

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 06/11/2012

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
FOR CERTIFYING OFFICIAL: Simon Szykman
FOR CLEARANCE OFFICER: Diana Hynek

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken action on your request received 12/22/2011

ACTION REQUESTED: Extension without change of a currently approved collection
TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular
ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 201112-0648-012
AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:
TITLE: NOAA Satelite Ground Station Customer Questionnaire
LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved with change
OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0227

The agency is required to display the OMB Control Number and inform respondents of its legal significance in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.5(b).

EXPIRATION DATE: 06/30/2015

DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	102	17	0
New	100	17	0
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Adjustment	-2	0	0
Change Due to Potential Violation of the PRA	0	0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE:

OMB Authorizing Official:

Kevin F. Neyland
Deputy Administrator,
Office Of Information And Regulatory Affairs

List of ICs

IC Title	Form No.	Form Name	CFR Citation
NOAA Satellite Ground Station Customer Questionnaire	NA	NOAA Satellite Ground Station Customer Questionnaire	

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

Please read the instructions before completing this form. For additional forms or assistance in completing this form, contact your agency's Paperwork Clearance Officer. Send two copies of this form, the collection instrument to be reviewed, the supporting statement, and any additional documentation to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.

1. Agency/Subagency originating request	2. OMB control number b. <input type="checkbox"/> None a. _____ - _____
3. Type of information collection (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> New Collection b. <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of a currently approved collection c. <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of a currently approved collection d. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired e. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired f. <input type="checkbox"/> Existing collection in use without an OMB control number For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions	4. Type of review requested (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Regular submission b. <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency - Approval requested by _____ / _____ / _____ c. <input type="checkbox"/> Delegated
	5. Small entities Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	6. Requested expiration date a. <input type="checkbox"/> Three years from approval date b. <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify: _____ / _____
7. Title	
8. Agency form number(s) (<i>if applicable</i>)	
9. Keywords	
10. Abstract	
11. Affected public (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"</i>) a. ___ Individuals or households d. ___ Farms b. ___ Business or other for-profit e. ___ Federal Government c. ___ Not-for-profit institutions f. ___ State, Local or Tribal Government	12. Obligation to respond (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary b. <input type="checkbox"/> Required to obtain or retain benefits c. <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory
13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden a. Number of respondents _____ b. Total annual responses _____ 1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically _____ % c. Total annual hours requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____	14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (<i>in thousands of dollars</i>) a. Total annualized capital/startup costs _____ b. Total annual costs (O&M) _____ c. Total annualized cost requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____
15. Purpose of information collection (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"</i>) a. ___ Application for benefits e. ___ Program planning or management b. ___ Program evaluation f. ___ Research c. ___ General purpose statistics g. ___ Regulatory or compliance d. ___ Audit	16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting (<i>check all that apply</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Recordkeeping b. <input type="checkbox"/> Third party disclosure c. <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting 1. <input type="checkbox"/> On occasion 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-annually 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Annually 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Biennially 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____
17. Statistical methods Does this information collection employ statistical methods <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission) Name: _____ Phone: _____

19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

On behalf of this Federal Agency, I certify that the collection of information encompassed by this request complies with 5 CFR 1320.9

NOTE: The text of 5 CFR 1320.9, and the related provisions of 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3), appear at the end of the instructions. *The certification is to be made with reference to those regulatory provisions as set forth in the instructions.*

The following is a summary of the topics, regarding the proposed collection of information, that the certification covers:

- (a) It is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions;
- (b) It avoids unnecessary duplication;
- (c) It reduces burden on small entities;
- (d) It used plain, coherent, and unambiguous terminology that is understandable to respondents;
- (e) Its implementation will be consistent and compatible with current reporting and recordkeeping practices;
- (f) It indicates the retention period for recordkeeping requirements;
- (g) It informs respondents of the information called for under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3):
 - (i) Why the information is being collected;
 - (ii) Use of information;
 - (iii) Burden estimate;
 - (iv) Nature of response (voluntary, required for a benefit, mandatory);
 - (v) Nature and extent of confidentiality; and
 - (vi) Need to display currently valid OMB control number;
- (h) It was developed by an office that has planned and allocated resources for the efficient and effective management and use of the information to be collected (see note in Item 19 of instructions);
- (i) It uses effective and efficient statistical survey methodology; and
- (j) It makes appropriate use of information technology.

If you are unable to certify compliance with any of the provisions, identify the item below and explain the reason in Item 18 of the Supporting Statement.

