstration of modernized NWS operations, played a key role in concluding there will be no degradation of service.

a. The WSR-88D Radar Commissioning Reports for NWSFOs Birmingham and Atlanta and NWSO Tallahassee, Attachment E, validate that the WSR-88Ds meet technical specifications (acceptance test) and are fully operational (satisfactory operation of system interfaces and satisfactory support of associated NWS forecasting and warning services), service back-up capabilities are functioning properly, a full set of operations and maintenance documentation is available, and spare parts and test equipment and trained operations and maintenance personnel are available on site. Two national work-arounds remain in effect.

b. The User Confirmation of Services for NWSFOs Birmingham and Atlanta and

NWSO Tallahassee, Attachment F, document that no negative comments were received from the WSO Columbus service area.

c. The Decommissioning Readiness Report, Attachment G, verifies that the existing Columbus WSR-74C radar is no longer needed to support services or products for local office operations.

6. A memorandum assigning the liaison officer for the Columbus service area is included in Attachment H.

We have considered recommendations of the Modernization Transition Committee (Attachment I) and the _____ public comments received during the comment period (Attachment J). On _____, the Committee voted to endorse the proposed consolidation (Attachment K). We believe all negative comments have been addressed to the satisfaction of our customers and we continue to recommend this certification.

Endorsement

I, Harry S. Hassel, Director, Southern Region, endorse this consolidation certification.

Harry S. Hassel

Dates _____

Attachments are not published in the Federal Register.
2579 S. Loop 289, Suite 100, Lubbock, TX
79423-1400

Date _____

Memorandum For: Harry S. Hassel, Director,
Southern Region

From: Walter R. Anderson, AM/MIC NWSFO
Lubbock, TX

Subject: Recommendation for Consolidation
Certification

A change of operations occurred at the Lubbock Weather Service Forecast Office (WSFO) in December 1993 when most of the personnel were transferred to the facility of the WSR-88D and assumption of forecast and warning responsibility for the Lubbock service area. The office at the original WSFO location was designated a Residual Weather Service Office (RWSO) and continued to be the site for recording surface observations and operating the WSR-74C.

Based on the attached documentation and my professional judgment, I have determined that consolidation of RWSO Lubbock with the future WFO Lubbock will not result in any degradation in weather services to the Lubbock area. This proposed certification is in accordance with the advance notification provided in the National Implementation Plan. Accordingly, I am recommending that you approve this action in accordance with Section 706 of Public Law 102-567. If you concur, please endorse this recommendation and forward this package to the Assistant Administrator for Weather Services for final certification. If Dr. Friday approves, he will forward the certification to the Secretary for approval and transmittal to Congress.

My recommendation is based on my review of the pertinent evidence and application of the modernization criteria for consolidation of a field office. In summary:

1. A description of local weather characteristics and weather-related concerns affecting the weather services provided in the

Lubbock service area is included as Attachment A. As discussed below, I find that providing the services from WFO Lubbock which address these characteristics and concerns will not degrade these services.

2. A detailed list of services currently provided within the Lubbock service area from the RWSO Lubbock location and a list of services to be provided from the WFO Lubbock location after consolidation is included in Attachment B. Comparison of these services shows that all services will continue to be provided after the proposed consolidation. Also, the enclosed map shows the RWSO Lubbock area of responsibility (i.e., "affected service area") and the future WFO Lubbock area of responsibility. As discussed below, I find that there will be no degradation in the quality of these services as a result of the consolidation.

3. A description of the recent or expected modernization of National Weather Service (NWS) operations which will enhance services in the Lubbock service area is included as Attachment C. The new technology (i.e., ASOS, WSR-88D, and AWIPS) has or will be installed and will enhance services.

4. A map showing planned WSR-88D radar coverage at an elevation of 10,000 feet over the Texas South Plains and surrounding area is included as Attachment D. NWS operational radar coverage is complete for the specific service area and no area will be missed in coverage.

5. The following evidence, based on operational demonstration of modernized NWS operations, played a key role in concluding there will be no degradation of service.

a. The WSR-88D Radar Commissioning Report, Attachment E, validates that the WSR-88D meets technical specifications (acceptance test) and is fully operational (satisfactory operation of system interfaces and satisfactory support of associated NWS forecasting and warning services), service back-up capabilities are functioning properly, and a full set of spare parts and test equipment and trained operations and maintenance personnel are available on site. Two national work-arounds remain in effect.

b. The User Confirmation of Services, Attachment F, documents that no negative comments were received.

c. The Decommissioning Readiness Report, Attachment G, verifies that the existing Lubbock WSR-74C radar is no longer needed to support services or products for local office operations.

