

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**Office of the Secretary****Privacy Act of 1974; Retirement of System of Records**

AGENCY: Privacy Office, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of the retirement of one Privacy Act system of records notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, the Department of Homeland Security is giving notice that it proposes to retire the following Privacy Act system of records notice, Treasury/CS.054 Confidential Statements of Employment and Financial Interests (66 FR 52984 October 18, 2001), from its inventory of record systems and rely upon the Government-wide system of records notice issued by the Office of Government Ethics, OGE/GOVT-2 Executive Branch Confidential Financial Disclosure Reports (68 FR 24722 May 8, 2003), which is written to cover all confidential statements of employment and financial interests record systems submitted by Federal Government employees.

DATES: These changes will take effect on October 30, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Hugo Teufel III, Chief Privacy Officer, Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC 20528, by telephone (703) 235-0780 or facsimile (703) 235-0442.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a, and as part of its ongoing integration and management efforts, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is retiring the system of records notice, Treasury/CS.054 Confidential Statements of Employment and Financial Interests (66 FR 52984 October 18, 2001), that was issued by the Customs Service, Department of the Treasury prior to the creation of the Department of Homeland Security.

DHS will continue to collect and maintain records regarding individuals who submit confidential statements of employment and financial interests and will rely upon the existing Federal Government-wide system of records notice titled OGE/GOVT-2 Executive Branch Confidential Financial Disclosure Reports (68 FR 24722 May 8, 2003), which is written to cover Federal employees who submit confidential statements of employment and financial interests.

Eliminating this notice will have no adverse impacts on individuals, but will promote the overall streamlining and

management of DHS Privacy Act record systems.

Dated: September 24, 2008.

Hugo Teufel III,

Chief Privacy Officer, Department of Homeland Security.

[FR Doc. E8-23006 Filed 9-29-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-10-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**Coast Guard**

[Docket No. USCG-2008-0991]

Proposed Modernization of the Coast Guard; Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard announces the availability of the Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for Coast Guard modernization. Based on the PEA's analysis and the mitigation plan committed to in the PEA, the Coast Guard determined that an environmental impact statement is not required, and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been issued for the proposed action.

Availability: Electronic copies of the Final PEA and FONSI, as well as comments received on the Draft PEA and FONSI, are available from the Federal Docket Management Facility at Internet Web site address: <http://www.regulations.gov> using the docket number USCG-2008-0991.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this notice, please contact Ms. Kebby Kelley, USCG, telephone (202) 475-5690, e-mail: Kebby.Kelley@uscg.mil, or Mr. Frank Esposito, USCG, telephone (202) 372-3746, e-mail:

Frank.H.Esposito@uscg.mil. If you have questions on viewing the docket, please call Ms. Renee Wright, Program Manager, Docket Operations, telephone (202) 366-9826.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), the Coast Guard prepared a Final PEA and FONSI for the Proposed Modernization of the Coast Guard.

Response to Comments

On August 15, 2008, the Coast Guard initiated a 30-day public comment period with publication of a Notice of Availability of the Proposed Modernization of the Coast Guard Draft PEA in the **Federal Register** (73 FR 47959). The Coast Guard received 23 public comments during this period.

Summary of Comments and the USCG Responses

Many of the 23 separate comments either acknowledged receipt or noted approval of the Coast Guard's modernization proposal. The remaining comments fell into the following four groups.

Several comments focused on the managerial philosophy and motivation of the Coast Guard in proposing this modernization. While these comments are useful to decision makers, they are not relevant to the environmental impact analyses associated with the proposed modernization and, therefore, will not be addressed in the Final PEA.

A second group of comments focused on decisions that are yet to be made, such as exact locations of possible new facilities or precise organizations that might or might not be moved. While these comments are also useful to decision makers, they are not yet ripe for further analysis and will not be considered further in the Final PEA. As stated in the Draft PEA, NEPA analysis and documentation may be prepared for future individual actions and their site-specific impacts if such actions are not adequately covered by this programmatic NEPA document.

The third group of comments advocated moving large segments of the Coast Guard to various new locations around the nation. These alternatives do not meet the purpose and need described in the PEA to minimize disruption to the workforce, minimize costs of modernization (such as, by utilizing existing facilities), and minimize disruption to mission execution. These proposals are, therefore, not evaluated in detail in the Final PEA.

Finally, a fourth group of comments was not addressed because it raised matters, such as the Deepwater Replacement contract, that are outside the scope of the Coast Guard modernization decision.

Background and Purpose

The Coast Guard intends to modernize its command structure, support systems, and business practices to position itself for sustainable and effective mission execution into the

twenty-first century. The Coast Guard prepared a PEA that identified and examined the reasonable alternatives and assessed their potential environmental impacts. The PEA identified potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts associated with proposed modernization, including Coast Guard mission-related impacts and site-specific impacts.