Signature of Senior Official or designee

Date

Agency Certification (signature of Assistant Administrator, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Line Office Chief Information Officer, head of MB staff for L.O.s, or of the Director of a Program or StaffOffice)

Signature

Date

Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer

Signature

Date

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

NOAA SATELLITE GROUND STATION CUSTOMER QUESTIONNAIRE

OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0227

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) operates a minimum of four meteorological satellite imagery transmission systems, two from geostationary operational environmental (GOES) satellites and two from polar-orbiting television infrared operational (TIROS) satellites in addition to two or three legacy backup and standby polar-orbiting satellites that continue transmitting beyond their design life. The data transmitted are available worldwide, and any user can establish a ground receiving station for reception of the data without the prior consent or other approval from NOAA. With such an open access policy, it is currently not possible to have a comprehensive understanding of the range and numbers of the data users and application of the data received.

The purpose of collecting the information contained in the "Questionnaire" is to satisfy the following objectives:

- a. To comply with international agreements such as the Department of Commerce/NOAA's memorandum of understanding with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) (2008), so that NOAA can provide environmental satellite data and processed satellite data products to the public domain. *This document is not posted on the Web, but is attached on the ROCIS documents page.*
- b. To improve Government efficiencies of data dissemination using cost-saving technologies to minimize the expenditure of personnel and financial resources.

The [NOAA Policy on Partnerships in the Provision of Environmental Information](#) is also pertinent to this information collection. This policy was developed to strengthen the partnership among government, academia and the private sector which provides the nation with high quality environmental information.

The collection of information from a respondent is initiated when an individual contacts NESDIS via letter, telephone, fax or email. If the nature of the contact indicates the individual may operate a satellite receiving station for the acquisition of NOAA satellite data, the individual is requested to complete an on-line electronic questionnaire, which is found on a NOAA Internet site. The questionnaire is completed at the respondent's discretion.

2. Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used.

The information collected is used by NOAA/NESDIS in designing future satellite transmission systems, and determining the data content of present and future transmission systems. Within the past 5 years, collection information has been used in, but not confined to, the following activities, in combination with information posted on the NOAA Satellite and Information System (NOAASIS) web site:

- a. To determine the impact of changing data transmission rates on the forthcoming NOAA Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS) satellites on the user community.
- b. To notify domestic and international users of changes to the transmissions of the Low Resolution Picture Transmission (LRPT) and GOES VARIable rate (GVAR) data from NOAA satellites.
- c. To revise the content of the Low Rate Image Transmission (LRIT) data transmission to ensure Government/military requirements for products are fulfilled.
- d. To satisfy the annual obligation to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to provide the geographic location and receiving capability of any reception station known to NOAA. Information is collected once upon initial contact and subsequently only if there are changes to the information from the initial collection.

As explained in the preceding paragraphs, the information gathered has utility. NOAA will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with NOAA standards for confidentiality, privacy, and electronic information. See response to Question 10 of this Supporting Statement for more information on confidentiality and privacy. The information collection is designed to yield data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. Although the information collected is not expected to be disseminated directly to the public, results may be used in scientific, management, technical or general informational publications. Should NOAA decide to disseminate the information, it will be subject to the quality control measures and pre-dissemination review pursuant to [Section 515 of Public Law 106-554](#).

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques or other forms of information technology.

NOAA's information requirements are minimal. A questionnaire identical to the paper version is offered on the NOAASIS web site at: <http://noaasis.noaa.gov> and is available in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese languages. The type of respondents to this collection will have Internet access, and the electronic form reduces the respondent's burden. No additional or improved technology has been identified that can further reduce the burden to the respondent.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

The information being collected from respondents is unique and highly relevant to the operation of the Satellite Products and Services Division and its support to other

NOAA/NESDIS operations. No other NOAA/NESDIS components are collecting similar information.

5. If the collection of information involves small businesses or other small entities, describe the methods used to minimize burden.

The burden is designed to be minimal on all respondents.

6. Describe the consequences to the Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently.

If this information were not collected, there would be no other source of information which describes the database of NOAA satellite users. Without such information, short-term operational decisions and long-term planning and development would occur without being able to significantly gauge the scientific and monetary impact of such actions on the global user community, which includes other national governments and foreign meteorological agencies, and scientific and educational institutions. The Office of Satellite and Product Operations (OSPO), Satellite Products and Services Division (SPSD) would be unable to fulfill its reporting requirement to the NOAA. This could eventually impact further reporting to international bodies such as the WMO.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

The collection is consistent with OMB guidelines.