6. A memorandum assigning the liaison officer for the RWSO Lubbock service area is included as Attachment H.

I have considered recommendations of the Modernization Transition Committee (Attachment I) and the _____ public comments received during the comment period (Attachment J). On _____, the Committee voted to endorse the proposed consolidation (Attachment K). I believe all negative comments have been addressed to the satisfaction of our customers and I continue to recommend this certification.

Endorsement

I, Harry S. Hassel, Director, Southern Region, endorse this consolidation certification.

Harry S. Hassel

Dates _____

Attachments are not published in the Federal Register.
Four Falcon Drive, Peachtree City, GA 30269

Date _____

Memorandum For: Harry S. Hassel, Director,
Southern Region

From:

Carlos Garza, Jr., MIC/Area Manager,
NWSFO Atlanta, GA

Paul Duval, MIC, NWSO Tallahassee, FL
Subject: Recommendation for Consolidation
Certification

After reviewing the attached documentation, we have determined, in our professional judgment, that consolidation of the Macon Weather Service Office (WSO) with the future Atlanta and Tallahassee Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) will not result in any degradation in weather services to the Macon service area. This proposed certification is in accordance with the advance notification provided in the National Implementation Plan. Accordingly, we are recommending you approve this action in accordance with Section 706 of Public Law 102-567. If you concur, please endorse this recommendation and forward this package to the Assistant Administrator for Weather Services for final certification. If Dr. Friday approves, he will forward the certification to the Secretary for approval and transmittal to Congress.

Our recommendation is based on our review of the pertinent evidence and application of the modernization criteria for consolidation of a field office. In summary:

1. A description of local weather characteristics and weather-related concerns affecting the weather services provided in the Macon service area is included as Attachment A. As discussed below, we find that providing the services which address these characteristics and concerns from future WFOs Atlanta and Tallahassee will not degrade these services.

2. A detailed list of the services currently provided within the Macon service area from WSO Macon and a list of services to be provided from the future WFO Atlanta and Tallahassee locations after consolidation is included as Attachment B. Comparison of these services shows that all services currently provided will continue to be provided after the proposed consolidation. Also, the enclosed map shows the WSO Macon area of responsibility (i.e., "affected service area") and the future WFO Atlanta area of responsibility. As discussed below, we find that there will be no degradation in the quality of these services as a result of the consolidation.

3. A description of the recent or expected modernization of National Weather Service (NWS) operations which will enhance services in the WSO Macon service area is included as Attachment C. The new technology (i.e., ASOS, WSR-88D, and

AWIPS) has or will be installed and will enhance services.

4. A map showing planned NEXRAD coverage at an elevation of 10,000 feet for Georgia is included as Attachment D. NWS operational radar coverage for the specific service area will be increased and no area will be missed in coverage.

5. The following evidence, based upon operational demonstration of modernized NWS operations, played a key role in concluding there will be no degradation of service.

a. The WSR-88D Radar Commissioning Reports for NWSFO Atlanta and NWSO Tallahassee, Attachment E, validate that the WSR-88Ds meet technical specifications (acceptance test) and are fully operational (satisfactory operation of system interfaces and satisfactory support of associated NWS forecasting and warning services), service back-up capabilities are functioning properly, and a full set of spare parts and test equipment and trained operations and maintenance personnel are available on site. Two national work-arounds remain in effect.

b. The User Confirmation of Services for NWSFO Atlanta and NWSO Tallahassee, Attachment F, document that two negative comments were received from the Macon service area. The negative comments have been answered to the satisfaction of the commenters as stated in the Service Confirmation Report.

c. The Decommissioning Readiness Report, Attachment G, verifies that the existing Macon WSR-74C radar is no longer needed to support services or products for local office operations.

6. A memorandum assigning the liaison officer for the Macon service area is included as Attachment H.

We have considered recommendations of the Modernization Transition Committee (Attachment I) and the _____ public comments received during the comment period (Attachment J). On _____, the Committee voted to endorse the proposed consolidation (Attachment K). We believe all negative comments have been addressed to the satisfaction of our customers and we continue to recommend this certification.

ENDORSEMENT

I, Harry S. Hassel, Director, Southern Region, endorse this consolidation certification.