The Coast Guard developed two action alternatives to achieve modernization, a full modernization alternative and a partial modernization alternative. These two alternatives represented the upper and lower levels of change required to achieve the purpose and need of the modernization and, therefore, captured the range of social, economic, and environmental impacts that would occur while implementing modernization initiatives. The full modernization alternative emphasizes co-location of mission support and operations resources and functions and included potential construction at the Coast Guard Yard, Curtis Bay, Maryland. The partial modernization alternative would focus on operating from existing locations rather than co-locating functional resources in a single location and includes no new construction. The partial modernization alternative would minimally achieve the purpose and need for modernization, while the full modernization alternative would allow the Coast Guard to reach the fully envisioned functionality of modernization. The Coast Guard prefers the full modernization alternative. Either modernization alternative would be implemented over at least 5 years.

The Coast Guard has determined that the mitigation committed to in the Final Coast Guard-prepared PEA will reduce all potentially significant environmental impacts to a level of insignificance. Thus, the Final PEA was determined to adequately and accurately discuss the environmental issues and impacts of the proposed action and provides sufficient evidence and analysis for determining that an environmental impact statement is not required. A Finding of No Significant Impact was, therefore, issued for the full modernization alternative which is the Coast Guard's preferred alternative.

Dated: September 24, 2008.

Clifford I. Pearson,

Vice Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Chief of Staff.

[FR Doc. E8-22934 Filed 9-29-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[FEMA-1793-DR]

Arkansas; Major Disaster and Related Determinations

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, DHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is a notice of the Presidential declaration of a major disaster for the State of Arkansas (FEMA-1793-DR), dated September 18, 2008, and related determinations.

DATES: *Effective Date:* September 18, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Peggy Miller, Disaster Assistance Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-3886.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that, in a letter dated September 18, 2008, the President declared a major disaster under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207 (the Stafford Act), as follows:

I have determined that the damage in certain areas of the State of Arkansas resulting from severe storms and flooding during the period of September 2-8, 2008, and continuing, is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207 (the Stafford Act). Therefore, I declare that such a major disaster exists in the State of Arkansas.

In order to provide Federal assistance, you are hereby authorized to allocate from funds available for these purposes such amounts as you find necessary for Federal disaster assistance and administrative expenses.

You are authorized to provide Public Assistance in the designated areas, Hazard Mitigation throughout the State, and any other forms of assistance under the Stafford Act that you deem appropriate. Direct Federal assistance is authorized. Consistent with the requirement that Federal assistance be supplemental, any Federal funds provided under the Stafford Act for Hazard Mitigation will be limited to 75 percent of the total eligible costs. Federal funds provided under the Stafford Act for Public Assistance also will be limited to 75 percent of the total eligible costs, except for any particular projects that are eligible for a higher Federal cost-sharing percentage under the FEMA Public Assistance Pilot Program instituted pursuant to 6 U.S.C. 777. If Other Needs Assistance under Section 408 of the Stafford Act is later requested and warranted, Federal funding under that program also will be

limited to 75 percent of the total eligible costs.

Further, you are authorized to make changes to this declaration to the extent allowable under the Stafford Act.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hereby gives notice that pursuant to the authority vested in the Administrator, under Executive Order 12148, as amended, Kenneth M. Riley of FEMA is appointed to act as the Federal Coordinating Officer for this declared disaster.

The following areas of the State of Arkansas have been designated as adversely affected by this declared major disaster:

Ashley, Bradley, Calhoun, Chicot, Clark, Cleveland, Conway, Dallas, Drew, Garland, Grant, Hot Spring, Lincoln, Montgomery, Perry, Prairie, Saline, and Van Buren Counties for Public Assistance. Direct Federal assistance is authorized.

All counties within the State of Arkansas are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

(The following Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers (CFDA) are to be used for reporting and drawing funds: 97.030, Community Disaster Loans; 97.031, Cora Brown Fund; 97.032, Crisis Counseling; 97.033, Disaster Legal Services; 97.034, Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); 97.046, Fire Management Assistance Grant; 97.048, Disaster Housing Assistance to Individuals and Households In Presidentially Declared Disaster Areas; 97.049, Presidentially Declared Disaster Assistance—Disaster Housing Operations for Individuals and Households; 97.050, Presidentially Declared Disaster Assistance to Individuals and Households—Other Needs; 97.036, Disaster Grants—Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disasters); 97.039, Hazard Mitigation Grant.

R. David Paulison,

Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

[FR Doc. E8-22950 Filed 9-29-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110-10-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[FEMA-1786-DR]

Louisiana; Amendment No. 7 to Notice of a Major Disaster Declaration

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, DHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice amends the notice of a major disaster declaration for the State of Louisiana (FEMA-1786-DR), dated September 2, 2008, and related determinations.