

significant and there will be far less energy in any oscillations. Additionally, these tests will be conducted inside the offshore bar at the SRI site. The offshore bar ameliorates the transmission of the underwater portion of the shock wave. Also, MK-82 GPBs will be buried in bottom sands to approximately their center of gravity (3 ft (0.9 m), a factor expected to mitigate the transmission of the shock wave as the detonations will be directed downwards.

Human mitigation: Eglin has established safety zones to prevent marine mammal injury for each test. These safety zones are: 0.75 km (0.47 mi) for SABRE-22, 1.0 km (0.62 mi) for SABRE-23, 1.0 km (0.62 mi) for DET, 6.0 km (3.73 mi) for MK-82 GPB, and 0.5 km (0.31 mi) for MK-5 MCS.

Eglin has proposed that base personnel conduct a 30-minute pre-detonation aerial monitoring survey immediately prior to each test to ensure no marine mammals are within each test area's designated safety zone. With water depths less than 18 m (59 ft), low turbidity, and white sand bottom, exceptional marine mammal visibility is ensured. Aerial surveys will be conducted at approximately 100 ft (30.5 m) elevation.

In order to ensure adequate visibility for locating marine mammals (and sea turtles), no tests will take place if sea state conditions are greater than category 3 and water clarity is not adequate for conducting surveys. No tests will take place if marine mammals or sea turtles are sighted within the safety zone.

Monitoring

In addition to pre-detonation monitoring mentioned previously, Eglin will conduct aerial surveys immediately following each detonation event. The post-test monitoring will be conducted in a similar manner to the pre-test monitoring, except that observation personnel will be focusing on locating any injured marine mammals. If any injured marine mammals are observed during post-test monitoring, subsequent detonations will be postponed, and the local stranding network notified. The project will be required to be reviewed by Air Force and NMFS personnel prior to conducting any additional tests.

Reporting

Any takes of marine mammals other than those authorized by the IHA will be reported to the Regional Administrator, NMFS, by the next working day. A draft final report of the entire test results and marine mammal observations for pre- and post-detonation monitoring will be submitted

to NMFS within 90 days after completion of the last test. Unless notified by NMFS to the contrary, that draft final report will be considered the final report under the IHA.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

As part of its request for a small take authorization, the Air Force prepared two EAs, one for SABRE and DET and a second document for the MK-82/MK-5 systems. These EAs, which supplement information contained in the application, are necessary for determining whether the activities proposed for receiving small take authorizations are having a negligible impact on affected marine mammal stocks. NMFS has reviewed the EAs and concurs with the findings. As a result, NMFS finds that it is unnecessary to prepare its own NEPA documentation and hereby adopts the Air Force EAs as its own, as provided by 40 CFR 1506.3. NMFS finds that the issuance of an IHA to the Air Force will not result in a significant environmental impact on the human environment and that it is unnecessary to either prepare its own NEPA documentation or to recirculate the Air Force EAs for additional comments.

Consultation

On October 15, 1998, NMFS completed consultation with the Air Force under section 7 of the ESA. The finding of that consultation was that the proposed testing activity is not likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species of whales or sea turtles, if the conservation and mitigation measures specified in the Biological Assessment prepared by the Air Force are undertaken. NMFS concludes, therefore, that the issuance of an IHA to the Air Force to take small numbers of bottlenose dolphins, spotted dolphins and possibly other cetacean species by harassment incidental to explosive testing at Eglin is not likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species of whales or sea turtles.

Conclusions

NMFS has determined that the short-term impact of incidentally taking small numbers of bottlenose dolphins, spotted dolphins, and possibly other cetacean species by harassment and non-serious injury incidental to explosive testing of obstacle and mine clearance systems at Eglin, as described previously in this document, will result, at worst, in the brief harassment of these species and possibly in a temporary behavioral modification. While behavioral

modifications may be made by these species to avoid the resultant acoustic disturbance, this action is expected to have a negligible impact on both individual animals and the stocks of these mammals. In addition, no take by injury and/or death is anticipated, and harassment takes will be at the lowest level practicable due to incorporation of the mitigation measures mentioned above.

Since NMFS is assured that the taking would not result in more than the incidental harassment (as defined by the MMPA) of small numbers of bottlenose dolphins, spotted dolphins and possibly other cetacean species and would result in the least practicable impact on the stocks, NMFS has determined that the requirements of subsection 101(a)(5)(D) have been met and the authorization can be issued.

