

# Notices

**Federal Register**

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Tongass National Forest Timber Demand Considerations; Alaska

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990 requires the Secretary to seek to provide a supply of timber that meets the annual market demand for timber from the Tongass as well as the market demand for timber from the Tongass for each planning cycle. The draft procedures for considering market demand in planning annual timber sale offerings are now available for public review and comment.

**DATES:** Comments must be received in writing on or before January 11, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Single copies of the draft procedures may be obtained by writing the Regional Forester, Alaska Region, Forest Service, USDA, PO Box 21628, Juneau, Alaska 99802-1628. Send written comments on the draft procedures to the same address. The document is also posted on the internet at [ww.fs.fed.us/r10/issues.htm](http://ww.fs.fed.us/r10/issues.htm).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Frederick L. Norbury or Kathleen S. Morse, Ecosystem Planning and Budgeting Staff, Alaska Region, Forest Service, USDA, PO Box 21628, Juneau, Alaska 99802-1728, (907) 586-8886/8809.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The draft procedures estimate the volume of timber likely to be purchased from the Tongass National Forest in the coming year based on observations of industry behavior in prior years. The industry draws its annual raw material supply from an accumulated inventory of timber volume under contract, sometimes called the "buffer stock". This inventory must be large enough to keep mills operating at a steady rate

while new sales are prepared for offer and harvest. Historically, the Forest Service has attempted to allow the industry to hold the equivalent of two to three years worth of raw material as volume under contract. The draft procedures essentially suggest a similar approach but defined this inventory requirement in more analytical terms.

The draft procedures assume that, at a minimum, the industry will want to maintain its existing timber inventory and will purchase timber to replace that harvested in a given year. If the existing timber inventory is lower than the desired, the industry may want to purchase more timber than is processed in order to build up inventory. By comparing the current inventory with an estimate of the desired inventory and factoring in projected annual harvest, the Forest Service can develop a range of expected timber purchases for any given year. The volume offered will be adjusted to fall within the most current estimate.

Dated: November 20, 1998.

**James A. Caplan,**

*Acting Regional Forester, Alaska Region.*

[FR Doc. 98-31609 Filed 11-25-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

[A-549-502]

#### Notice of Extension of Time Limit for Antidumping Duty Administrative Review of Certain Welded Carbon Steel Pipes and Tubes From Thailand

**AGENCY:** Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** November 27, 1998.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce (the Department) is extending the time limit for the preliminary results of the antidumping duty administrative review of the antidumping order on certain welded carbon steel pipes and tubes from Thailand, covering the period March 1, 1997 through February 28, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Totaro or Abdelali Elouaradia, AD/CVD Enforcement Office 7, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of

Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230, telephone (202) 482-1374 or 482-2243, respectively.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Tariff Act, as amended (the Act), the Department may extend the deadline for completion of an administrative review if it determines that it is not practicable to complete the review within the statutory time limit of 365 days. In the instant case, the Department has determined that it is not practicable to complete the review within the statutory time limit. See Memorandum from Roland L. MacDonald to Robert S. LaRussa (November 9, 1998).

Therefore, in accordance with section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Act, the Department is extending the time limit for the preliminary results until March 31, 1999.

Dated: November 19, 1998.

**Joseph A. Spetrini,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary, Enforcement Group III.*

[FR Doc. 98-31660 Filed 11-25-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 101598A]

#### Marine Mammals

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

**ACTION:** Issuance of permit amendment.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that PRBO International Biological Research, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970-9701, has been issued an amendment to scientific research permit No. 939.

**ADDRESSES:** The amendment and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following offices:

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS,

1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

Regional Administrator, Southwest Regional Office, NMFS, NOAA, 501

West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200,  
Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (562/980-  
4001).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Jeannie Drevenak, 301/713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On August 11, 1998, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 42828) that an amendment of permit No. 939, issued December 12, 1994 (59 FR 65016), had been requested by the above-named organization. The requested amendment has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR Part 216).

Dated: November 3, 1998.

