

participating university staff, students, and NWS operational staff to share observations, interpretations, and theory of the complex atmospheric circulations, which are now observable with new information obtained through the modernization of the NWS. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) exists between UCAR and NOAA although no financial assistance is provided through the MOA. The research is currently funded by a cooperative agreement. The period of the cooperative agreement starting with the fiscal year 1999 funding cycle will be for 3 years.

Subject to the availability of funds, NOAA intends to continue support to the COMET program during the fiscal year 1999 funding cycle. The COMET program is a cooperative agreement between the NWS and the UCAR, which represents all universities with meteorology and oceanographic graduate and undergraduate programs. We believe UCAR is the only entity which can draw on all of the talent of the participating universities to provide the programs needed by the Federal and university meteorological community.

NOAA does not intend to establish or fund new cooperative agreements at this time. This notice is not a solicitation for proposals.

Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance: The NWS COMET program is listed in the Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance under number 11.467, Meteorologic and Hydrologic Modernization Development.

Classification: This action has been determined not to be significant for purposes of E.O. 12866.

Dated: December 1, 1998.

John J. Kelly, Jr.,

Assistant Administrator for Weather Services.
[FR Doc. 98-32450 Filed 12-4-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-KE-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 120198A]

Marine Mammals

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

ACTION: Request to transfer a non-releasable rehabilitated marine mammal.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Marine Mammal Care Center at Fort

MacArthur, 3601 South Gaffey Street, San Pedro, CA 90731, has requested authorization to transfer a non-releasable rehabilitated California sea lion (*Zalophus californianus*) to Gabriel J. Kerschner, Wild Things, Inc., 1211 Ponderosa Way, Weimar, CA 95736, for purposes of public display.

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before January 6, 1999.

ADDRESSES: The authorization request and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office:

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289).

Written comments on this request should be mailed to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301) 713-0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by e-mail or by other electronic media.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ann Hochman, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Marine Mammal Care Center is requesting authorization to transfer one female California sea lion from unreleasable beached and stranded stock for the purpose of public display, as authorized by 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).

The permanent retention for public display purposes of a beached or stranded marine mammal taken for the purpose of rehabilitation under section 109(h) of the MMPA must be authorized by NMFS before such animals may be retained by the rehabilitating facility, transported domestically to a public display facility, or exported to another facility for public display purposes, in accordance with applicable MMPA requirements.

In order to obtain any marine mammal for public display purposes, the recipient must meet the following three public display criteria: (1) Offer a program for education or conservation purposes that is based on professionally recognized standards of the public display community; (2) be registered or hold a license issued under 7 U.S.C.

2131 *et seq.*, ie., from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), U.S. Department of Agriculture; and (3) maintain facilities for the public display of marine mammals that are open to the public on a regularly scheduled basis and to which access is not limited or restricted other than by charging of an admission fee.

Wild Things, Inc., has an exhibitor's license, No. 93-C-0382, issued by APHIS under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). However, Wild Things, Inc., does not currently maintain marine mammals. The care and maintenance of captive marine mammals must adhere to the requirements of the AWA. Consequently, a copy of the request is also being sent to APHIS.

Wild Things, Inc., is open to the public on the first Saturday of each month with access that is not limited or restricted other than by charging an admission fee, and will offer an educational program based upon the standards of the American Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Wild Things, Inc., plans to add this marine mammal to its outreach program to local school assembly programs. Transportation associated with these assembly programs will be conducted according to APHIS standards under the AWA. Also, Wild Things, Inc., will be required to submit to NMFS a transport notification 15 days in advance of any proposed transport, as required under section 104(c) of the MMPA.

Dated: December 1, 1998.

Art Jeffers,

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

[FR Doc. 98-32431 Filed 12-4-98; 8:45 am]

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COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Applications of the New York Mercantile Exchange for Designation as a Contract Market in PJM Electricity Futures and Options, Submitted Under 45-Day Fast Track Procedures

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed terms and conditions for applications for contract market designation.

SUMMARY: The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX or Exchange) has applied for designation as a contract market in PJM (Pennsylvania-Maryland-New Jersey) electricity futures and

option contracts. The proposals were submitted under the Commission's 45-day Fast Track procedures. The Director of the Division of Economic Analysis (Division) of the Commission, acting pursuant to the authority delegated by Commission Regulation 140.96, has determined that publication of the proposals for comment is in the public interest, will assist the Commission in considering the views of interested persons, and is consistent with the purposes of the Commodity Exchange Act.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before December 22, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons should submit their views and comments to Jean A. Webb, Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street, NW Washington, DC 20581. In addition, comments may be sent by facsimile transmission to facsimile number (202) 418-5521, or by electronic mail to secretary@cftc.gov. Reference should be made to NYMEX PJM electricity futures and option contracts.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Please contact Joseph Storer of the Division of Economic Analysis, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581, telephone (202) 418-5282. Facsimile number: (202) 418-5527. Electronic mail: jstorer@cftc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed designation applications were submitted pursuant to the Commission's Fast Track procedures for streamlining the review of futures contract rule amendments and new contract approvals (62 FR 10434). Under those procedures, the proposals, absent any contrary action by the Commission, may be deemed approved at the close of business on January 11, 1999, 45 days after receipt of the proposals. In view of the limited review period provided under the Fast Track procedures, the Commission has determined to publish for public comment notice of the availability of the terms and conditions for 15 days, rather than 30 days as provided for proposals submitted under the regular review procedures.

Copies of the proposed terms and conditions will be available for inspection at the Office of the Secretariat, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581. Copies can be obtained through the Office of the Secretariat by mail at the above address, by phone at (202) 418-5100, or via the internet on the

CFTC website at 222.cftc.gov under "What's New & Pending".

Other materials submitted by the NYMEX in support of the proposals may be available upon request pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Commission's regulations thereunder (17 CFR Part 145 (1997)), except to the extent they are entitled to confidential treatment as set forth in 17 CFR 145.5 and 145.9. Requests for copies of such materials should be made to the FOI, Privacy and Sunshine Act Compliance Staff of the Office of Secretariat at the Commission's headquarters in accordance with 17 CFR 145.7 and 145.8.

Any person interested in submitting written data, views, or arguments on the proposals, or with respect to other materials submitted by the NYMEX, should send such comments to Jean A. Webb, Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581 by the specified date.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 1, 1998.

Steven Manaster,
Director.

[FR Doc. 98-32403 Filed 12-4-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Financial and Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before February 5, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and requests for copies of the proposed information collection requests should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651, or should be electronically mailed to the internet address Pat-Sherrill@ed.gov, or should be faxed to 202-708-9346.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick J. Sherrill (202) 708-8196. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information

Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Financial and Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment at the address specified above. Copies of the requests are available from Patrick J. Sherrill at the address specified above.

The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: December 1, 1998.

Kent H. Hannaman,

*Leader, Information Management Group,
Office of the Chief Financial and Chief
Information Officer.*

Office of Postsecondary Education

Type of Review: Revision.

Title: Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program Loan Deferment Applications.

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.