

at those facilities during the previous calendar year. EPA is required to put the EPCRA section 313/PPA section 6607 information in an electronic data base that is accessible to the public. This data base is commonly referred to as the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI). State and local governments, industry, non-government organizations, and the public make extensive use of this data base.

Each year, prior to the reporting deadline, EPA develops and sends to facilities a reporting package containing the current TRI reporting form (Form R), the alternate threshold reporting form (Form A), the list of toxic chemicals subject to reporting, and instructions for reporting. In recent years, the package has also included computer diskettes containing the automated Form R for electronic reporting. EPA has found that providing this extensive reporting package reduces confusion and the number of reporting errors, and expedites the whole reporting process. In the past, these packages have been distributed by early March of the year in which reports are due to allow adequate time for review and use by the reporting facilities.

II. Additional Time to Report for 1996

For the 1996 reporting year, EPA revised the Form R to collect more specific information on disposal into underground injection wells and landfills. The Office of Management and Budget approved the reporting and recordkeeping requirements related to the revised Form R on April 30, 1997. Because EPA could not print the forms and instructions until the Agency received approval for the Form R, EPA's printing and distribution of the 1996 Form R will not be complete until June 1997. Thus, facilities subject to TRI reporting may not have sufficient time to prepare and submit their reports by July 1, 1997. EPA is concerned that in rushing to report by July 1, facilities may make errors that would reduce the accuracy and utility of the reports and, ultimately, the public data base. In addition, EPA believes that the delay in the distribution of the reporting package may create concern in the regulated community regarding potential enforcement actions, including civil penalties, for those facilities submitting reports that may contain errors as a result of the late distribution of the EPA reporting package or reporting after the July 1, 1997 deadline.

In recognition of the importance to State and local governments, industry, and the public that facilities submit complete and accurate TRI reports, EPA is allowing all reporting facilities an

additional month to August 1, 1997, to submit their 1996 TRI reports. However, reports for the 1996 reporting year that are filed after August 1, 1997, will be subject to EPA enforcement action, where appropriate. This allowance of additional time for reporting applies only to the EPCRA section 313/PPA section 6607 reporting obligations for TRI reports otherwise due on July 1, 1997, covering calendar year 1996. Nothing in this action shall be construed to apply to any other EPCRA reporting obligations, or to any TRI reports due for past or future reporting years. Further, this allowance of additional time for reporting applies only to the federal EPCRA section 313/PPA section 6607 reporting obligation; it does not apply to independent obligations under State laws which also require TRI-type reports. However, EPA encourages the States with similar requirements that relate to federal TRI reporting to embrace this allowance of additional time. To the extent that this action might be construed as rulemaking subject to section 553 of the Administrative Procedure Act, for the reasons stated above, EPA has determined that notice and an opportunity for public comment are impracticable and unnecessary. Providing for public comment might further delay reporting, and, because there is no substantive change in the reporting obligation, other than allowing an additional month, the public will continue to receive the same information. Moreover, a further delay in reporting would almost certainly mean a delay in the release of the information to the public. Also, public comment would not further inform EPA's decision because the events giving rise to the need to provide extra time for reporting have already occurred. In addition, additional notice and comment procedures in this situation would be contrary to the public interest in timely and accurate reporting of data under EPCRA section 313 and PPA section 6607.

III. Availability of the Form R and Instructions

A. The Internet

Notwithstanding the delay in distribution of the printed version, the revised Form R and Instructions, currently are available on the Internet. The Form R and Instructions, which can be downloaded as portable document format (PDF) files, are available at <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/tri/formr.htm>. The Automated Form R (AFR) and Instructions is also available on the internet. The internet address for the

AFR is <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/aftr96>.

B. Fax on Demand

Using a faxphone call 202-401-0527 and select item 5100 for an index of available material and corresponding item numbers related to this document.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 372

Environmental protection, Community right-to-know, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, and Toxic chemicals.

Dated: May 20, 1997.

Lynn R. Goldman,

Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances.

[FR Doc. 97-13798 Filed 5-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 1

[CC Docket No. 92-237, DA 97-1055]

The North American Numbering Council (NANC) Issues Recommendations on the North American Numbering Plan Administrator, Billing and Collection Agent, and Related Rules; Pleading Cycle Established

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: On May 19, 1997, the Commission released a public notice announcing the North American Numbering Council's (NANC) recommendation for a North American Numbering Plan Administrator, Billing and Collection Agent, and related rules filed with the Commission on May 15, 1997. The intended effect of this action is to make the public aware that the FCC is seeking comments on the NANC's recommendation.