**Ann D. Terbush,**

*Chief, Permits and Documentation Division,  
Office of Protected Resources, National  
Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-31652 Filed 11-25-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Notice 99-05 ; Low Dose Research Program—Scientific, Regulatory, and Societal Issues

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Notice inviting grant applications.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Biological and Environmental Research (OBER) of the Office of Science (SC), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), hereby announces its interest in receiving applications to address, analyze, and anticipate scientific, regulatory, and societal issues and opportunities arising from advances in low dose research and from current and planned regulatory policy. This may include research to summarize (1) the state-of-the-art of low dose research, (2) research and technology developments that support needs of the low dose research program, and (3) information needs and risk policy development strategies of regulatory agencies responsible for developing low dose radiation exposure standards. Research summaries should be submitted for publication in the peer-reviewed literature so they are broadly available to scientists, regulators, and the public. Information can be made broadly available through the development and use of a web site or other educational materials. Applications can also include the organization of studies, conferences, or workshops that identify and clarify, on

an ongoing basis, the most urgent issues for the low dose research program and for the use of information developed in the program for risk assessment.

**DATES:** Potential applicants are encouraged to submit a brief preapplication. All preapplications, referencing Program Notice 99-05, should be received by DOE by 4:30 p.m. e.s.t., December 14, 1998. A response to the preapplications discussing the potential program relevance of a formal application generally will be communicated within 7 days of receipt.

The deadline for receipt of formal applications is 4:30 p.m., e.s.t., January 18, 1999, in order to be accepted for merit review and to permit timely consideration for award in FY 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Preapplications, referencing Program Notice 99-05, should be sent by E-mail to

joanne.corcoran@oer.doe.gov; however, preapplications will also be accepted if mailed to the following address: Ms. Joanne Corcoran, Office of Biological and Environmental Research, SC-72, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290.

Formal applications, referencing Program Notice 99-05, should be sent to: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Grants and Contracts Division, SC-64, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290, ATTN: Program Notice 99-05. This address must be used when submitting applications by U.S. Postal Service Express, any commercial mail delivery service, or when hand carried by the applicant.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. David Thomassen, telephone: (301) 903-9817, Office of Biological and Environmental Research, SC-72, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290. The full text of Program Notice 99-05 is available via the Internet using the following web site address: <http://www.er.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Background**

Current standards for occupational and residential exposures to radiation and chemicals are based on linear, no-threshold models of risk that drive regulatory decisions and estimations of cancer risk. Linear, no-threshold models assume that risk is always proportional to dose, that there is no risk only when there is no dose, and that even a single molecule or radiation induced ionization can cause cancer or disease. However, the scientific basis for these

assumptions is limited and uncertain at very low doses and dose rates.

Much scientific evidence suggests that the risks from exposure to low doses or low dose-rates of radiation and chemicals may be better described by a non-linear, dose-response relationship. This evidence includes long term human and animal studies and research at the cellular and molecular level on the DNA repair capabilities of cells and tissues, 'bystander' effects associated with low dose exposures, the effects of exposure-induced gene expression, the effects of a cell's micro environment on its response to low dose exposures, and studies of the multi-step nature of cancer development. A more definitive understanding of the biological responses induced by low dose, low dose-rate exposures is needed to clarify the role played by these and other cell responses and capabilities in determining risk.

The low dose research program focuses on quantifying and understanding the mechanisms of molecular and cellular responses to low dose, low dose-rate exposures to radiation to improve the scientific underpinning for estimating risks from these exposures. The goal of this research program is the development of scientifically defensible tools and approaches for determining risk that are widely used, accepted, and understood.

##### **Applicant Qualifications and Capabilities**

Applicants should demonstrate knowledge of radiation biology, relevant literature, risk modeling strategies and needs, federal regulatory policy and policy development, and public concerns over exposure to radiation. Applicants should demonstrate their understanding of the needs for and the uses of the types of scientific information likely to be developed in the low dose research program. They should demonstrate understanding of previous epidemiologic and experimental studies involving low dose, low dose-rate exposures to radiation. Finally, interested applicants should demonstrate knowledgeability of research opportunities and capabilities at National Laboratories, universities, and industry in the area of molecular and cellular responses to low dose, low dose-rate exposures.

##### **Program Funding**

It is anticipated that up to \$300,000 will be available for grant awards during FY 1999, contingent on availability of appropriated funds. Multiple year funding is expected, contingent on availability of appropriated funds,