

Reply comments are to be filed on or before May 22, 1998. To file formally in this proceeding, you must file an original and five copies of all comments, reply comments, and supporting comments. If you want each

Commissioner to receive a personal copy of your comments, you must file an original and ten copies. Comments and reply comments should be sent to Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, NW., Room 222, Washington, DC 20554. Parties should also submit two copies of comments and reply comments to Wilbert E. Nixon, Jr., Commercial Wireless Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, 2100 M Street, NW., Room 7102, Washington, DC 20554. Parties should also file one copy of any documents filed in this docket with the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Services, Inc., 1231 20th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20036.

E. Authority

The above action is authorized under the Communications Act of 1934, 1, 4(i), 152, 222, 252(c)(5), 301, and 303, 47 U.S.C. 151, 154(i), 222, 252(c)(5), 301, and 303, as amended.

F. Ordering Clauses:

It is ordered that pursuant to sections 4(i), 11, 303(g), 03(r), and 332(c)(7) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 154(i), 161, 303(g), 303(r), and 332(c), this *notice of proposed rulemaking* is hereby *adopted*.

It is further ordered that the Commission's Office of Public Affairs, Reference Operations Division, shall send a copy of this *notice of proposed rulemaking*, including the Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Parts 0, 1, 13, 22, 24, 26, 27, 80, 87, 90, 95, 97, and 101

Communications common carriers, Radio, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Federal Communications Commission.

Magalie Roman Salas,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-9042 Filed 4-6-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

48 CFR Parts 803 and 852

RIN 2900-AJ06

Acquisition Regulations: Improper Business Practices and Personal Conflicts of Interest; Solicitation Provisions and Contract Clauses

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This document proposes to amend the Department of Veterans Affairs Acquisition Regulations (VAAR) concerning the requirement to include an Ethics in Government Act certification in solicitations. This action is proposed in accordance with the requirements of the Federal Acquisition Reform Act of 1996 (also known as the Clinger-Cohen Act), 41 U.S.C. 425, which stipulate that certain certification requirements not required by statute be eliminated from agency supplemental acquisition regulations.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before June 8, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Mail or hand deliver written comments to: Director, Office of Regulations Management (02D), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave., NW, Room 1154, Washington, DC 20420. Comments should indicate that they are submitted in response to "RIN 2900-AJ06." All written comments will be available for public inspection at the above address in the Office of Regulations Management, Room 1158, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Corso, Office of Acquisition and Materiel Management, Acquisition Policy Team (95A), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-8754.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Secretary hereby certifies that this proposed rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities as they are defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), 5 U.S.C. 601-602, since it does not contain any substantive provisions. This proposed rule would not cause a significant effect on any entities. This proposed rule deletes a requirement for contracting officers to include a particular provision in solicitations, which does not impact the

public. Therefore, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 605(b), this amendment is exempt from the initial and final regulatory flexibility analysis requirements of sections 603 and 604.

List of Subjects

48 CFR Part 803

Antitrust, Conflict of interests, Government procurement.

48 CFR Part 852

Government procurement, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Approved: March 26, 1998.

Togo D. West, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 48 CFR Chapter 8 is proposed to be amended as follows:

PART 801—VETERANS AFFAIRS ACQUISITION REGULATIONS SYSTEM

1. The authority citation for parts 803 and 852 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501 and 40 U.S.C. 486(c).

PART 803—IMPROPER BUSINESS PRACTICES AND PERSONAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

2. In part 803, § 803.101-3, paragraph (c) is removed.

PART 852—SOLICITATION PROVISIONS AND CONTRACT CLAUSES

3. In subpart 852.2, § 852.203-70 is removed.

[FR Doc. 98-9027 Filed 4-6-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 424

[I.D. 032498B]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Notice of Public Hearings on Proposed Listings and Proposed Designations of Critical Habitat for West Coast Steelhead, Chinook, Chum, and Sockeye Salmon

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public hearings.

SUMMARY: NMFS has proposed to list 13 evolutionarily significant units (ESUs)

of Pacific salmon and steelhead under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973. NMFS has also proposed to designate critical habitat for the proposed salmon ESUs. NMFS will shortly propose critical habitat for steelhead ESUs previously listed as threatened or endangered, as well as for the two steelhead ESUs recently proposed as threatened under the ESA.

These proposed listings, and proposed and pending designations of critical habitat include ESUs of west coast steelhead, and chinook, chum and sockeye salmon in California, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.

Public hearings are scheduled to provide the public with opportunities to comment on the proposals and to provide information and data about these species and their critical habitat.

DATES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for hearing dates.

