

written statements at any time before or after the meeting. However, to facilitate distribution of public presentation materials to Committee members, the Committee suggests that public presentation materials or comments be forwarded before the meeting to the address listed below: Ms. Lee Ann Carpenter, Advisory Committees MS: 3886C, U.S. Department of Commerce, 15th St. & Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20230.

The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the delegate of the General Counsel, formally determined on October 3, 1997, pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, that the series of meetings or portions of meetings of these Committees and of any Subcommittees thereof, dealing with the classified materials listed in 5 U.S.C. 552(c)(1) shall be exempt from the provisions relating to public meetings found in section 10(a)(1) and (a)(3), of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The remaining series of meetings or portions thereof will be open to the public.

A copy of the Notice of Determination to close meetings or portions of meetings of these Committees is available for public inspection and copying in the Central Reference and Records Inspection Facility, Room 6020, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC. For further information or copies of the minutes call Lee Ann Carpenter, 202-482-2583.

Dated: December 30, 1998.

Lee Ann Carpenter,
Committee Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-335 Filed 1-7-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-33-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Science Advisory Board; Notice of Open Meeting

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary and Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

SUMMARY: The Science Advisory Board (SAB) was established by a Decision Memorandum dated September 25, 1997, and is the only Federal Advisory Committee with responsibility to advise the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere on long- and short-range strategies for research, education and application of science to resource management. SAB activities and advice will provide necessary input to ensure that National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) science programs are of the highest quality and provide optimal support to resource management.

TIME AND PLACE: Thursday, January 28, 1999 from 8 AM to 4:30 PM. The meeting will take place in the main conference room at the Clarion Hotel & Suites, Downtown Convention Center, 100 SE 4th Street, Miami, FL, 33131.

AGENDA:

1. Update on FY99 NOAA science programs and budget.
2. Overview of NOAA-wide Line Office consensus research priorities with focus on cross-cutting initiatives.
3. Presentation of NOAA Strategic Planning Team examples at a general level (i.e., Sustain Health Coasts with focus on "Harmful Algal Blooms" and Advance Short-Term Weather Forecast Systems with focus on "Hurricanes at Landfall").
4. SAB Discussion on NOAA Strategic Planning related to science priorities.
5. SAB Sub-committee reports.
6. SAB Discussion on NOAA Science Policy with reference to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science Report on Science Policy ("Ehler Report"), the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC) "White Paper", and the National Research Council (NRC) report on "Research Pathways for the Next Decade".
7. Discussion on potential SAB participation in NOAA Science panel Reviews.
8. Closing discussion on Priority Science-related issues for NOAA by SAB, with Sub-Committee Action Items, Next Steps and/or Preliminary Recommendations identified as appropriate.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: The meeting will be open to public participation with at least 45 minutes set aside during the meeting for direct verbal comments or questions from the public. The SAB expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted verbal or written statements. In general, each individual or group making a verbal presentation will be limited to a total time of five (5) minutes. Written comments (at least 35 copies) should be received in the SAB Executive Director's Office by January 18, 1999, in order to provide sufficient time for SAB review prior to meeting date. Written comments received by the SAB Executive Director after January 18 will be distributed to the SAB, but may possibly not be reviewed prior to the meeting date. Approximately twenty (20) seats will be available for the public

including five (5) seats reserved for the media. Seats will be available on a first-come first-served bases.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Michael P. Crosby, Executive Director, Science Advisory Board, NOAA, NCHB, Rm. 5128, 14th St. & Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20230. (Phone: 202-482-2977, Fax: 202-501-3068, E-mail: MICHAEL.CROSBY@NOAA.GOV).

Dated: December 30, 1998.

D. James Baker,

Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator for NOAA.

[FR Doc. 99-371 Filed 1-7-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 122898A]

Marine Mammals; File No. P595

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Permit No. 1004, issued to The Whale Conservation Institute, 191 Weston Road, Lincoln, Massachusetts 01773, was amended to extend the expiration date to December 31, 1999.