8. Provide information on the PRA Federal Register Notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received in response to that notice and describe the actions taken by the agency in response to those comments. Describe the efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

A Federal Register Notice published on August 30, 2011 (76 FR 53883) solicited public comment. No comments were received.

9. Explain any decisions to provide payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

No payments or gifts are made.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C 552) is cited on the survey Web page as the authority for protection of any personal information, which, for this collection, would be only name, mailing address and email address.

Electronic records are protected by a user identification/password. The user identification/password is issued to individuals as authorized, by authorized personnel. There are two such individuals who manage the database.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

No sensitive questions are asked.

12. Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information.

We estimate an annualized total of 100 unduplicated respondents and responses. At 10 minutes per response, the annualized burden will be 17 hours.

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or record-keepers resulting from the collection (excluding the value of the burden hours in Question 12 above).

All respondents complete the form online, and thus there is no recordkeeping or reporting cost.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government.

NOAA requires approximately 10 minutes to review and verify each questionnaire. Review and verification of the information in the data base by a GS-14 program manager or technician (\$40.58/hour, OPM 2011 mean) costs NOAA \$689.86 per year.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments.

Based on responses during the past three years, estimated unduplicated respondents and responses have decreased from 102 to 100.

16. For collections whose results will be published, outline the plans for tabulation and publication.

There is no intention to publicly disseminate or publish the information collected.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons why display would be inappropriate.

N/A.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.

N/A.

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT
NOAA SATELLITE GROUND STATION CUSTOMER QUESTIONNAIRE
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0227**

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

1. Describe (including a numerical estimate) the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used. Data on the number of entities (e.g. establishments, State and local governmental units, households, or persons) in the universe and the corresponding sample are to be provided in tabular form. The tabulation must also include expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection has been conducted before, provide the actual response rate achieved.

The potential respondent universe is comprised of NOAA customers/users of NOAA satellite imagery who have purchased ground satellite systems. These systems range from inexpensive units costing less than \$1000 for receiving Automatic Picture Transmission (APT) from polar orbiting satellites and Low Rate Information Transmission (LRIT) imagery and products from geostationary satellites, to systems that cost tens of thousands of dollars capable of receiving High Resolution Picture Transmission (HRPT) images from polar orbiting satellites and Geostationary GOES VARIable rate (GVAR) imagery. Manufacturers of these systems are included.

Some of these customers are local, state and federal government agencies from the United States and around the world.

There is no definitive answer to the size of the respondent universe. It is estimated to be in the thousands. There are 3,040 entries in the database that spans 10 years. Almost all of the records are unduplicated. There have been 180 new survey respondents in the past three years. The database can provide reports based on:

- Type of ground system
- The affiliation to a range of groups, examples of which are government meteorological agencies, other government agencies, universities, other secondary schools, military or media.
- Customer location

The table on the following page gives the numbers of each user by affiliation.

Table 1: Summary of Records by Organizational Affiliation

Category	Number of Records*
Installation by Organizational Affiliation	* Number of Users
Amateur	1,573
Commercial/Business	294
Equipment Software Manufacturer	86
Government Meteorological Organization	199
Other Civil Government	192
Military	97
High, Technical or Elementary Schools	217
University or College	252
Television or Radio Broadcast Station	19
Other	111
TOTAL	3,040

*Note: Record numbers approximate due to minimal duplication.

There are respondents from all parts of the world, though only a few countries in Africa are represented. For those countries with 25 or more users registered: Argentina, Mexico, New Zealand, Japan and Spain each account for 1%; Brazil, France, Germany and the Netherlands, each, 2%; Australia and Italy, each, 3%; Canada, 4%; United Kingdom, 20% and the U.S., 40%.

2. Describe the procedures for the collection, including: the statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection; the estimation procedure; the degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification; any unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures; and any use of periodic (less frequent than annual) data collection cycles to reduce burden.

In addition to linking those contacting NESDIS to the survey on the Internet, NOAA explains the survey and its purposes, and provides the url, in conferences, meetings and other venues frequented by the target audience of potential respondents. It is estimated that we attend between 2 and 5 events per year, with an attendance of between 40 and 2,000. Although we discuss the survey with potential respondents, we do not actively record data at these events. No periodic survey is used and no sampling techniques are utilized. No attempt is made to contact a fixed number of respondents. No unusual problems have been identified.

3. Describe the methods used to maximize response rates and to deal with nonresponse. The accuracy and reliability of the information collected must be shown to be adequate for the intended uses. For collections based on sampling, a special justification must be provided if they will not yield "reliable" data that can be generalized to the universe studied.

