

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-5479-9]

### Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment for the Interim Final Rule for Environmental Impact Assessment of Nongovernmental Activities in Antarctica

**AGENCY:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), pursuant to Public Law 104-227, the Antarctic Science, Tourism, and Conservation Act of 1996 (Act), has published an Interim Final Rule. In support of the Interim Final Rule, EPA prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA), "Environmental Assessment of Proposed Rules for Non-Governmental Activity in Antarctica," and made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND FOR COPIES OF THE EA, FNSI, AND INTERIM FINAL RULE CONTACT:

Mr. Joseph Montgomery or Ms. Katherine Biggs, Office of Federal Activities (2252A), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460; telephone: (202)564-7157 or (202)564-7144, respectively. Copies of the EA, FNSI and Interim Final Rule are also available on the World Wide Web at: <http://es.inel.gov/oeca/ofa/>. Information on the process for development of the EIS and Final Rule discussed in the

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below may also be obtained from these contacts.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Act implements the Protocol on Environmental Protection (Protocol) to the Antarctic Treaty of 1959 (Treaty). Pursuant to the Act, the EPA is required to promulgate regulations that provide for assessment of the environmental impacts of nongovernmental activities, including tourism, in Antarctica and for coordination of the review of information regarding environmental impact assessments received from Parties to the Protocol. The EPA promulgated an Interim Final Rule so that the United States would have the ability to implement its obligations under the Protocol as soon as the Protocol enters into force. The EPA prepared the EA to evaluate the environmental and cultural impacts of an interim rule relative to the No Action Alternative, i.e., no interim rule. Based on the EA analysis, EPA issued a FNSI concluding that the promulgation of the Interim Final Rule will not have or cause significant impacts on the Antarctic environment. Through the EA,

EPA concluded that the Interim Final Rule will foster appropriate environmental impact assessment and documentation procedures, including documentation regarding planned mitigation and monitoring, if appropriate, by tour operators; enhance the collection of data on effects and intensity of activities by nongovernmental visitors in Antarctica; reduce the likelihood of inadvertent environmental perturbations that may be avoidable; and will allow the U.S. to immediately ratify the Protocol which, in turn, should lead to its adoption by all Parties. The EPA concluded that all of the potential impacts of the Interim Final Rule would be beneficial for the Antarctic environment. The Interim Final Rule was issued without notice and comment pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), as discussed in the Preamble to the Interim Final Rule and, for the same reasons, under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) became effective on April 30, 1997 (**Federal Register**/Vol. 62, No. 83/Wednesday, April 30, 1997/23538-23549). The Interim Final Rule is limited in time and effect and applies only to nongovernmental activities to be conducted in Antarctica through the 1998-99 austral summer; it will expire upon the earlier of the end of the 1998-99 austral summer or upon issuance of a Final Rule. To support the regulatory development of the Final Rule, EPA is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to consider the environmental and regulatory issues to be addressed in the Final Rule and the alternatives for addressing these issues within the rule-making process. Although the Interim Final Rule was promulgated without public notice and comment, the Final Rule and the associated EIS will include extensive opportunities for public comment.

#### Responsible Official:

Dated: May 1, 1997.

**Richard E. Sanderson,**

Director, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 97-11758 Filed 5-5-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

### Notice of Public Information Collections Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission

April 30, 1997.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Communications Commission, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this

opportunity to comment on the following information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) that does not display a valid control number. Comments are requested concerning whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**DATES:** Persons wishing to comment on this information collection should submit comments by July 7, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all comments to Dorothy Conway, Federal Communications Commission, Room 234, 1919 M St., N.W., Washington, DC 20554 or via Internet to [dconway@fcc.gov](mailto:dconway@fcc.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For additional information or copies of the information collections, contact Dorothy Conway at 202-418-0217 or via Internet at [dconway@fcc.gov](mailto:dconway@fcc.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*OMB Approval Number:* 3060-XXXX.

*Title:* Auction Forms and License Transfer Disclosures—Supplement for the Second Report and Order, Order on Reconsideration, and Fifth Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 92-297.

*Type of Review:* New Collection.

*Respondents:* Businesses or other for-profit entities.

Category	Number of respondents	Estimated time for response
1. Ownership and Gross Revenues Information.	44,000	.5-4 hours.
2. Disclosure of Terms of Joint Bidding Agreements.	44,000	.5 hour.

Category	Number of respondents	Estimated time for response
3. Maintaining Ownership and Gross Revenues Information.	33,000	4 hours/5 year.
4. Transfer Disclosures.	44,000	.5 hour.

*Total Annual Burden:* 764,500 hours.  
*Total Cost to Respondents:*

\$45,734,700.

