

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

Dated: July 2, 1999.

Linda Engelmeier,

Department Forms Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 990513129-9129-01]

RIN 0648-ZA65

NOAA Climate and Global Change Program, Program Announcement

AGENCY: Office of Global Programs, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Climate and Global Change Program represents a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) contribution to evolving national and international programs designed to improve our ability to observe, understand, predict, and respond to changes in the global environment. This program builds on NOAA's mission requirements and longstanding capabilities in global change research and prediction. The NOAA Program is a key contributing element of the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), which is coordinated by the interagency Committee on Environmental and Natural Resources. NOAA's program is designed to complement other agency contributions to that national effort.

DATES: Unless otherwise noted, strict deadlines for submission to the FY 2000 process are: Letters of intent must be received at the Office of Global Programs (OGP) no later than July 31, 1999. Full proposals must be received at OGP no later than October 15, 1999. Applicants who have not received a response to their letter of intent within four weeks should contact the Program Manager. The time from target date to grant award varies by program area. We anticipate that review of full proposals will occur during late September 1999 through March 2000, and funding should begin during the spring of 2000 for most approved projects. May 1,

2000, should be used as the proposed start date on proposals, unless otherwise directed by the appropriate Program Officer. Applicants should be notified of their status within six months. All proposals must be submitted in accordance with the guidelines below. Failure to heed these guidelines may result in proposals being returned without review.

ADDRESSES: Letters of Intent and Proposals should be submitted to: Office of Global Programs; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; 1100 Wayne Avenue, Suite 1225; Silver Spring, MD 20910-5603.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Irma duPree at the above address, or at (301) 427-2089 ext. 107, fax: (301) 427-2222, Internet: duPree@ogp.noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Funding Availability

NOAA believes that the Climate and Global Change Program will benefit significantly from a strong partnership with outside investigators. Current Program plans assume that over 50% of the total resources provided through this announcement will support extramural efforts, particularly those involving the broad academic community. Because of ongoing debates on the Federal budget, it is uncertain how much money will be available through this announcement. Actual funding levels will depend upon the final FY 2000 budget appropriations. This Program Announcement is for projects to be conducted by investigators both inside and outside of NOAA, primarily over a one, two or three year period. The NOAA Climate and Global Change Program has been approved for multi-year funding up to a three year duration. The funding instrument for extramural awards will be a grant unless it is anticipated that NOAA will be substantially involved in the implementation of the project, in which case the funding instrument should be a cooperative agreement. Examples of substantial involvement may include but are not limited to proposals for collaboration between NOAA or NOAA scientists and a recipient scientist or technician and/or contemplation by NOAA of detailing Federal personnel to work on proposed projects. NOAA will make decisions regarding the use of a cooperative agreement on a case-by-case basis. Funding for non-U.S. institutions and contractual arrangements for services and products for delivery to NOAA is not available under this announcement. Matching share is not required by this program.

2. Program Authority

49 U.S.C. 44720(b); 33 U.S.C. 883d, 883e; 15 U.S.C. 2904; 15 U.S.C. 2931 *et seq.*; (CFDA No. 11.431)—CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

3. Program Objectives

The long term objective of the Climate and Global Change Program is to provide reliable predictions of climate variability and change with associated regional implications on time scales ranging from seasons to a century or more. NOAA believes that climate variability across these time scales can be modeled with an acceptable probability of success and are the most relevant for fundamental social concerns. Predicting the behavior of the coupled ocean-atmospheric-land surface system will be NOAA's primary contribution to a successful national effort to deal with observed or anticipated changes in the global environment. NOAA has a range of unique facilities and capabilities that can be applied to Climate and Global Change investigations. Proposals that seek to exploit these resources in collaborative efforts between NOAA and extramural investigators are encouraged.

4. Program Priorities

In FY 2000, NOAA will give priority attention to individual proposals in the Main Program Elements listed below. The names, affiliations and phone numbers of relevant Climate and Global Change Program Officers are provided. Funding for some programs may be limited to ongoing projects or may be used to fund projects proposed in FY 1999 that were unable to be funded due to budgetary circumstances. Prospective applicants should communicate with Program Officers for information on priorities within program elements and prospects for funding.