We attempt to maximize response by informing all those who contact NESDIS either directly or by attending an applicable event, of the survey, its location, and its purposes. The audience is made up of those who are likely to have a vested interest in improving the satellite services. The questionnaire is also very brief.

Although at this point we do not have enough knowledge of the respondent universe to judge the representativeness of our sample, it is apparent that there is broad representation throughout the world, with higher percentages of registered users in the more developed countries. Also, providing the opportunity to respond to the questionnaire furthers our knowledge of the universe and also allows us to address stated needs. The primary data fields are: contact information, which types of imagery the respondents are receiving and / or what type of equipment or software is being employed or manufactured. The information collected is used for several purposes:

Respondents provide input on how upcoming NOAA satellite planning, changes in satellite and satellite transponder configuration, spacecraft design and other events (posted on our applicable websites) could affect user ground station configuration.

1. We can also gather some input indirectly by referring to the database on how many users have ground stations for different categories of reception.
2. We have been able to determine, and provide information to respondents on, how many ground stations exist in foreign countries.
3. We have been able to determine whether respondents were aware of a change in a downlink frequency.

4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken. Tests are encouraged as effective means to refine collections, but if ten or more test respondents are involved OMB must give prior approval.

N/A.

5. Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on the statistical aspects of the design, and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other person(s) who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.

Marlin Perkins
Direct Readout Program Manager
301-817-4523
Direct Services Branch
Satellite Products and Services Division
Office of Satellite and Product Operations
NOAA Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Department of Commerce

Paul Seymour
Direct Broadcast Program Manager
301-817-4521
Direct Services Branch
Satellite Products and Services Division
Office of Satellite and Product Operations
NOAA Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Department of Commerce



NOAA Satellite Ground Station Customer Questionnaire

OMB Authorization #0648-0227 expires 31 December 2011

Languages: [Spanish](#) [French](#) [Portuguese](#)

This survey is for any organization or person operating a ground station who receives data from NOAA meteorological and environmental satellites.

NOAA, the operator of Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES) and Polar Orbiting Environmental Satellites (POES), maintains a voluntary list of known meteorological satellite receiving stations throughout the world. NOAA will make significant changes to its satellite systems over the next few years and this user list enables NOAA to keep its satellite user community informed.

This survey is designed to help NOAA provide the best service to you. It also assists us in planning and evaluating changes to the next generation of NOAA satellites and in providing limited information to the global meteorological community through the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

If you have not completed a similar survey for NOAA during the past 12 months or would like to update your previously submitted information, please complete this short survey. We are specifically interested in responses from all users throughout the world who receive meteorological data from NOAA satellites.

All respondents are advised that any information you submit will be treated in accordance with the U.S. Freedom of Information Act. We do not disclose any of your personal information that would constitute an invasion of your personal privacy.

NOAA provides a limited amount of information about the type of station you operate and satellite data you receive to the WMO. NOAA does not provide personal information about you to the WMO.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Please answer all questions that apply to you and your reception equipment.

Please Note: * Indicates a Required Field

1. *** Select one user category that best describes your activity:**

1a. **1a. User Category:**

- Amateur**
 Commercial/Business
 Equipment or Software manufacturer
 Other Civil Government
 Government meteorological organization
 Military
 University or College
 High School, Technical School, or Elementry School
 Television or Radio Broadcast Station
 Other Category:

1b. You've selected , Equipment or Software manufacturer, please check products/services that you make:

- APT AHRPT Software
 LRPT LRIT Image interpretation services
 HRPT GOES GVAR Complete 'turn key' installations GNC-A

2. *** What data types do you receive?**

Please check all products or services below that apply

- APT AHRPT EMWIN
 LRPT LRIT Do not know or Not Applicable
 HRPT GOES GVAR GNC-A

3. **What is the location of your receiving station antenna?**

Not Applicable (no antenna but receive data via the internet, cable, etc.)

LATITUDE* North (Please use DD:MM:SS format; ie 32 degrees, 34 minutes, 3 seconds N would be 32:34:03 N **or** DD.dddd decimal format; ie 32.5675 degrees N would be 32.5675 N)
LONGITUDE* West
ELEVATION feet

4. **User Information** (*Please Note: * Indicates a Required Field*)

Name (Last, First) *
Title
Organization
Division
Country *

Street Address

*** City/Town ***

State/Province *

Postal/ZIP

Code *

Telephone

FAX

Email Address

* Describe your
data application
(what do you
use it for?)