Authorization

For the above reasons, NMFS has issued an IHA to the Air Force for the incidental harassment and non-serious injury of a small number of bottlenose dolphins, spotted dolphins, and possibly other cetacean species. NMFS has determined that, provided the mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements described in the authorization are undertaken the short-term impact of explosives testing for obstacle and mine clearance systems at Eglin has the potential to result in no more than a negligible impact on affected marine mammal stocks.

Dated: December 3, 1998.

Patricia A. Montanio,

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

[FR Doc. 98-32534 Filed 12-7-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

1999 National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs Program

Notice is hereby given that Pub. L. 99-190, as amended, authorizing the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs Program, has been funded for 1999 in the amount of \$7,000,000.00. All requests for information and applications for grants should be received by 31 December 1998 and addressed to: Charles H. Atherton, Secretary, Commission of Fine Arts, National Building Museum, Suite 312, 441 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001, Phone: 202-504-2200.

Deadlines for receipt of submission of grants applications is 1 March 1999.

This program provides grants for general operating support of

organizations whose primary purpose is performing, exhibiting, and/or presenting the arts. To be eligible for these grants, organizations must be located in the District of Columbia, must be not-for-profit, non-academic institutions of demonstrated national repute, and must have annual income, exclusive of federal funds, in excess of one million dollars for the current year and for the past three years.

Charles H. Atherton,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-32531 Filed 12-7-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6330-01-M

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Notice of Meeting

The next meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts is scheduled for 17 December 1998 at 10:00 AM in the Commission's offices at the National Building Museum (Pension Building), Suite 312, Judiciary Square, 441 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. The meeting will focus on reviewing designs for the \$1 circulating coin.

Inquiries regarding the agenda and requests to submit written or oral statements should be addressed to Charles H. Atherton, Secretary, Commission of Fine Arts, at the above address or call 202-504-2200. Individuals requiring sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired should contact the Secretary at least 10 days before the meeting date.

Dated in Washington, D.C., 30 November 1998.

Charles H. Atherton,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-32528 Filed 12-7-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6330-01-M

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

TIME AND DATE: 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, December 22, 1998.

PLACE: 1155 21st St., N.W., Washington, D.C., 9th Floor Conference Room.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: Enforcement Matters.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Jean A. Webb, 202-418-5100.

Jean A. Webb,

Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 98-32586 Filed 12-3-98; 4:21 pm]

BILLING CODE 6351-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

General Services Administration

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

[OMB Control No. 9000-0059]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request Entitled North Carolina Sales Tax Certification

AGENCIES: Department of Defense (DOD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Notice of request for public comments regarding an extension to an existing OMB clearance.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Secretariat will be submitting to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request to review and approve an extension of a currently approved information collection requirement concerning North Carolina Sales Tax Certification. The clearance currently expires on March 31, 1999.

DATES: Comments may be submitted on or before February 8, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, or obtaining a copy of the justification, should be submitted to: FAR Desk Officer, OMB, Room 10102, NEOB, Washington, DC 20503, and a copy to the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (MVRs), 1800 F Streets, NW, Room 4037, Washington, DC 20405.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeremy F. Olson, Federal Acquisition Policy Division, GSA (202) 501-3221.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Purpose

The North Carolina Sales and Use Tax Act authorizes counties and incorporated cities and towns to obtain each year from the Commissioner of Revenue of the State of North Carolina a refund of sales and use taxes indirectly paid on building materials, supplies, fixtures, and equipment that

become a part of or are annexed to any building or structure in North Carolina. However, to substantiate a refund claim for sales or use taxes paid on purchases of building materials, supplies, fixtures, or equipment by a contractor, the Government must secure from the contractor certified statements setting forth the cost of the property purchased from each vendor and the amount of sales or use taxes paid. Similar certified statements by subcontractors must be obtained by the general contractor and furnished to the Government. The information is used as evidence to establish exemption from State and local taxes.

B. Annual Reporting Burden

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

The annual reporting burden is estimated as follows: Respondents, 424; responses per respondent, 1; total annual responses, 424; preparation hours per response, .17; and total response burden hours, 72.

Obtaining Copies of Proposals: Requester may obtain a copy of the justification from the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (MVRs), Room 4037, 1800 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20405, telephone (202) 501-4755. Please cite OMB Control No. 9000-0059, North Carolina Sales Tax Certification, in all correspondence.

Dated: December 3, 1998.

Edward C. Loeb,

Director, Federal Acquisition Policy Division.

[FR Doc. 98-32525 Filed 12-7-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[OMB Control No. 9000-0056]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request Entitled Report of Shipment

AGENCIES: Department of Defense (DOD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Notice of request for public comments regarding an extension to an existing OMB clearance.