(A) Aerosols

The Aerosols program element focuses on research to improve the predictive understanding of the role of anthropogenic aerosols in climate focusing. For further information, please contact Joel Levy, NOAA/Office of Global Programs, 301-427-2089 ext. 111, Internet: levy@ogp.noaa.gov.

(B) Atmospheric Chemistry

The Atmospheric Chemistry Project focuses on global monitoring, process-oriented laboratory and field studies, and theoretical modeling to improve the predictive understanding of the atmospheric trace gases that influence the earth's chemical and radiative balance. For an information sheet containing further details, contact: Joel

M. Levy, NOAA/Office of Global Programs, 301-427-2089 ext. 111, Internet: levy@ogp.noaa.gov; or Fred C. Fehsenfeld, NOAA/Aeronomy Laboratory, Boulder, CO, 303-497-5819, Internet: fcf@al.noaa.gov.

(C) Climate and Societal Interactions (CSI)

Research on Vulnerability, Opportunities, and Response Options. Variability, change, and surprise results from a wide variety of climatological, social, economic and ecological circumstances and interactions. The purpose of this program is to increase understanding of the impacts of climate variability and change as conditioned by ongoing processes of decision-making and socio-economic transformation. The suite of efforts is intended to further research-based integration between studies of the whole of the climate system, including human components, such as health, and evolving informational and educational needs of decision-makers in climate sensitive sectors. The goal is to provide the basis for more effective application of climate information, including climate forecasts, for purposes of adaptation. The intent of this program is to encourage overlapping research approaches to integrate knowledge for problem solving. Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to communicate with Program Officers listed within this program.

(D) Human Dimensions of Global Change Research (HDGCR)

The Human Dimensions of Global Change Research program is aimed at understanding how social and economic systems are currently influenced by fluctuations in climate, and how human behavior can be (or why it may not be) affected based on information about variability in the climate system. In addition, a separate program announcement for HDGCR may be issued later this year because an interagency joint announcement on human vulnerability and opportunities associated with climate and environmental surprise is under consideration. For more information and a detailed information sheet, contact: Caitlin Simpson, NOAA/Office of Global Programs, 301-427-2089 ext. 152, Internet: simpson@ogp.noaa.gov.

A joint interagency announcement is also anticipated on Climate and Health. (For more information on this future announcement contact Juli Trtanj, NOAA/Office of Global Programs, 301-427-2089 ext. 134, Internet: trtanj@ogp.noaa.gov.)

(E) Regional Assessments

NOAA's present program of Regional Assessments possesses three distinct qualities: (1) Interdisciplinarity, integration and synthesis; (2) Bridging the gap between climatic, environmental and societal interactions on different temporal and spatial scales; and (3) Decision support and services. It requires innovative partnerships among a spectrum of interests (Federal, State, local and private) to enable regional organizational capacity to develop accurate (i.e., identifying risks, uncertainties, and/or indeterminacies), balanced syntheses and services on an ongoing basis. As such, the program relies heavily on consolidating the results and data from ongoing NOAA-OGP disciplinary program elements, already funded in a region, into an integrated framework. For more information and a detailed information sheet, contact: Roger Pulwarty, NOAA/Office of Global Programs, 301-427-2089 ext. 103, Internet: pulwarty@ogp.noaa.gov.

(F) Climate Change Date and Detection

The scientific goals of this element include efforts to: (1) Provide data and information management support activities needed to assure the availability of critical data sets from a variety of national and international programs of primary interest to NOAA's Climate and Global Change Program, e.g., the CLIVAR (Climate Variability and Predictability) Program, GEWEX (Global Energy & Water Cycle Experiment), GCOS (Global Climate Observing System), National and International Assessments, etc.; (2) provide data and information management support related to cross cutting science efforts necessary to assess seasonal, interannual, decadal, and longer climate variations and changes; (3) document the quantitative character of observed climate variations and changes; and (4) attribute changes in the observed climate record to specific climate forcings.

(G) NOAA/NASA Jointly Sponsored Project

A number of new starts are anticipated within the NOAA/National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) co-sponsored project that supports research in the areas of data fusion and enhancement of climate data sets through the use of space and/or ground based observations. Preference will be given to those proposals that use more than one observing system to develop a blended data set.

(H) NOAA/DOE Jointly Sponsored Project

A very limited number of new starts are anticipated within the NOAA/Department of Energy (DOE) co-sponsored project that specifically addresses all aspects of Climate Change Detection and Attribution.