Harry S. Hassel

Dates _____

Attachments are not published in the Federal Register.
Forecast Office, 5241 NE 122nd Avenue,
Portland, OR 97230-1089

Memorandum For: W/WR—Thomas D. Potter, Director, Western Region
From: Stephen K. Todd, Area Manager/MIC, NWSFP Portland, OR
Subject: Recommendation for Consolidation Certification

After reviewing the attached documentation, I have determined, in my professional judgment, consolidation of the Salem Weather Service Office (WSO) with the future Portland, OR Weather Forecast

Office (WFO) will not result in any degradation in weather services to the Salem service area. This proposed certification is in accordance with the advance notification provided in the National Implementation Plan. Accordingly, I am recommending you approve this action in accordance with section 706 of Public Law 102-567. If you concur, please endorse this recommendation and forward this package to the Assistant Administrator for Weather Services for final certification. If Dr. Friday approves, he will forward the certification to the Secretary for approval and transmittal to Congress.

My recommendation is based on my review of the pertinent evidence and application of the modernization criteria for consolidation of a field office. In summary:

1. A description of local weather characteristics and weather-related concerns affecting the weather services provided in the Salem service area is included as attachment A. As discussed below, I find that providing the services which address these characteristics and concerns from the future Portland, OR WFO will not degrade these services.

2. A detailed list of the services currently provided within the Salem service area from the Salem WSO location and a list of services to be provided from the future San Joaquin Valley WFO after consolidation is included as attachment B. Comparison of these services shows that all services currently provided will continue to be provided after the proposed consolidation. Also, the enclosed map shows the WSO Salem Area of Responsibility (i.e. "Affected Service Area"), and the future WFO Portland, OR Area of Responsibility. As discussed below, I find that there will be no degradation in the quality of these services as a result of the consolidation.

3. A description of the recent or expected modernization of National Weather Service (NWS) operations which will enhance services in the WSO Salem service area is included as attachment C. The new technology (i.e. ASOS, WSR-88D, and AWIPS) has or will be installed and will enhance services.

4. A map showing planned NEXRAD coverage at an elevation of 10,000 feet for California is included as attachment D. NWS operational radar coverage for the Salem service area will be increased and no area will be missed in coverage.

5. The following evidence, based upon operational demonstration of modernized NWS operations, played a key role in concluding there will be no degradation of service.

A. The WSR-88D RADAR Commissioning Report, attachment E, validates that the WSR-88D meets technical specifications (acceptance test); is fully operational (satisfactory operation of system interfaces and satisfactory support of associated NWS forecasting and warning services); service backup capabilities are functioning properly; a full set of operations and maintenance documentation is available; and spare parts and test equipment and trained operations and maintenance personnel are available on site. Training was completed, but one national work around remains in effect.

B. The final User Confirmation of Services, attachment F, documents that no negative comments were received. All users were satisfied.

C. The Decommissioning Readiness Report, attachment G, is not needed as there is no radar to decommission at Salem.

6. A memorandum assigning the liaison officer for the Salem service area is included as attachment H.

I have considered recommendations of the Modernization Transition Committee (Committee) (attachment I) and the _____ public comments received during the comment period (attachment J). On _____ the Committee voted to endorse the proposed consolidation (attachment K). I believe all negative comments have been addressed to the satisfaction of our customers and I continue to recommend this certification.

Endorsement

I, Thomas D. Potter, Director, Western Region, endorse this consolidation certification.

Thomas D. Potter

Date _____

Attachments are not published in the Federal Register.
Forecast Office, 5241 NE 122nd Avenue,
Portland, OR 97230-1089

Memorandum For: Thomas D. Potter, Director, Western Region
From: Stephen K. Todd, Area Manager/MIC, NWSFO Portland, OR
Subject: Recommendation for Consolidation Certification

A change in operations occurred at the Portland, OR Weather Service Forecast Office (WSO) in August 1994. During this month, most personnel were transferred to the future Portland Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Portland, Oregon to operate the WSR-88D, and assume forecast and warning responsibility for the Portland service area. At the same time, the original WSFO office was designated a Residual Weather Service Office (RWSO) to continue operating the WSR-74C, and maintain the surface observations.

After reviewing the attached documentation, I have determined, in my professional judgement, consolidation of the Portland Residual Weather Service Office (RWSO) with the future Portland Weather Forecast Office (WFO) will not result in any degradation in weather services to the Portland service area. This proposed certification is in accordance with the advance notification provided in the National Implementation Plan. Accordingly, I am recommending you approve this action in accordance with section 706 of Public Law 102-567. If you concur, please endorse this recommendation and forward this package to the Assistant Administrator for Weather Services for final certification. If Dr. Friday approves, he will forward the certification to the Secretary for approval and transmittal to Congress.

My recommendation is based on my review of the pertinent evidence and application of the modernization criteria for consolidation of a field office. In summary:

1. A description of local weather characteristics and weather-related concerns affecting the weather services provided in the Portland service area is included as attachment A. As discussed below, I find that providing the services which address these characteristics and concerns from the future Portland WFO will not degrade these services.

