

enumeration simple forms (consisting of basic population and housing questions), a self-enumeration individual Census Report (used to gather population information from residents of group quarters), and a self-enumeration Be Counted form (used only in the rural sites and made available at convenient locations for persons who did not receive a questionnaire or believe they were not counted).

The two simple forms are identical in content, except for the household rostering questions.

Another component of this test will be to evaluate two alternative approaches to household rostering. One roster design, called the "rosterless" version, does not require the respondent to create a traditional roster list. It includes an abbreviated set of instructions on who should be included and not included, and ask the respondent to provide the number of persons in the household. The second roster design, called the "extended" roster, includes a sequential set of reminders about whom to include, such as non-relatives as well as related persons, mobile persons who may have more than one residence, and persons with no usual residence.

Enumerator-administered questionnaires, identical in content to the two simple forms discussed above, also will be used in this test to conduct nonresponse followup operations for housing units that do not return their questionnaires by mail. This request only addresses the enumerator questionnaire.

## II. Method of Collection

We will conduct a complete census in the three test sites. In the rural sites, census enumerators will deliver the questionnaires to the households. Respondents will be asked to complete the questionnaires and return them by mail in the postage-paid envelopes. In the Urban site, census questionnaires will be mailed to the housing units and returned in postage-paid envelopes.

Those housing units that do not return a census questionnaire by mail will be visited by enumerators who will conduct interviews using enumerator-administered questionnaires.

## III. Data

*OMB Number:* Not available.

*Form Number:* DT-1E (Enumerator Questionnaire).

*Type of Review:* Regular.

*Affected Public:* Individuals and households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 6,500 Housing units.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 5 minutes (DT-1E).

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: Total-541.66 hours.* The burden reflects time taken by field enumerators to complete the enumerator-administered census questionnaires during nonresponse followup for the 65 percent of household that we expect will not respond by mail. The burden for the enumerator forms, includes the portion of the form that is completed for vacant units.

DT-1E=541.66 hours [5 minutes x 6500 housing units].

*Estimated Total Annual Cost:* Same as costs identified in previous submission for this test.

## 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 estimates 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 records.

Margaret L. Woody,

*Office of Management and Organization.*

[FR Doc. 96-2952 Filed 2-13-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-07-P

## National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

### National Weather Service Modernization and Associated Restructuring

**ACTION:** Notice and Opportunity for Public Comment.

**SUMMARY:** The National Weather Service (NWS) is publishing proposed certifications for the proposed consolidations of:

- (1) Residual Moline Weather Service Office (RWSO) into the future Quad Cities WFO;
- (2) Residual Raleigh WSO into the future Raleigh/Durham WFO;
- (3) Hartford Weather Service Office (WSO) into the future Boston, New York

City and Albany Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs);

(4) Baltimore WSO into the future Baltimore, MD/Washington, DC; Philadelphia; and Wakefield WFOs;

(5) Norfolk WSO into the future Wakefield WFO;

(6) Richmond WSO into the future Wakefield, Roanoke, and Baltimore, MD/Washington, DC WFOs;

(7) Atlantic City WSO into the future Philadelphia WFO; and

(8) Wilmington (WSO) into the future Philadelphia WFO. In accordance with Public Law 102-567, the public will have 60-days in which to comment on these proposed consolidation certifications.

**DATE:** April 15, 1996.

**ADDRESS:** 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 Moline Weather Service Office (RWSO) with the future Quad Cities WFO;
- (2) The Residual Raleigh WSO with the future Raleigh/Durham WFO;
- (3) The Hartford Weather Service Office (WSO) with the future Boston, New York City and Albany Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs);
- (4) The Baltimore WSO with the future Baltimore, MD/Washington, DC; Philadelphia; and Wakefield WFOs;
- (5) The Norfolk WSO with the future Wakefield WFO;
- (6) The Richmond WSO with the future Wakefield, Roanoke, and Baltimore, MD/Washington, DC WFOs;
- (7) The Atlantic City WSO with the future Philadelphia WFO; and
- (8) The Wilmington WSO with the future Philadelphia 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 support 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 consolidation 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 Public Law 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.