Additional details on the jointly sponsored projects are provided on the supplementary fact sheet included in the Program Announcement mailing (additional copies of the supplementary fact sheet can be obtained from Irma duPree at the Office of Global Programs). For further information contact: Bill Murray, NOAA/Global Programs, 301-427-2089 ext. 133, Internet: murray@ogp.noaa.gov; Chris Miller, NOAA/Global Programs, 301-427-2089 ext. 143, Internet: miller@ogp.noaa.gov; Martha Maiden, NASA/Headquarters 202/358-1078, Internet: maiden@hq.nasa.gov; or Rick Petty, DOE/Environmental Sciences Division, Germantown, MD; 301-903-5548, Internet: Rick.Petty@oer.doe.gov.

(I) Climate Dynamics and Experimental Prediction

This program will not accept applications to initiate centers at new institutions, but will accept renewal applications for ongoing efforts or as part of ongoing negotiations. Qualified applications for this program may be submitted throughout the year. For further information, contact Mark Eakin, NOAA/Global Programs, 301-427-2089 ext. 109, Internet: eakin@ogp.noaa.gov.

(J) Climate Variability and Predictability (CLIVAR)

CLIVAR focuses on the role of the coupled ocean and atmosphere within the overall climate system, with emphasis on variability, especially within the oceans, on seasonal to centennial time scales. CLIVAR intends to explore predictability and how to improve predictions of climate variability and climate change using existing, re-analyzed, and new global observations, enhanced coupled ocean-atmosphere-land-ice models and paleoclimate records. A separate program announcement for CLIVAR will be issued later this year inviting proposals for CLIVAR Atlantic, CLIVAR Pacific (formerly GOALS), and CLIVAR PACS. Investigators interested in these program areas are encouraged to respond to this later announcement. For further information on the Atlantic, please contact James Todd, NOAA/Global Programs, 301/427-2089 ext. 139, Internet: todd@ogp.noaa.gov. For the Pacific and PACS efforts, please

contact, Michael Patterson, NOAA/ Global Programs, 301-427-2089 ext. 102, Internet: patterson@ogp.noaa.gov.

(K) Economics and Human Dimensions of Climate Fluctuations

Please see Climate and Societal Interactions (CSI) above.

(L) GEWEX Continental-Scale International Project (GCIP)

GCIP supports research directed at closing regional water and energy budgets, developing coupled hydrologic-atmospheric models and interpreting hydroclimatic predictions for water resource managers within the Mississippi River Basin. For this call priority will be given to research in the Missouri River Basin. Details of the priority research needs are outlined in the CCIP Major Activities Plan for the Large Scale Area—Northwest. A later joint GCIP/PACS call dealing with monsoonal circulations and summer precipitation is under consideration and will be outlined in a subsequent information sheet. For more information, contact Rick Lawford, NOAA/Office of Global Programs, 301-427-2089 ext. 146, Internet: lawford@ogp.noaa.gov.

(M) Global Carbon Cycle (GCC)

GCC focuses on global observations, process-oriented field studies and modeling to improve our ability to predict the fate of anthropogenic carbon dioxide (CO₂), and future CO₂ concentrations. A separate program announcement for GCC may be issued later this year because an interagency joint announcement in this area is under consideration. For an information sheet containing further details and the current priorities, please contact Lisa Dilling, NOAA/Office of Global Programs, 301-427-2089 ext. 106, Internet: dilling@ogp.noaa.gov or see the web at: <http://www.ogp.noaa.gov/MPE/GCC/GCCinfo.html>.

(N) Global Ocean—Atmosphere—Land System (GOALS):

Please see Climate Variability and Predictability (CLIVAR) above.

(O) Pan-American Climate Studies (PACS)

Please see Climate Variability and Predictability (CLIVAR) above.

(P) Ocean-Atmosphere Carbon Exchange Study (OACES)

Please see Global Carbon Cycle (GCC) above.