2. A detailed list of the services currently provided within the Portland service area from the Portland RWSO location and a list of services to be provided from the future Portland WFO after consolidation is included as attachment B. Comparison of these services shows that all services currently provided will continue to be provided after the proposed consolidation. Also, the enclosed map shows the RWSO Portland Area of Responsibility (i.e. "Affected Service Area"), and the future WFO Portland Area of Responsibility. As discussed below, I find that there will be no degradation in the quality of these services as a result of the consolidation.

3. A description of the recent or expected modernization of National Weather Service (NWS) operations which will enhance services in the RWSO Portland service area is included as attachment C. The new technology (i.e. ASOS, WSR-88D, and AWIPS) has or will be installed and will enhance services.

4. A map showing planned NEXRAD coverage at an elevation of 10,000 feet for Oregon is included as attachment D. NWS operational radar coverage for the Portland service area will be increased and no area will be missed in coverage.

5. The following evidence, based upon operational demonstration of modernized NWS operations, played a key role in concluding there will be no degradation of service.

A. The WSR-88D RADAR Commissioning Report, attachment E, validates that the WSR-88D meets technical specifications (acceptance test); is fully operational (satisfactory operation of system interfaces and satisfactory support of associated NWS forecasting and warning services); service backup capabilities are functioning properly; a full set of operations and maintenance documentation is available; and spare parts and maintenance personnel are available on site. Coordination was completed with one national work-around remaining in effect.

B. The Partial and Final User Confirmation of Services, attachment F, documents that two negative comments were received. Both negative comments addressed the same concern which was a valid problem. This problem has since been corrected to the satisfaction of each individual, as stated in the service Confirmation Report.

6. A memorandum assigning the liaison officer for the Portland service area is included as attachment H.

I have considered recommendations of the Modernization Transition Committee (Committee) (attachment I) and the _____ public comments received during the comment period (attachment J). On _____ the Committee voted to endorse the proposed consolidation (attachment K). I believe all negative comments have been

addressed to the satisfaction of our customers and I continue to recommend this certification.

Endorsement

I, Thomas D. Potter, Director, Western Region, endorse this consolidation certification.

Thomas D. Potter

Date _____

Attachments are not published in the Federal Register.

[FR Doc. 96-9497 Filed 4-18-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-12-M

[I.D. 040996C]

Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of application for an experimental fishing permit.

SUMMARY: This notice announces receipt of an application from Mr. David Fraser (applicant) for an experimental fishing permit (EFP). If granted, the EFP would authorize an investigation about the viability of using pelagic trawl gear to conduct directed fisheries on rockfish species in the Gulf of Alaska. It is intended to promote the objectives of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council).

ADDRESSES: Copies of the EFP application are available by writing to Steven Pennoyer, Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802, Attn: Lori Gravel.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ronald J. Berg, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska and its implementing regulations at 50 CFR part 672 authorizes issuance of EFPs to allow fishing that would otherwise be prohibited. The procedures for issuing EFPs are contained in the regulations at § 675.6. NMFS received a request from the applicant on December 26, 1995, that, if approved would provide specified amounts of groundfish species for purposes of being harvested with pelagic trawl gear to demonstrate the feasibility of catching certain rockfish which otherwise are harvested with bottom trawl gear. The requested amounts are as follows:

Pacific ocean perch - 75 metric tons (mt),
Yellowtail rockfish - 75 mt,
Widow rockfish - 150 mt, and

Other rockfish - 75 mt.

In accordance with regulations, NMFS has determined that the proposal warrants further consideration and has initiated consultation with the Council by forwarding the application to it. The Council will consider the EFP application during its April 17-22, 1996, meeting and has invited the applicant to appear in support of the application if the applicant desires. The meeting will be held at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska under agenda item D-1(d).

A copy of the application is available for review from the NMFS Regional Director (see **ADDRESSES**).

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: April 12, 1996.

Richard H. Schaefer,
Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 96-9713 Filed 4-18-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Request for Public Comments on Bilateral Textile Consultations with the Government of the Ukraine on Certain Cotton and Man-Made Fiber Textile Products

April 15, 1996.

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

ACTION: Notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Naomi Freeman, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. For information on categories for which consultations have been requested, call (202) 482-3740.

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).

On March 29, 1996, in accordance with Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended, the Government of the United States requested consultations with the Government of the Ukraine with respect to cotton and man-made fiber woven shirts in Categories 340/640, produced or manufactured in the Ukraine.

The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that, if no solution is agreed upon in consultations with the Government of the Ukraine, the