Attached to this Notice are draft memoranda by the respective meteorologists-in-charge recommending the certifications.

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: February 9, 1996.

Louis J. Boezi,  
*Deputy Assistant Administrator for Modernization.*

Memorandum For: Richard P. Augulis,  
Director, Central Region  
From: Charles T. Fenley, MIC, NWSO Quad Cities, Davenport, IA  
Subject: Recommendation for Consolidation Certification

In February 1995, a change of operations occurred when most personnel and most services provided by WSO Moline (located at the Quad City Airport), were transferred to the future WFO site in Davenport, Iowa. At that time, a Residual Weather Service Office (RWSO) was left in Moline to continue the surface and radar observational programs. Since that time, the Quad City Airport (Moline) ASOS has been commissioned (July 1, 1995), the WSR-88D radar has been commissioned (September 7, 1995), and the WSR-74C radar has been decommissioned (January 19, 1996). Radar observational services, and the responsibility thereof, that had been provided from the Moline Office have been transferred to the future Quad Cities WFO in Davenport, Iowa.

After reviewing the attached documentation, I have determined, in my professional judgment, consolidation of the Moline, Illinois Residual Weather Service Office (RWSO) with the future Quad Cities (Davenport, Iowa) Weather Forecast Office (WFO) will not result in any degradation in weather services to the Moline, Illinois 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 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 to the pre-modernized Moline, Illinois 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 Quad Cities (Davenport, Iowa) WFO will not degrade these services.

2. A detailed list of the services currently provided, within the Moline, Illinois service area from the Moline, Illinois RWSO location and a list of services to be provided from the future Quad Cities (Davenport, Iowa) WFO location after the proposed 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 Moline, Illinois Area of Responsibility (i.e. “Affected Service Area”) and the future Quad

Cities (Davenport, Iowa) WFO Area of Responsibility. As discussed below, I find that there will be no degradation in 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 Moline, Illinois 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 southeast, east central Iowa, and northwest Illinois is included as Attachment D. NWS operation radar coverage for the RWSO Moline, Illinois service area will be increased.

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 from the Quad Cities (Davenport, Iowa), Attachment E, validate 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. A full compliment of spares is on-station, but two national work-arounds remain in effect.

B. The User Confirmation of Services from the Quad Cities (Davenport, Iowa), Attachment F, document that no negative comments were received.

C. The Decommissioning Readiness Report, Attachment G, validates that the old WSR-74C radar at Moline, Illinois is no longer needed to support services or products for local office operations.

6. A memorandum assigning the liaison officer for the Moline, Illinois 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 we continue to recommend certification.

#### Endorsement

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

Richard P. Augulis,  
Attachments

Memorandum For: W/ER—John T. Forsing  
From: Stephen Harned, AM/MIC NWSFO  
Raleigh/Durham, NC  
Subject: Recommendation for Consolidation Certification

A change of operations occurred at the Raleigh Weather Service Forecast Office (WSFO), located at the Raleigh Airport, in January 1994 when most personnel were transferred to the facility of the future Raleigh/Durham Weather Forecast Office (WFO) on the campus of North Carolina State University in Raleigh to operate the WSR-88D and assume forecast and warning responsibility for the Raleigh service area. At the same time the Raleigh Airport (RDU) location was designated a Residual Weather Service Office (RWSO) to continue operating the existing WSR-74C radar and taking surface airways observations.

After reviewing the attached documentation, I have determined, in my professional judgment, consolidation of the RWSO RDU with the future Raleigh/Durham Weather Forecast Office (WFO) will not result in any degradation in weather services to the Raleigh 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 Raleigh 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 Raleigh/Durham WFO will not degrade these services.

