

U.S.C. 1433(a)). The NMSA is administered by NOAA through the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management of the National Ocean Service.

II. Administrative History

In January 1982, NOAA published a Program Development Plan (PDP) for the National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP), describing the Program's mission and goals, site identification and selection criteria, and the nomination and designation process. Based on the PDP and Program regulations, NOAA published a proposed SEL recommended to NOAA by regional resource evaluation teams. On August 4, 1983, NOAA published the final SEL (48 FR 35568). The SEL is described in the regulations for the National Marine Sanctuary Program at 15 CFR 922.10.

The Northwest Straits appeared on the SEL in 1983 as "Washington state Nearshore" (48 FR 35568). It was made an Active Candidate under the name of Northern Puget Sound by the 1988 reauthorization of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (Pub. L. No. 100-627 section 205) (54 FR 41481). This notice expanded the study area beyond that initially recognized in the SEL. A Discussion Paper presenting the rationale for a federal Sanctuary entirely in state waters, a description of some of the threats to the marine resources, and suggestions for ways in which the Sanctuary could address those threats was drafted for public review in 1993. NOAA, in conjunction with the State Department of Ecology, held 24 focus group meetings throughout the study area in March 1995 to ensure accurate information was considered for developing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Management Plan (DEIS/MP). Three public focus group meetings were held in May 1995, followed by two workshops in summer 1995 dedicated to discussing issues of education and research within the proposed sanctuary.

Throughout Fiscal Year 1996, NOAA worked with the State Department of Ecology to synthesize information gathered during the 1995 meetings and workshops, in anticipation of releasing a DEIS/MP, which was not completed. The 1996 reauthorization of the NMSA and subsequent Congressional instructions gave NOAA specific guidance as to the designation process for the proposed Northwest Straits NMS. Section 10 of Public Law 104-283 provided that, "No designation of an area in the Northwest Straits in the State of Washington as a national marine

sanctuary under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act shall take effect unless that designation is specifically authorized by a law enacted after the date of enactment of this Act." Accompanying statements by Senator Murray and Representative Metcalf resulted in the formation of an independent Citizen's Advisory Commission (CAC) comprised of 15 members representing local governments, tribes, users, ports, and environmentalists, and two facilitators. The statements instructed NOAA to act as "technical advisors" to the CAC and to include recommendations from the CAC in any decision document regarding the Northwest Straits.

The CAC initiated meetings in May 1997, and completed a final report in August 1998. In reaching a consensus on how best to address protection in the region, the CAC recommended the creation of a federally-funded regional, voluntary program for the seven counties adjacent to the waters of the Northwest Straits. The CAC did not recommend that a National Marine Sanctuary be established or considered further and explicitly proposed that no new regulatory authority be created or introduced.

III. Action

In consideration of the designation guidance in the 1996 NMSA reauthorization; the direction from Senator Murray and Representative Metcalf that NOAA consider recommendations put forward by local committees or commissions; the CAC's failure to recommend designation or further consideration of a national marine sanctuary for the Northwest Straits; the CAC's recommendation that no new regulatory authority be introduced for management and protection of the resources of the Northwest Straits at this time; and limited agency personnel and budgetary resources (which the NMSP has determined are necessary to devote to existing rather than new sites at this time), NOAA is withdrawing the site from Active Candidate status. Further consideration of the Northwest Straits for designation as a National Marine Sanctuary is discontinued.

NOAA will publish a final report of findings and recommendations to provide a tool to assist ongoing or new efforts for marine resource protection in the Northwest Straits. The report and additional materials and information about the Northwest Straits will be maintained at the NOAA Seattle Regional Library located at 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, Washington. In addition, the Northwest Straits web site

will include a downloadable version of the final report, and links to other relevant information. The web site address is <http://www.nwsnms.noaa.gov/> and will be on-line in October 1999.

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.429 Marine Sanctuary Program)

Dated: September 10, 1999.

Ted I. Lillestolen,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management.

[FR Doc. 99-24093 Filed 9-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Modernization Transition Committee

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

TIME AND DATE: September 28-29, 1999, beginning at 8 a.m. each day.

PLACE: National Interagency Fire Center, 3833 S. Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho 83705-5354.

STATUS: The meeting will be open to the public. On September 28, the time between 9:45 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. will be set aside for public comments regarding the proposed certifications of the Los Angeles (aviation), Redding, and Riverside, California, offices; the time between 1:15 p.m. and 1:45 p.m. will be set aside for public comments regarding the proposed certifications of the Fort Smith, Arkansas, office; and the time between 3 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. will be set aside for public comments regarding the Evansville, Indiana, office. On September 29, the time between 10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. will be set aside for public comments regarding the proposed certifications of the Huntsville, Alabama, office. Approximately 50 seats will be available to the public on a first-come first-served basis.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: On September 28, consultation on the proposed closure of the Olympia and Wenatchee, Washington, and Salem, Oregon, fire weather offices, the Los Angeles (aviation), Redding, and Riverside, California, weather offices, and the Fort Smith, Arkansas, weather office; and consultation on the Evansville Area Action Plan. On September 29, consultation on the proposed closure of the Huntsville, Alabama, office and review of the remaining National Weather Service (NWS) offices proposed for modernization.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Nicholas Scheller, NWS, Modernization
Staff, 1325 East-West Highway, Silver
Spring, Maryland 20910-3283.
Telephone: 301-713-0454.

Dated: September 9, 1999.

John J. Kelly, Jr.,

Assistant Administrator for Weather Services.
[FR Doc. 99-24009 Filed 9-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-KE-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

HQ USAF Scientific Advisory Board Meeting

The Science and Technology Panel on Munitions will meet at Eglin AFB, Florida on November 15-19, 1999 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to review the quality of the Air Force Science and Technology Program.

The meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with Section 552b(c) of Title 5, United States Code, specifically subparagraphs (1) and (4) thereof.

For further information, contact the HQ USAF Scientific Advisory Board Secretariat at (703) 697-8404.

Janet A. Long,

Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.
[FR Doc. 99-23980 Filed 9-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before November 15, 1999.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or

Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment.

The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: September 9, 1999.

William Burrow,

*Leader, Information Management Group,
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

Office of Vocational and Adult Education

Type of Review: Reinstatement.

Title: Vocational Technical Education Annual Performance and Financial Reports.

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: State, local or Tribal Gov't, SEAs and LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 54. Burden Hours: 6,400.

Abstract: The information contained in the Annual Performance Reports for Vocational Technical Education is needed to monitor the performance of the activities and services funded under the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998, Report to Congress on the Levels of Performance Achieved on the core indicators of performance, provide necessary outcome information to meet the Office of Vocational and Adult Education's (OVAE's) Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) goals for Vocational Technical Education, and provide documentation

for incentive awards under Title V of the Workforce Investment Act. The respondents include eligible agencies in 59 states and insular areas.

Written comments and requests for copies of the proposed information collection request should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651, or should be electronically mailed to the internet address OCIO_IMG_Issues@ed.gov or should be faxed to 202-708-9346.

For questions regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements, contact Sheila Carey at 202-708-6287 or electronically at her internet address Sheila_Carey@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

[FR Doc. 99-23985 Filed 9-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer invites comments on the submission for OMB review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before October 15, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Danny Werfel, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or should be electronically mailed to the internet address DWERFEL@OMB.EOP.GOV.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its