**Needs and Uses:** The ownership, gross revenues and joint bidding agreement information portions of this collection will be used by the Commission to determine whether the applicant is legally, technically and financially qualified to be a licensee. Without such information, the Commission could not determine whether to issue the licenses to the applicants that provide telecommunications, multi-channel video programming distribution and other communications services to the public and therefore fulfill its statutory responsibilities in accordance with the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. The information will also be used to ensure the market integrity of future auctions. Likewise, the information collected in connection with § 1.2111(a) of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 1.2111(a) (transfer disclosures), will be used to maintain the market integrity of future auctions and prevent unjust enrichment.

Federal Communications Commission.

**William F. Caton,**

*Acting Secretary.*

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BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimates; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated information techniques or other forms of information technology.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all comments to Judy Boley, Federal Communications Commission, Room 234, 1919 M. St., NW., Washington, DC 20554 or via internet to [jboley@fcc.gov](mailto:jboley@fcc.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL:** For additional information or copies of the information collections contact Judy Boley at 202-418-0214 or via internet to [jboley@fcc.gov](mailto:jboley@fcc.gov).

**OMB Approval Number:** 3060-.

**Title:** § 5.56, Procedure for Obtaining a Special Temporary Authorization (STA) in the Experimental Radio Service.

**Form No.:** N/A.

**Type of Review:** Existing collection in use without OMB control number.

**Respondents:** Not-for-profit institutions; Business or other for-profit; Small businesses and organizations.

**Number of Respondents:** 500.

**Estimated time per response:** 1 hour.

**Total Annual Burden:** 500 hours.

**Estimated Cost per Respondent:** Based on the estimated salaries of one technical (1½ hrs @ \$25 per hr) and one clerical (½ hr @ \$10 per hr), it is estimated that the total cost will be approximately \$21,250.

**Needs and Uses:** In cases where a need is shown for operation of an experimental radio authorized station for a limited time only, a request for a Special Temporary Authorization (STA) to operate transmitting equipment will be accepted under the conditions set forth in § 5.56 (a), (b), & (c) of Part 5 of the Commission's Rules. The request may be filed as an informal application, normally by letter from the applicant, and shall contain the information specified in § 5.56(b). Since STAs are filed as informal requests, no form is required. The information collected is necessary to ensure that the STA request complies with Part 5 of the Commission's Rules, and that the proposed operation will not cause interference to existing government and non-government operations.

Due to an administrative oversight this information collection was not submitted to OMB for approval of the collection. The Commission is requesting OMB approval of this

voluntary collection by May 12, 1997 to permit expeditious processing of the pending STAs.

Federal Communications Commission.

**William F. Caton,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-11681 Filed 5-2-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

### Sunshine Act Meeting

April 30, 1997.

### Open Commission Meeting Tentatively Scheduled for May 6, 1997, Rescheduled to Wednesday, May 7, 1997

The Federal Communications Commission has rescheduled the Open Meeting tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 6, 1997, to Wednesday, May 7, 1997, on the subject listed below. The meeting is scheduled to commence at 9:30 am, in Room 856, at 1919 M Street, NW., Washington, DC.

Item No. 1

Bureau: Office of General Counsel and Office of Communications Business Opportunities.

Subject: Title: Section 257 proceeding to Identify and Eliminate Market Entry Barriers for Small Businesses (GN Docket No. 96-113); Summary: The Commission will consider addressing implementation of Section 257.

Additional information concerning this meeting may be obtained from Maureen Peratino or David Fiske, Office of Public Affairs, telephone number (202) 418-0500.

Copies of materials adopted at this meeting can be purchased from the FCC's duplicating contractor, International Transcription Services, Inc. (ITS, Inc.) at (202) 857-3800 or fax (202) 857-3805 and 857-3184. These copies are available in paper format and alternative media which includes, large print/type; digital disk; and audio tape. ITS may be reached by e-mail: [its\\_inc@ix.netcom.com](mailto:its_inc@ix.netcom.com). Their Internet address is <http://www.itsi.com>.

This meeting can be viewed over George Mason University's Capitol Connection. For information on this service call (703) 993-3100. The audio portion of the meeting will be broadcast live on the Internet via the FCC's Internet audio broadcast page at <<http://www.fcc.gov/realaudio/>>. The meeting can also be heard via telephone, for a fee, from National Narrowcast Network, telephone (202) 966-2211 or fax (202) 966-1770; and from Conference Call USA (available only outside the

## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

### Notice of Public Information Collection Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission

April 29, 1997.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Communications Commission, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burden invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following continuing information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments are requested concerning (a) Whether the proposed collection is