2. A detailed list of the services currently provided within the Raleigh service area from the RSWO RDU location and a list of services to be provided from the future Raleigh area WFO location after the proposed 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 RDU Area of Responsibility (i.e. "Affected Service Area") and the future WFO Raleigh 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 RDU service area is included as attachment C. The new technology (i.e. ASOC, WSR-88D, and AWIPS) has or will be installed and will enhance services.

4. A map showing planned NEXRAD coverage at an elevation of 1,000 feet for North Carolina and portions of surrounding areas is included as attachment D. NWS operational radar coverage for the Raleigh

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 from the Raleigh area, attachment E, validate that the WSR-88Ds meet technical specifications (acceptance test); are fully operational (satisfactory operation of system interface 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 two national work-arounds remain in effect.

B. The User Confirmation of Services from Raleigh attachment F, document that three negative comments were received. All negative comments have been answered to the satisfaction of the users as reflected in the report.

C. The Decommissioning Readiness Report, attachment G, verifies that the existing Raleigh 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 Raleigh service area is included at 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, John T. Forsing, Director, Eastern Region, endorse this consolidation certification.

John T. Forsing,

#### Attachments

Memorandum For: W/ER—John T. Forsing  
From:

Robert M. Thompson, AM/MIC NWSFO  
Boston, MA

Michael E. Wyllies, AM/MIC NWSFO New  
York City, NY

Warren Snyder, Acting MIC NWSFO  
Albany, NY

Subject: Recommendation for Consolidation  
Certification

After reviewing the attached documentation, we have determined, in our professional judgement, consolidation of the Hartford Weather Service Office (WSO BDL) with the future Boston, New York City and Albany Weather Forecast Office (WFOs) will not result in any degradation in weather services to the Hartford 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 Hartford service area is included as attachment A. As discussed below, we find that providing the services which address these characteristics and concerns from the future Boston, New York City and Albany WFOs, will not degrade these services.

2. A detailed list of the services currently provided within the Hartford service area from the WSO BDL location and list of services to be provided from the future Boston Area, New York City Area and Albany Area WFOs locations after the proposed 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 BDL Area of Responsibility (i.e. "Affected Service Area") and the future WFO Boston 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 BDL 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 Connecticut and portions of surrounding areas is included as attachment D. NWS operational radar coverage for the Hartford 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 from the Boston, New York City and Albany areas, attachment E, validate that the WSR-88Ds meet technical specifications (acceptance test); are 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 two national work-arounds remain in effect.

B. The User Confirmation of Services from the future Boston, New York City and Albany WFOs areas, attachment F, document that a total of seven comments required follow-up.

All negative comments have been answered to the satisfaction of the users as reflected in the report.

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

6. A memorandum assigning the liaison officer for the Hartford service area is included at 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, John T. Forsing, Director, Eastern Region, endorse this consolidation certification.

John T. Forsing,

Attachments

Memorandum For: W/ER—John T. Forsing  
From:

James Travers, AM/MIC NWSFO

Baltimore/Washington

G.C. Henricksen, AM/MIC NWSFO

Philadelphia, PA

Anthony Siebers, MIC NWSO Wakefield,  
VA

Subject: Recommendation for Consolidation  
Certification

After reviewing the attached documentation, we have determined, in our professional judgment, consolidation of the Baltimore Weather Service Office (WSO BWI) with the future Wakefield, Baltimore/Washington and Philadelphia Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) will not result in any degradation in weather services to the Baltimore 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 Baltimore service area is included as attachment A. As discussed below, we find that providing the services which address these characteristics and concerns from the future Wakefield, Baltimore/Washington and Philadelphia WFOs, will not degrade these services.

2. A detailed list of the services currently provided within the Baltimore service area from the WSO BWI location and list of

services to be provided from the future Wakefield, Baltimore/Washington and Philadelphia WFO locations after the proposed 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 BWI Area of Responsibility (i.e. "Affected Service Area") and the future WFO Baltimore/Washington 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 BWI 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 Maryland and portions of surrounding areas is included as attachment D. NWS operational radar coverage for the Baltimore 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 from the Wakefield, Baltimore/Washington and Philadelphia areas, attachment E, validate that the WSR-88Ds meet technical specifications (acceptance test); are 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 two national work-arounds remain in effect.