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

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

Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930, (978/281-9250).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth Johnson or Sara Shapiro, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the provisions of § 216.39 of the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the provisions of § 222.25 of the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR part 222).

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit (1) was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: December 31, 1998.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

[FR Doc. 99-418 Filed 1-7-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for Reevaluation of the White River to Newport, Arkansas, Navigation Project

AGENCY: Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: This study supplements the EIS "White River Navigation to Batesville, Arkansas" (filed with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) January 23, 1981). The purpose of this reevaluation study is to develop a plan for improving navigation capability of the lower White River, Arkansas. The work is authorized under the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Jacqueline Whitlock, telephone (901) 544-3832, CEMVM-PM-P, 167 North Main Street B-202, Memphis, TN 38103-1894. Questions regarding the DEIS may be directed to Mr. Erwin Roemer, telephone (901) 544-0704, CEMVM-PM-E.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Proposed Action

The feasibility of making navigation improvements on the White River, Arkansas, is being studied. The area of focus is the White River from Arkansas Post Canal (River Mile 10) upstream to Newport, Arkansas (River Mile 254). Studies involve reengineering and design of the existing project, possible changes to existing reservoir release schedules, defining navigation windows to increase reliability, seeking economic optimization, and minimizing adverse environmental impacts. The project was authorized originally by the Rivers and

Harbors Act of 1892, although the Federal government conducted snagging operations here as early as 1870. A Navigation Report was prepared by the Memphis District in 1969, under section 107 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1960. This resulted in channel improvement completed in 1971. An EIS that focused on existing project maintenance was prepared by the Memphis District and filed with CEQ June 10, 1976. In 1979 the Memphis District produced a feasibility report and final EIS ("White River Navigation to Batesville, Arkansas" May 1979; filed with CEQ January 23, 1981) regarding plans to further improve the navigation channel to a depth of 9 feet available 95% of the time and a bottom width of 200 feet. The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986 (Pub. L. 99-662) modified the project to include mitigative and other actions related to the Fat Pocketbook Pearly Mussel and improving aquatic habitat through construction of weirs. The WRDA of 1988 deauthorized the project. The WRDA of 1996 reauthorized the project and led to the present reevaluation.

2. Reasonable Alternatives

An optimal plan of improvement will be devised including consideration of four different project perspectives: (1) Existing conditions, (2) future conditions without Federal involvement, (3) future with the authorized project, as earlier planned, and (4) future with an alternative plan including optimal improvements. These alternatives, including those with no action on behalf of the U.S. Government, will be considered.

3. The Corps Scoping Process

A public involvement program has been initiated and will be maintained throughout this reevaluation. The broad goal is to identify significant issues through an exchange of information on project-related topics. Input will be sought from the public including individuals and agencies, and from the private sector. Federally recognized American Indian tribes do not have tribal lands at or near the White River, but effort will be made to consult groups that, based on historic or ancestral presence, might have interest in the study. Status reports will be made to interested parties throughout the reevaluation. It is anticipated several public scoping meetings will be scheduled within the next year and prior to completion of draft SEIS document. These meetings will likely be at or relatively near the White River study area. The draft SEIS document

should be available for review by late 1999. A number of issues are anticipated to be of interest during the scoping process. These issues are known from the original 1979 EIS and from current knowledge of the general region. These include the presence of wildlife refuge areas adjacent to the project, the Fat Pocketbook Pearly Mussel and other endangered species, weir construction to improve aquatic habitat, wildlife and aquatic habitat in general, waterfowl, water quality, hydrology, wetlands, cultural resources including potential historic shipwrecks and sites potentially of interest to American Indians, recreation, economics, disposal of dredged material, and the aesthetics of the lower White River. Both positive and negative impacts will be considered.

Mary V. Yonts,

*Alternate Army Federal Register Liaison
Officer.*

[FR Doc. 99-397 Filed 1-7-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-KS-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Financial and Chief Information Officer invites comments on the submission for OMB review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before February 8, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Danny Werfel, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, N.W., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503 or should be electronically mailed to the internet address Werfel.d@al.eop.gov. Requests for copies of the proposed information collection requests should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, D.C. 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