(Q) Paleoclimatology

The NOAA Paleoclimatology Program will entertain proposals that support the

joint IGBP PAGES/WCRP CLIVAR Research Initiative. This initiative is jointly supported by NOAA and the National Science Foundation (NSF) through the Earth System History (ESH) Program at NSF. All proposals must be submitted to the NSF/ESH Program by January 15 each year. For more information, please contact Heather Benway, NOAA/Global Programs, 301-427-2089 ext. 113, Internet: benway@ogp.noaa.gov; Jonathan Overpeck NOAA/National Geophysical Data Center, Boulder, CO; 303-497-6172, Internet: jto@mail.ngdc.noaa.gov; or Connie Sancetta, National Science Foundation (NSF) OCE Program, Arlington, VA; 703-306-1586, Internet: sancett@nsf.gov. or visit <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/1997/nsf9716/nsf97161.htm>.

5. Eligibility

Extramural eligibility is not limited and is encouraged with the objective of developing a strong partnership with the academic community. Universities, non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, State and local governments, and Indian Tribes, are included among entities eligible for funding under this announcement.

Funding for non-U.S. institutions is not available under this announcement.

6. Letters of Intent

Letters of Intent should provide a concise description of the proposed work and its relevance to the program element to which it is directed. (A) Investigators must identify the program element that is being pursued in the Letter of Intent. Failure to identify program element will result in return of application. Secondary program elements should also be identified, if appropriate. (B) Investigators must identify a project title in the Letter of Intent (LOI). (C) Letters should be no more than two pages in length and include the name and institution of principal investigator(s), a statement of the problem, brief summary of work to be completed, methodology to be used, and approximate cost of the project. (D) It is in the best interest of applicants and their institutions to submit letters of intent; however, it is not a requirement. (E) Facsimile and electronic mail are acceptable for letters of intent only. (F) Full proposals will be encouraged only for LOIs deemed relevant by Program Management.

7. Evaluation Criteria

Consideration for financial assistance will be given to those proposals that address one of the Program Elements

listed and meet the following evaluation criteria:

(A) *Scientific Merit*: Intrinsic scientific value of the subject and the study proposed, including methodology and readiness.

(B) *Relevance*: Importance and relevance to the goals of the selected Program Element(s). (See Program Objectives above)

8. Selection Procedures

All proposals, including those submitted by NOAA employees, will be evaluated in accordance with the above evaluation criteria by (A) independent peer mail review, and/or (B) independent peer panel review, and a rating will be calculated based on these evaluations; both NOAA and non-NOAA experts in the field may be used in this process. The program officer will not be a voting member of an independent peer panel. The recommendations and evaluations of the panel members will be considered by the Program Officer in final selections. Proposals are usually awarded in the numerical order they are ranked based on the independent peer mail review or the independent peer panel review. However, the Program Manager will ascertain which proposals do not substantially duplicate other projects that are currently funded by NOAA or are approved for funding by other federal agencies, and fall within remaining funds available. As a result of this review, the Program Manager may decide to select an award out of order. The Program Manager will also determine the total duration of funding and the amount of funding for each selected proposal. Unsatisfactory performance by a recipient under prior Federal awards may result in an application not being considered for funding.

9. Proposal Submission

The following forms are required in each application, with original signatures on each federal form. Failure to comply will result in proposal application being returned.

(A) *Full Proposals*: (1) Proposals submitted to the NOAA Climate and Global Change Program must include the original and two unbound copies of the proposal. (2) Investigators are required to submit 3 copies of the proposal, however, the normal review process requires 20 copies. For an optimal review, investigators are encouraged to submit sufficient proposal copies, especially color or unusually sized (not 8.5"x11"), or otherwise unusual materials submitted as part of the proposal. Only three

original copies of the Federally-required forms are needed. (3) Proposals must be limited to 30 pages (numbered), including budget, investigators vitae, and all appendices, and should be limited to funding requests for one to three year duration. Appended information may not be used to circumvent the page length limit. Federally-mandated forms are not included within the page count. (4) Proposals should be sent to the NOAA Office of Global Programs at the above address. (5) Facsimile transmissions and electronic mail submission of full proposals will not be accepted.

