

established in this decision shall become effective upon approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) of the new information collection requirements adopted herein, but no sooner than October 4, 1996.

22. This is a non-restricted notice and comment rulemaking proceeding. *Ex parte* presentations are permitted, except during the Sunshine Agenda period, provided that they are disclosed as provided in the Commission rules. *See generally*, 47 CFR §§ 1.1202, 1.1203, and 1.1206(a).

23. Pursuant to applicable procedures set forth in Sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 1.415 and 1.419, interested parties may file comments on or before September 27, 1996, and reply comments on or before October 28, 1996. All pleadings must conform to Section 1.49(a) of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR § 1.49(a). To file formally in this proceeding, parties must file an original and six copies of all comments, reply comments and supporting comments. If parties want each Commissioner to receive a personal copy of their comments, they must file an original plus eleven copies. Parties should send comments and reply comments to Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554. Comments and reply comments will be available for public inspection during regular business hours in the FCC Reference Room of the Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, NW., Washington, DC 20554. For further information, contact Jacqueline Spindler at (202) 418-7200.

24. This Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking contains a proposed information collection. As required by Section 603 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Commission has prepared an Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA) of the expected impact on small entities of the proposals suggested in the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. As part of our continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, we invite the general public and the OMB to comment on the information collections contained in this Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law No. 104-13. Public and agency comments are due on September 27, 1996; OMB comments are due November 4, 1996. Comments should address: (a) Whether the modified and proposed collections of information are necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimates; (c)

ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. In addition to filing comments with the Secretary, a copy of any comments on the information collections contained herein should be submitted to Dorothy Conway, Federal Communications Commission, Room 234, 1919 M Street, NW., Washington DC 20554, or via the Internet to dconway@fcc.gov, and to Timothy Fain, OMB Desk Officer, 10236 NEOB, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503 or via the Internet to fain_t@al.eop.gov.

25. It is further ordered that the Secretary shall send a copy of this Report and Order and Memorandum Opinion and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, including the Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration in accordance with paragraph 603(a) of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, Public Law No. 96-354, 94 Stat. 1164, 5 U.S.C. 601 et seq. (1981).

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 1

Telecommunications, Television.

Federal Communications Commission.

William F. Caton,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-22427 Filed 9-3-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-U

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

48 CFR Parts 501, 504, 507, 510, 511, 512, 514, 515, 538, 539, 543, 546, 552 and 570

[APD 2800.12A, CHGE 70]

RIN 3090-AF86

General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation; Acquisition of Commercial Items

AGENCY: Office of Acquisition Policy, GSA.

ACTION: Extension of comment period and notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This public notice is issued to familiarize the public with the status of finalizing the interim rule which amended the General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation (GSAR) to implement Items I and III of Federal Acquisition Circular 90-32. These items in FAC 90-32 amended the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to

implement the portions of the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994 (Pub. L. 103-355) dealing with the Truth in Negotiation Act and with the acquisition of commercial items. The GSAR interim rule also canceled the Multiple Award Schedule (MAS) policy Statement of October 1, 1982 (47 FR 50242, November 5, 1982). This notice also extends the period for public comment and provides notification of a public meeting. GSA has made some revisions to the interim rule that was published in the February 16, 1996, Federal Register to address public comments and to take into account the enactment of the Federal Acquisition Reform Act of 1996. The revised coverage has been mailed to the public commentators and copies may be obtained by other interested parties.

DATES: *Comment Date:* Comments should be submitted in writing to the address shown below on or before September 30, 1996.

Meeting Date: The meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on September 19, 1996.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the revised coverage may be obtained by calling the GSA Acquisition Policy Division at 501-1224. Interested parties should submit written comments to the Office of Acquisition Policy (MV), General Services Administration, Room 4010, 18th & F Streets, NW, Washington, DC 20405.

The public meeting will be held at: General Services Administration Auditorium, 18th & F Streets, NW, Washington, DC, 20405.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Al Matera, Office of GSA Acquisition Policy, (202) 501-1224.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 16, 1996, a interim rule was published in the Federal Register (61 FR 6164). The interim rule afforded the public a 60-day comment period. During that time 13 organizations submitted comments. Based on comments received and the enactment of the Federal Acquisition Reform Act of 1996, GSA has refined the coverage. Accordingly, a copy of the revised coverage has been mailed to previous public commentators. The purpose of this notice is to advise the public generally of the availability of the revised coverage and enable other interested parties to obtain a copy by contacting the GSA Acquisition Policy Division.

To allow the public to present its views on the refinements to this interim rule, a public meeting will be held at the GSA Auditorium on September 19, 1996. Persons or organizations wishing to make presentations should notify

Marjorie Ashby at (202) 501-1224, and provide an advance copy of your remarks not later than September 17, 1996.

Dated: August 28, 1996.

Ida M. Ustad,

Deputy Associate Administrator for
Acquisition Policy.