ADDRESSES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for hearing addresses.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Garth Griffin, (503) 231-2005; Craig Wingert, (562) 980-4021; or Joe Blum, (301) 713-1401. Copies of the **Federal Register** notices cited herein and additional salmon-related materials are available via the Internet at www.nwr.noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On February 26, 1998, NMFS issued proposed rules to protect 13 ESUs of Pacific salmon and steelhead as threatened or endangered under the ESA (chinook salmon—63 FR 11482, March 9, 1998; sockeye salmon—63 FR 11750, March 10, 1998; chum salmon—63 FR 11774, March 10, 1998; and steelhead—63 FR 11798, March 10, 1998). The ESUs proposed for listing include two proposed endangered ESUs: California's Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and Upper Columbia River spring-run chinook salmon and 11 proposed threatened ESUs: Upper Willamette River steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), Middle Columbia River steelhead, California's Central Valley fall-run chinook salmon, Southern Oregon and California coastal chinook salmon, Puget Sound chinook salmon, Lower Columbia River chinook salmon, Upper Willamette River chinook salmon, Columbia River chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*), Hood Canal summer-run chum salmon, Ozette Lake sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), and a proposal to redefine the listed Snake River fall-run chinook salmon ESU to include Deschutes River fall chinook salmon.

In addition, NMFS has proposed the designation of one sockeye salmon ESU (Baker River) as a candidate for listing because of uncertainty regarding its status.

NMFS concurrently proposed to designate critical habitat for the proposed chinook, chum, and sockeye salmon ESUs. Critical habitat for these species is described in the same **Federal Register** notices announcing the proposed listings (see **Federal Register** notices cited previously). In a forthcoming **Federal Register** notice, NMFS will also propose designating critical habitat for nine ESUs of west coast steelhead that have been listed or proposed for listing under the ESA.

Public Hearings

Public hearings on the proposed listings provide the opportunity for the public to give comments and to permit an exchange of information and opinion among interested parties. The Department of Commerce's ESA implementing regulations state that the Secretary of Commerce "shall promptly hold at least one public hearing if any person so requests within 45 days of publication of a proposed regulation to list * * * a species" (50 CFR section 424.16 (c)(3)). NMFS encourages public involvement in such ESA matters and has decided to schedule hearings on these proposals.

NMFS is soliciting specific information, comments, data, and/or recommendations on any aspect of the aforementioned proposals from all interested parties. In particular, NMFS is requesting information or data as described in the **Federal Register** notices announcing the proposed listings for each species (see **Federal Register** notices cited previously). This information is considered critical in helping NMFS make final determinations on the proposed listings and proposed designations of critical habitat. NMFS will consider all information, comments, and recommendations received during the comment period or at the public hearings before reaching a final decision.

The public will have the opportunity to provide oral and written testimony at the public hearings. Written comments on the proposals may also be submitted (see **Federal Register** notices cited previously). Public hearings on the proposed listings will be held as follows:

- (1) April 20, 1998, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., The Chapel, Fort Warden State Park, 200 Battery Way, Port Townsend, WA;
- (2) April 21, 1998, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., Bellingham City Hall, Council Chambers

210, Lottie Street, Bellingham, Washington;

(3) April 22, 1998, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., Bonneville Power Admin. Auditorium, 911 NE 11th Ave., Portland, Oregon;

(4) April 28, 1998, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., Yakima County Courthouse, Room 420, 128 North 2nd Street, Yakima, Washington;

(5) April 29, 1998, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., Chelan Center, 317 East Johnson, Chelan, Washington;

(6) April 29, 1998, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., Eureka Inn, 518 Seventh Street, Eureka, California;

(7) April 30, 1998, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., Columbia River Maritime Museum, 1792 Marine Drive, Astoria, Oregon;

(8) April 30, 1998, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., Double Tree Hotel, 1 Double Tree Drive, Rohnert Park, California;

(9) May 4, 1998, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., Lewiston Community Center, 1424 Main Street, Lewiston, Idaho;

(10) May 5, 1998, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., Natural Resource Center, Bureau of Land Management, 1387 South Binnell Way, Boise, Idaho;

(11) May 5, 1998, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., Double Tree Hotel, 1830 Hilltop Drive, Redding, California;

(12) May 6, 1998, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., Jackson County Courthouse, 10 South Oakdale, Medford, Oregon;

(13) May 6, 1998, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., Beverly Garland Hotel, 1780 Tribute Road, Sacramento, California;

(14) May 7, 1998, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., City of Gold Beach City Hall, 29592 Ellensburg, Gold Beach, Oregon;

(15) May 7, 1998, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., Eugene City Hall Council Chambers, 777 Pearl Street, Eugene, Oregon;

(16) May 7, 1998, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., Modesto Irrigation District, 1231 11th Street, Modesto, California;

(17) May 11, 1998, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., WA State Department of Natural Resources, Orca Room 1, 411 Tillicum Lane, Forks, Washington;

(18) May 12, 1998, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., NMFS NW Fish. Sci. Ctr., 2725 Montlake Blvd. E, Seattle, Washington;

(19) May 13, 1998, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., FWS/NMFS offices, Abbott Raphael Bldg. - Sawyer Hall, 510 Desmond Drive SE, Olympia, Washington;

(20) May 14, 1998, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., Columbus Gorge Discovery Center & Wasco Hist. Museum, M.J. Murdock Auditorium, 5000 Discovery Drive, The Dalles, Oregon.

Special Accommodations

These hearings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other aids should be directed to Garth Griffin or Craig

Wingert (see ADDRESSES) by 7 days prior to each meeting date.

Dated: April 2, 1998

Hilda Diaz-Soltero,

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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