(B) *Required Elements:* All proposals must include the following elements: (1) Signed title page: The title page should be signed by the Principal Investigator (PI) and the institutional representative and should clearly indicate which program element is being addressed. If more than one investigator is listed on the title page, please identify the lead investigator. The PI and institutional representative should be identified by full name, title, organization, telephone number and address. The total amount of Federal funds being requested should be listed for each budget period. (2) Abstract: An abstract must be included and should contain an introduction of the problem, rationale and a brief summary of work to be completed. The abstract should appear on a separate page, headed with the proposal title, institution(s), investigator(s), total proposed cost and budget period. (3) Results from prior research: The results of each prior research project (during the last 3 years) relevant to the proposed effort should be summarized in brief paragraphs. This section should not exceed two pages. (4) Statement of work: The proposed project must be completely described, including identification of the problem, scientific objectives, proposed methodology, relevance to the goal of the Climate and Global Change Program, and the program priorities listed above. Benefits of the proposed project to the general public and the scientific community should be discussed. The Statement of work, including references but excluding figures and other visual materials, must not exceed 15 pages of text. Investigators wishing to submit group proposals that exceed the 15 page limit should discuss this possibility with the appropriate Program Officer prior to submission. Proposals from 3 or more investigators may include a statement of work containing up to 15 pages of overall project description plus up to 5 additional pages for individual project descriptions. (5) Budget

Justification; A brief description of the expenses listed on the budget and how they address the proposed work. Item justifications must include salaries, equipment, publications, supplies, tuition, travel, etc. (6) Budget: The proposal must include total and annual itemized budgets corresponding with the descriptions provided in the statement of work. Non-Federal Applicants must submit a Standard Form 424 (4-92) "Application for Federal Assistance," including a detailed budget using the Standard Form 424a (4-92), "Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs." Travel must be itemized to include destination, airfare, per diem, lodging and ground travel. The form is included in the standard NOAA application kit. (7) Vitae: Abbreviated curriculum vitae are sought with each proposal. Reference lists should be limited to all publications in the last three years with up to five other relevant papers. (8) Current and pending support: For each investigator, submit a list that includes project title, supporting agency with grant number, investigator months per year, dollar value and duration. Requested values should be listed for pending support.

(C) *Other requirements:* Applicants may obtain a standard NOAA application kit from the Program Office.

10. Primary Applicant Certification

All primary applicants must submit a completed Form CD-511, "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements and Lobbying". Applicants are also hereby notified of the following:

(A) *Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension:* Prospective participants (as defined at 15 CFR Part 26, section 105) are subject to 15 CFR Part 26, "Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension," and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies;

(B) *Drug Free Workplace:* Grantees (as defined at 15 CFR part 26, section 605) are subject to 15 CFR Part 26, Subpart F, "Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants)" and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies;

(C) *Anti-Lobbying:* Persons (as defined at 15 CFR Part 28, section 105) are subject to the lobbying provisions of 31 U.S.C. 1352, "Limitation on use of appropriated funds to influence certain Federal contracting and financial transactions", and the lobbying section of the certification form prescribed above applies to applications/bids for grants, cooperative agreements, and

contracts for more than \$100,000, and loans and loan guarantees for more than \$150,000, or the single family maximum mortgage limit for affected program, whichever is greater; and

(D) *Anti-Lobbying Disclosures:* Any applicant that has paid or will pay for lobbying using any funds must submit an SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," as required Under 15 CFR part 28, appendix B.

11. Lower Tier Certifications

(A) Recipients must require applicants/bidders for subgrants, contracts, subcontracts, or lower tier covered transactions at any tier under the award to submit, if applicable, a completed Form CD-512, "Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transactions and Lobbying" and disclosure form SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities." Form CD-512 is intended for the use of recipients and should not be transmitted to DOC. SF-LLL submitted by any tier recipient or subrecipient should be submitted to DOC in accordance with the instructions contained in the award document.

(B) Recipients and subrecipients are subject to all applicable Federal laws and Federal and Department of Commerce policies, regulations, and procedures applicable to Federal financial assistance awards.

(C) *Preaward Activities*—If applicants incur any costs prior to an award being made, they do so solely at their own risk of not being reimbursed by the Government. Notwithstanding any verbal assurance that may have been received, there is no obligation to the applicant on the part of Department of Commerce to cover pre-award costs.

(D) This program is subject to the requirements of OMB Circular No. A-110, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and other Non-Profit Organizations, and 63 CFR 47155, September 4, 1998, "Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, Other Non-Profit and Commercial Organizations, to State and Local Governments", as applicable. Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

(E) All non-profit and for-profit applicants are subject to a name check review process. Name checks are intended to reveal if any key individuals associated with the applicant have been

convicted of, or are presently facing criminal charges such as fraud, theft, perjury, or other matters which significantly reflect on the applicant's management, honesty, or financial integrity.