B. The User Confirmation of Services from the future Wakefield, Baltimore/Washington and Philadelphia WFO areas, attachment F, document that a total of six comments required follow-up. All negative comments have been answered to the satisfaction of the users as reflected in the report.

C. The Decommissioning Readiness Report, attachment G, is not necessary since WSO BWI does not have a radar.

6. A memorandum assigning the liaison officer for the Baltimore service area is included at 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, John T. Forsing, Director, Eastern Region, endorse this consolidation certification.

John T. Forsing,

Attachments

Memorandum For: W/ER—John T. Forsing

From: Anthony L. Siebers, MIC NWSO

Wakefield, VA

Subject: Recommendation for Consolidation  
Certification

After reviewing the attached documentation, I have determined, in my professional judgment, consolidation of the Norfolk Weather Service Office (WSO ORF) with the future Wakefield Weather Forecast Office (WFO) will not result in any degradation in weather services to the Norfolk 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 Norfolk 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 Wakefield WFO will not degrade these services.

2. A detailed list of the services currently provided within the Norfolk service area from the WSO ORF location and a list of services to be provided from the future Wakefield WFO location after the proposed 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 ORF Area of Responsibility (i.e. "Affected Service Area") and the future WFO Wakefield 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 ORF 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 Virginia and portions of surrounding areas is included as attachment D. NWS operational radar coverage for the Norfolk 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 from the Wakefield area, attachment E, validate that the WSR-88Ds meet technical specifications (acceptance test); are 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 two national work-arounds remain in effect.

B. The User Confirmation of Services from Wakefield, attachment F, document that three responses required follow-up. All negative comments have been answered to the satisfaction of the users as reflected in the report.

C. The Decommissioning Readiness Report, attachment G, is not needed as WSO ORF does not have a radar.

6. A memorandum assigning the liaison officer for the Norfolk service area is included at 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, John T. Forsing, Director, Eastern Region, endorse this consolidation certification.

John T. Forsing,

#### Attachments

Memorandum For: W/ER—John T. Forsing  
From:

Anthony Siebers, MIC NWSO Wakefield, VA

James Travers, AM/MIC NWSFO  
Baltimore/Washington

John V. Wright, MIC NWSO Roanoke, VA

Subject: Recommendation for Consolidation Certification

After reviewing the attached documentation, we have determined, in our professional judgment, consolidation of the Richmond Weather Service Office (WSO RIC) with the future Wakefield, Baltimore/Washington and Roanoke Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) will not result in any degradation in weather services to the Richmond 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 Richmond service area is included as attachment A. As discussed below, we find that providing the services which address these characteristics and concerns from the future Wakefield, Baltimore/Washington and Roanoke WFOs, will not degrade these services.

2. A detailed list of the services currently provided within the Richmond service area from the WSO RIC location and list of services to be provided from the future Wakefield, Baltimore/Washington and Roanoke WFOs locations after the proposed 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 RIC Area of Responsibility (i.e. "Affected Service Area") and the future WFO Wakefield 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 RIC 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 Virginia and portions of surrounding areas is included as attachment D. NWS operational radar coverage for the Richmond 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 from the Wakefield, Baltimore/Washington and Roanoke areas, attachment E, validate that the WSR-88Ds meet technical specifications (acceptance test); are 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 two national work-arounds remain in effect.

B. The User Confirmation of Services from the future Wakefield, Baltimore/Washington and Roanoke WFO areas, attachment F, document that a total of 13 comments required follow-up. All negative comments have been answered to the satisfaction of the users as reflected in the report.

C. The Decommissioning Readiness Report, attachment G, is not necessary since WSO RIC does not have a radar.

6. A memorandum assigning the liaison officer for the Richmond service area is included at 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, John T. Forsing, Director, Eastern Region, endorse this consolidation certification.

