

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY****Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program: Proposed Findings; Documents, Environmental Assessments, and Findings of No Significant Impact**

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, and The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed findings documents, Environmental assessments, and findings of no Significant impact on approval of Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Programs for Massachusetts, Maryland, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the availability of the Proposed Findings Documents, Environmental Assessments (EA's), and Findings of No Significant Impact for Massachusetts, Maryland, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Coastal states were required to submit their coastal nonpoint programs to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for approval in July 1995. The Findings documents were prepared by NOAA and EPA to provide the rationale for the agencies' decision to approve each state and territory coastal nonpoint pollution control program. Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA), 16 U.S.C. 1455b, requires states and territories with coastal zone management programs that have received approval under section 306 of the Coastal Zone Management Act to develop and implement coastal nonpoint pollution control programs. The EA's were prepared by NOAA, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*, to assess the environmental impacts associated with the approval of the coastal nonpoint pollution control programs submitted to NOAA and EPA by Massachusetts, Maryland, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

NOAA and EPA have proposed to approve, with conditions, the coastal nonpoint pollution control programs submitted by Massachusetts, Maryland, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana

Islands. The requirements of 40 CFR parts 1500-1508 (Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations to implement the National Environmental Policy Act) apply to the preparation of the Environmental Assessments. Specifically, 40 CFR 1506.6 requires agencies to provide public notice of the availability of environmental documents. This notice is part of NOAA's action to comply with this requirement.

Copies of the Proposed Findings Documents, Environmental Assessments, and Findings of No Significant Impact may be obtained upon request from: Joseph P. Flanagan, Coastal Programs Division (N/ORM3), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS, NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910, tel. (301) 713-3121, x201.

DATES: Individuals or organizations wishing to submit comments on the proposed Findings or Environmental Assessments should do so by November 4, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be made to: Joseph A. Uravitch, Coastal Programs Division (N/ORM3), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS, NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910, tel. (301) 713-3155, x195.

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog 11.419 Coastal Zone Management Program Administration)

Dated: September 30, 1996.

David L. Evans,
Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Robert H. Wayland, III,
Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Environmental Protection Agency.

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National Weather Service Modernization and Associated Restructuring

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

ACTION: Notice and opportunity for public comment.

SUMMARY: The NWS is publishing the proposed certifications for the automation and consolidation of the following Weather Service offices. At each office the ASOS will be augmented at the FAA Weather Observation Service Level, determined appropriate. See the FAA Weather Observation Service Standards published by the FAA at 16 FR 32887 and the NWS Weather Service

Modernization Criteria for automation published at 61 FR 39862.

(1) Athens Weather Service Office (WSO) which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level C and services consolidated with the future Atlanta and Greenville/Spartanburg Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs);

(2) Austin WSO which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level C and services consolidated with the future Austin/San Antonio, Houston/Galveston, Dallas/Fort Worth, and San Angelo WFOs;

(3) Residual Billings WSO which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level B and services consolidated with the future Billings WFO;

(4) Eugene WSO which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level C and services consolidated with the future Portland and Medford WFOs; and

(5) Olympia WSO which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level C and services consolidated with the future Seattle/Tacoma and Portland WFOs.

In accordance with Public Law 192-567, the public will have 60-days in which to comment on these proposed automation and consolidation certifications.

DATES: Comments are requested by December 3, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the proposed automation and consolidation packages should be sent to Tom Beaver, Room 12314, 1325 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, telephone 301-713-0300. All comments should be sent to Tom Beaver at the above address.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with section 706 of Public Law 102-567, the Secretary of Commerce must certify that any automation or consolidation will not result in any degradation of service to the affected areas of responsibility and must publish the proposed automation and consolidation certifications in the FR. Automate means to replace employees weather service observations at a field office with automated weather service observation equipment and consolidate means to remove some personnel from a field office after the commissioning of one or more NEXRADs, the decommissioning of the radar operated by that office, if any, and the combination of that office's responsibilities with those of another field office. The documentation

supporting each proposed certification includes the following:

(1) A draft memorandum by the meteorologist(s)-in-charge recommending the certification, the final of which will be endorsed by the Regional Director and the Assistant Administrator of the NWS is 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) 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 ASOS

Commissioning Report; series of three letters between NWS and FAA confirming that weather services will continue in full compliance with applicable flight aviation rules after ASOS commissioning; Surface Aviation Observation Transition Checklist documenting transfer of augmentation and backup responsibility from NWS to FAA; successful resolution of ASOS user confirmation of services complaints; and an in-place supplementary data program at the responsible WFO(s).

(8) 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 of Public Law 102-567. At their December 14, 1995 meeting the Committee members “* * * resolved that the MTC modify its procedure to eliminate proposed certification consultations of noncontroversial closing, consolidations, relocations, and automation certifications but will provide final consultation on certifications after public comment and before final submission to the Secretary of Commerce.”

The above actions all are considered noncontroversial by the NWS. Also these proposed certifications do not include the documentation supporting them which is too voluminous to publish. Copies of the supporting documentation can be obtained through the contact listed above.

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 certification. If a decision to certify is made, the Secretary

of Commerce must publish the final certification in the FR and transmit the certification to the appropriate Congressional committees prior to automating and consolidating these offices.

Dated: October 1, 1996.
Elbert W. Friday, Jr.,
Assistant Administrator for Weather Services.
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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Transmittal No. 96-75]

36(b) Notification

AGENCY: Department of Defense, Defense Security Assistance Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Defense is publishing the unclassified text of a section 36(b) arms sales notification. This is published to fulfill the requirements of section 155 of P.L. 104-164 dated 21 July 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. A. Urban, DSAA/COMPT/FPD, (703) 604-6575.

The following is a copy of the letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Transmittal 96-75, with attached transmittal and policy justification pages.

Dated: October 1, 1996.

L. M. Bynum,
Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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