DATES: Comments are due by June 20, 1997 and reply comments by July 3, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20554.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marian Gordon or Scott Shefferman, Network Services Division, Common Carrier Bureau, at (202) 418-2320.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Released: May 19, 1997

1. In a *Report and Order* released on July 13, 1995 in the above-referenced

docket (*Number Administration Order*), the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) established the North American Numbering Council (NANC) pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C., App. 2 (FACA). *The Number Administration Order* directed the NANC, among other things, to recommend to the Commission and to other member countries of the North American Numbering Plan (NANP) a neutral entity to serve as NANP Administrator and an appropriate mechanism for recovering the costs of NANP administration in the United States. The membership of NANC, which includes thirty-two voting members and four special non-voting members, was selected to represent all viewpoints regarding numbering administration. The Commission's charge that the NANC recommend an impartial NANP Administrator is consistent with Congress's directive in Section 251(e)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, that an impartial numbering administrator be named to make telecommunications numbering available on an equitable basis.

2. On May 15, 1997, the Commission received the NANC's Recommendation on the NANP Administrator and Billing and Collection Agent (Recommendation). Earlier, the NANC had received proposals in response to its Requirements Document that set forth the qualities and attributes of the NANPA and Billing and Collection Agent and the functions that each would be expected to perform.¹ Bell Communications Research (Bellcore), the Center for Communications Management Information (CCMI), Lockheed Martin Corporation (Lockheed), and Mitretek Systems (Mitretek) responded with proposals to serve as NANPA. Proposals to serve as Billing and Collection Agent were received from CCMI, Lockheed, and the National Exchange Carriers Association (NECA).

3. As indicated in the Recommendation, a majority of the NANC (13 members) voted to recommend Lockheed as the new NANPA for a period of five years and a minority (11 members) voted to recommend Mitretek. NANC further recommends that the entity designated to serve as the NANPA agree to two conditions. First, such entity must agree to make available any and all

intellectual property and associated hardware including, but not limited to, systems, software, interface specifications and supporting documentation, generated by or resulting from its performance as NANPA, and to make such property available to whomever NANC directs, free of charge. Such entity must specify any property it proposes to exclude from the foregoing category of property based on the existence of such property prior to the entity's selection as NANPA. Second, the entity selected as the NANPA must perform the NANPA functions at the price the entity submitted in its proposal to the NANC that formed the basis for the entity's selection by the NANC. Such entity, however, may request from NANC and, with approval by the Commission, NANC may grant an adjustment in this price should the actual number of Central Office (CO) code assignments made per year, the number of numbering plan area codes (NPAs) requiring relief per year, or, the number of NPA relief meetings per NPA requiring relief exceed 120 percent of NANPA's assumptions for the above tasks made in the proposal to the NANC that formed the basis for the entity's selection by the NANC.

4. The NANC also recommends proposed rules, contained in attachments to the Recommendation, to govern the performance of the NANPA and Billing and Collection Agent and to address resolution of numbering disputes. Finally, the NANC unanimously recommends NECA as Billing and Collection Agent, subject to the Federal Communications Commission's ordering NECA to create an independent and neutral Board of Directors for NANPA Billing and Collection.

5. We seek comments on NANC's Recommendation. Interested parties should file an original and four copies of their comments on the NANC's North American Numbering Plan Administrator and Billing and Collection Agent Recommendation by June 20, 1997, and reply comments by July 3, 1997, with the Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20554. Comments and reply comments should reference CC Docket No. 92-237. In addition, parties should send two copies to Jeannie Grimes, Common Carrier Bureau, FCC, Suite 235, 2000 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20554, and one copy to ITS, at 1231 20th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036. Comments and reply comments will be available for public inspection and copying during

regular business hours in the Commission's Public Reference Center, Room 239, 1919 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20554. Copies of comments and reply comments will also be available from ITS, at 1231 20th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036, or by calling (202) 857-3800.

6. Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C., App. 2 Section 9, and consistent with its charter, the NANC's authority is limited to providing advice and recommendations to the Commission. All procedural requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act, 5 U.S.C. section 551 *et. seq.*, and other applicable statutes will apply to this proceeding. We will treat this proceeding as a non-restricted rulemaking for purposes of the Commission's *ex parte* rules. See generally 47 CFR §§ 1.1200(a), 1.1206. For further information contact Marian Gordon or Scott Shefferman, Network Services Division, Common Carrier Bureau, at (202) 418-2320.

Federal Communications Commission.

Geraldine A. Matise,

Chief, Network Services Division, Common Carrier Bureau.

[FR Doc. 97-13762 Filed 5-21-97; 12:25 pm]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 12-Month Finding for a Petition To List the Contiguous United States Population of the Canada Lynx

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of 12-month petition finding.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces a 12-month finding for a petition to list the contiguous United States population of the Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. After review of all available scientific and commercial information, the Service finds that listing this population is warranted but precluded by other higher priority actions to amend the List of Threatened and Endangered Wildlife and Plants.

DATES: The finding announced in this document was made on May 21, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Information, comments, or questions concerning this petition should be submitted to the Field Supervisor, Montana Field Office, Fish

¹ The Requirements Document is filed in CC Docket No. 92-237 and is available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Center.