(F) A false statement on an application is grounds for denial or termination of funds and grounds for possible punishment by a fine or imprisonment as provided in 18 U.S.C. 1001.

(G) No award of Federal funds shall be made to an applicant who has an outstanding delinquent Federal debt until either: (i) The delinquent account is paid in full, (ii) A negotiated repayment schedule is established and at least one payment is received, or (iii) Other arrangements satisfactory to the Department of Commerce are made.

(H) Buy American-Made Equipment or Products—Applicants are encouraged that any equipment or products authorized to be purchased with funding provided under this program be American-made to the maximum extent feasible.

(I) The total dollar amount of the indirect costs proposed in an application under this program must not exceed the indirect cost rate negotiated and approved by a cognizant Federal agency prior to the proposed effective date of the award or 100 percent of the total proposed direct cost dollar amount in the application, whichever is less.

(J) If an application is selected for funding, the Department of Commerce has no obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with the award. Renewal of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of the Department of Commerce.

(K) In accordance with Federal statutes and regulations, no person on grounds of race, color, age, sex, national origin or disability shall be excluded from participation in, denial benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving financial assistance from the NOAA Climate and Global Change Program. The NOAA Climate and Global Change Program does not have direct TDD (Telephonic Device for the Deaf) capabilities, but can be reached through the State of Maryland supplied TDD contact number, 800-735-2258, between the hours of 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

(L) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person is required to respond to nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of

information displays a current valid OMB control number.

12. Classification

The standard forms have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act under OMB approval number 0348-0043, 0348-0044, and 0348-0046. This notice has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

Dated: July 2, 1999.

Louisa Koch,

Deputy Assistant Administrator.

[FR Doc. 99-17490 Filed 7-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-KB-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 990624172-9172-01]

National Weather Service Modernization and Associated Restructuring

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

ACTION: Notice and opportunity for public comment.

SUMMARY: The NWS publishes notice of proposed certifications for the consolidation, automation, and closure of several Weather Service Offices (WSO) and Fire Weather Offices (FWO). Notice is given of a proposed certification for the automation and closure of the Los Angeles, Aviation WSO which will be automated at Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Weather Observation Service Level A and have its services consolidated into the Los Angeles Forecast Office. Notice is also given of proposed certifications for the consolidation, automation, and closure of the Redding WSO and FWO which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level C and have its services consolidated into the Sacramento and Eureka, California; Reno, Nevada; and Medford, Oregon Forecast Offices. Finally, notice is given of a proposed certification for the closure of the Riverside, California FWO with services being provided by the San Diego and Los Angeles, California; Las Vegas, Nevada; and Phoenix, Arizona Forecast Offices.

DATES: Comments are requested to be mailed by September 7, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of proposed certification packages should be sent to Tom Beaver, Room 11426, 1325 East-West Highway, Silver Spring,

Maryland 20910-3283, telephone 301-713-0300. All comments should be sent to Tom Beaver at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Beaver at 301-713-0300 extension 141.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 706 of Pub. L. 102-567, the Secretary of Commerce must certify that consolidation, automation, and/or closure of a NWS field office will not result in a degradation of service to the affected area of responsibility and must propose such certifications in the FR for 60-days public comment. Notice is given of a proposed certification for the automation and closure of the Los Angeles, Aviation WSO which will be automated at Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Weather Observation Service Level A and have its services consolidated into the Los Angeles Forecast Office. Notice is also given of proposed certifications for the consolidation, automation, and closure of the Redding WSO and FWO which will be automated at FAA Weather Observation Service Level C and have its services consolidated into the Sacramento and Eureka, California; Reno, Nevada; and Medford, Oregon Forecast Offices. Finally, notice is given of a proposed certification for the closure of the Riverside, California FWO with services being provided by the San Diego and Los Angeles, California; Las Vegas, Nevada; and Phoenix, Arizona Forecast Offices. Documentation supporting these proposed certifications includes the following:

For all certifications:

(1) A draft memorandum by the meteorologist in charge recommending the certification, the final of which will be concurred with 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 services provided within the service area to services to be provided after such action;

(4) A description of any recent or expected modernization of NWS operations 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 Doppler weather surveillance radar network (WSR-88D); and