John T. Forsing,

#### Attachments

Memorandum For: W/ER—John T. Forsing  
From: Chet Henriksen, AM/MIC NWSFO  
Philadelphia, PA  
Subject: Recommendation for Consolidation Certification

After reviewing the attached documentation, I have determined, in my professional judgment, consolidation of the Weather Service Office (WSO) Atlantic City, NJ with the Philadelphia Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) will not result in any degradation in weather services to the Atlantic City 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 Atlantic City 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 Philadelphia WFO will not degrade these services.

2. A detailed list of the services currently provided within the Atlantic City service area from WSO Atlantic City location and a list of services to be provided from the future Philadelphia WFO location after the proposed 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 Atlantic City Area of Responsibility (i.e. "Affected Service Area") and the future WFO Philadelphia 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 Atlantic City 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 New Jersey and portions of surrounding areas is included as attachment D. NWS operational radar coverage for the Atlantic City 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 from Philadelphia, attachment E validate that the WSR-88D meet technical specifications (acceptance test); are 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 two national work-arounds remain in effect.

B. The User Confirmation of Services from Philadelphia, attachment F, document that no negative comments were received for the Philadelphia NWSFO area related.

C. The Decommissioning Readiness Report, attachment G, verifies that the existing Atlantic City 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 Atlantic City service area is included at 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, John T. Forsing, Director, Eastern Region, endorse this consolidation certification.

John T. Forsing,

Attachments

Memorandum For: W/ER—John T. Forsing  
From: Chet Henricksen, AM/MIC NWSFO  
Philadelphia, PA

Subject: Recommendation for Consolidation Certification

After reviewing the attached document, I have determined, in my professional judgement, consolidation of the Weather Service Office (WSO) Wilmington, DE with the future Philadelphia Weather Forecast

Office (WFO) will not result in any degradation in weather services to the Wilmington 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 Wilmington 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 Philadelphia WFO will not degrade these services.

2. A detailed list of the services currently provided within the Wilmington service area from WSO Wilmington location and a list of services to be provided from the future Philadelphia WFO location after the proposed consolidation is included in 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 Wilmington Area of Responsibility (i.e. "Affected Service Area") and the future WFO Philadelphia 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 Wilmington 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 Delaware and portions of surrounding areas is included as attachment D. NWS operational radar coverage for the Delaware 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 from Philadelphia, attachment E validate that the WSR-88D meet technical specifications (acceptance test); are 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 two national work-arounds remain in effect.

B. The User Confirmation of Services from Philadelphia, attachment F, document that no negative comments were received for the Philadelphia NWSFO area related.

C. WSO Wilmington does not have a radar, therefore, the Decommissioning Readiness Report, attachment G, is not necessary for this report.

6. A memorandum assigning the liaison officer for the Wilmington service area is included at 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, John T. Forsing, Director, Eastern Region, endorse this consolidation certification.

John T. Forsing,

Attachments

[FR Doc. 96-3379 Filed 2-13-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-12-M

### National Weather Service Modernization and Associated Restructuring

**ACTION:** Notice and opportunity for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** The National Weather Service (NWS) is publishing proposed certifications for the proposed consolidations of:

- (1) Residual Portland, ME Weather Service Office (RWSO) into the future Portland, ME WFO;
- (2) Concord Weather Service Office (WSO) into the future Portland, ME and Boston Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs);
- (3) Mansfield WSO into the future Cleveland WFO;
- (4) Youngstown WSO into the future Cleveland and Pittsburgh WFOs;
- (5) Dayton WSO into the future Cincinnati WFO;
- (6) Toledo WSO into the future Cleveland and Cincinnati WFOs;
- (7) Lynchburg WSO into the future Roanoke WFO;
- (8) Roanoke WSO into the future Roanoke WFO;
- (9) Cape Hatteras WSO into the future Morehead City and Wakefield WFOs;
- (10) Akron WSO into the future Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and Charleston, WV WFOs;
- (11) Columbus, OH WSO into the future Cincinnati, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and Charleston, WV WFOs;