[FR Doc. 96-22488 Filed 9-3-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820-61-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AC22

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Withdrawal of Proposed Rule To List the Barton Springs Salamander as Endangered

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule; withdrawal.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) withdraws the February 17, 1994, proposed rule (59 FR 7968) to list the Barton Springs salamander (*Eurycea sosorum*) as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The Service finds that information now available, discussed below, justifies withdrawal of the proposed listing of this species as endangered. Various agencies of the State of Texas have committed to expedite developing and implementing conservation measures needed for the species and the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer supporting its spring habitat, as set forth in the "Barton Springs Salamander Conservation Agreement and Strategy" (Agreement), signed August 13, 1996. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, the Texas Department of Transportation, and the Service are signatories to the Agreement. The cooperative Agreement addresses risks to the survival and recovery of the Barton Springs salamander through a combination of measures. These measures include: revision, adoption, and implementation of regulations to protect water quality in the Barton Springs watershed and the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer from degradation; development and implementation of Best Management Practices to address point source contaminants; refinement and enforcement of storage and disposal of hazardous waste protocols; increased

commitment to compliance enforcement, monitoring, and reporting; and development and implementation of local management plans to prevent degradation of surface and springhead habitat. The Agreement contains measures to address potential water quantity concerns and to establish captive refugia to prevent extinction in case of catastrophic or chronic events. Because the commitment by the State of Texas to fully implement the cooperative Agreement significantly reduces the risks to the species, the Service concludes that listing is no longer warranted.

ADDRESSES: The complete file for this rule is available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve Helfert, Field Supervisor (see **ADDRESSES** section) (512/490-0057; facsimile 512/490-0974).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Service withdraws the proposal to designate the Barton Springs salamander (*Eurycea sosorum*) as endangered, under the authority of the Endangered Species Act (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et. seq.*). The Barton Springs salamander is entirely aquatic and neotenic (meaning it does not metamorphose into a terrestrial form and retains its bright red external gills throughout life) and depends on a constant supply of clean, flowing water from Barton Springs. Adults attain an average length of 6.35 cm (2.5 in). This species is slender, with slightly elongate limbs and reduced eyes. Dorsal coloration varies from pale purplish-brown or gray to yellowish-cream. Irregular spacing of dorsal pigments and pigment gaps results in a mottled, "salt and pepper" pattern (Sweet 1978, Chippindale *et al.* 1993a).

The Barton Springs salamander was first collected from Barton Springs Pool in 1946 by Bryce Brown and Alvin Flury (Chippindale *et al.* 1993a,b). Although he did not publish a formal description, Dr. Samuel Sweet (University of California at Santa Barbara) was the first to recognize the Barton Springs salamander as distinct from other central Texas *Eurycea* salamanders based on its restricted distribution and unique morphological and skeletal characteristics (such as its reduced eyes, elongate limbs, dorsal coloration, and reduced number of presacral vertebrae) (Sweet 1978, 1984).

Based on Sweet's work and genetic studies conducted by the University of Texas and Chippindale *et al.* (1990, 1992, 1993b), the Barton Springs salamander was formally described in June 1993 (Chippindale *et al.* 1993a). An adult male (based on external examination only) collected from Barton Springs Pool in November 1992, was selected to be the holotype (Chippindale *et al.* 1993a).

The water that discharges at Barton Springs originates from the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer (hereafter referred to as the "Barton Springs segment"). Barton Springs is the fourth largest spring in Texas, exceeded only by Comal, San Marcos, and San Felipe springs (Brune 1981). The Barton Springs salamander is found near three of four hydrologically connected spring outlets that collectively make up Barton Springs. These three spring outlets are known as Parthenia (=Main), Eliza (=Concession, =Elk's), and Sunken Garden (=Old Mill, =Walsh) springs, and they occur in Zilker Park, which is owned and operated by the City of Austin. No salamanders have been found at the fourth spring outlet, which is in Barton Creek immediately above Barton Springs Pool (Chippindale *et al.* 1993a,b; Sweet, pers. comm., 1993; Hansen, *in litt.*, 1995a; William Russell, Texas Speleological Survey, *in litt.* 1995). The area around the main spring outlet (Parthenia Springs) was impounded in the late 1920's to create Barton Springs Pool. Flows from Eliza and Sunken Garden springs also are retained by concrete structures, forming small pools located on either side of Barton Springs Pool. The salamander has been observed at depths of about 0.1 to 5 m (0.3 to 16 ft) of water under gravel and small rocks, submerged leaves, and algae; among aquatic vegetation; and buried in organic debris. It is generally not found on exposed limestone surfaces or in silted areas (Sweet 1978; Dr. Charles Sexton, City of Austin, *in litt.*, 1992; Chippindale *et al.* 1993a,b; Jim Collett, Robert Hansen, and Mateo Scoggins, City of Austin, pers. comms., 1994-1995; O'Donnell, pers. obs., 1996).

"Dozens or hundreds" of individuals were estimated to occur among sunken leaves in Eliza Pool during the 1970's (Chippindale *et al.* 1993a,b), while fewer than 15, and occasionally no individuals, were observed during surveys conducted in Eliza Pool between 1987 and 1992 (Chippindale *et al.* 1993a, b). Fifteen salamanders were observed on November 16, 1992 (Chippindale *et al.* 1993a,b). No salamanders were observed at this location between December 1993 and