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.
Please review [OMB reporting requirements](#) for final completion.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)
BETWEEN
THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (WMO)
AND
THE US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA)**

The World Meteorological Organization (herein referred to as WMO) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (herein referred to as NOAA) together referred to as "Parties" to this agreement;

Considering the mutual interest of WMO and NOAA in cooperative activities in the field of meteorology, climate, hydrology and water resources, mitigation of natural disasters, agricultural development, human resources development, and related areas;

Recalling that the purposes of WMO are, among others, to coordinate the activities of its Members in the generation, processing and exchange of meteorological, hydrological and related geophysical data and products according to internationally agreed standards; to promote research and training in these fields at national, regional and global levels; to facilitate the development of services and application of related products;

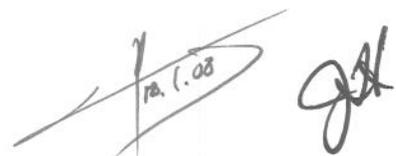
Recalling also that the mission of NOAA is to understand and predict changes in earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet the United States' economic, social, and environmental needs and because the influence and use of earth's oceans and atmosphere affect the health, economies and ecosystems of every nation, NOAA's interests naturally extend beyond U.S. national and continental boundaries;

Being aware of the need to develop further close cooperation between WMO and NOAA in areas of common interest and wishing to promote and strengthen such cooperation;

Agree to cooperate and coordinate activities and programs in meteorology, hydrology, and climate science. The broad objective of the cooperation is to allow the exchange of scientific resources, personnel and technical knowledge to support the improvement or development of meteorological or hydrological services for the benefit of the United States and other Members of the WMO. This cooperation is to facilitate sustainable economic and social development, and education and training in relevant fields that could benefit from advances and application of the sciences of meteorology and hydrology as follows:

Article I Exchange of information, representation and consultation

1. The Parties shall, as needed, exchange information and documents concerning matters of joint interest.

Handwritten signatures and date. One signature is a large, stylized 'JH' or similar. To its left, there is a date '12.1.08' written inside a circular scribble.

2. Each Party may send or host representatives of the other for conferences and meetings, which it may hold on matters of joint interest, in accordance with its own current procedures and practices.
3. Wherever desirable and useful, the Parties shall hold consultations on matters of joint interest and on topics relating to their collaboration; to this end, they may decide, if necessary, to establish a joint commission or ad hoc committees or commissions, pursuant to provisions and conditions to be established by joint agreement.

Article II Cooperation arrangements

1. Within the framework of their respective mandate and activities, both Parties may agree to the design and implementation of joint cooperation projects for the benefit the United States and other Member States, which may, more specifically, take the form of:
 - Training courses, seminars, workshops, coordination groups, , and related activities;
 - Economic and technical studies;
 - Preparation and implementation of projects;
 - Arrangements for personnel time and travel necessary to the success of above activities;
 - Efforts supporting the Group on Earth Observations and related activities;
 - Disseminating literature and relevant information;
 - Agreement to explore funding options necessary to the success of above activities; and
 - Any other activities of mutual interest the Parties agree upon.
2. Such projects shall be designed and implemented in accordance with specific arrangements, to be determined jointly by the relevant organ of the Parties, setting the practical, technical and financial conditions for the participation of the WMO, NOAA and other entities that may become party to specific projects.
3. The Parties shall adopt appropriate administrative measures to ensure effective cooperation and liaison under this MOU.

Article III Implementation, effective date, amendments and duration of this Memorandum of Understanding

1. The MOU shall be implemented through specific agreements each of which shall indicate the objectives, instruments, forms of participation and financial and other contributions of all parties. The MOU is not legally binding and is subject to the availability of appropriated funds.
2. This MOU shall enter into effect on the date the last Party signs, and shall be valid for three years and renewed for the same period, unless one of the Parties advises the other, with six months notice, of its



Handwritten signature and date: 12.1.22

desire to terminate the MOU. The Parties shall periodically review the MOU to determine whether it should be amended or terminated. The decision to terminate the MOU shall not effect the operation or conclusion of specific projects underway.

3. This MOU may be amended by joint agreement following a written proposal from either of the Parties.
4. The provisions under this MOU are without prejudice to each Party's obligations vis-à-vis the other Party by virtue of the Convention, General Regulations, and other relevant regulations and rules of the World Meteorological Organization.
5. NOAA may participate with the WMO under this MOU pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 313; 33 U.S.C. §§ 883a, 883b, and 883j; and 49 U.S.C. § 44720.

In witness whereof the undersigned have signed this Memorandum of Understanding.

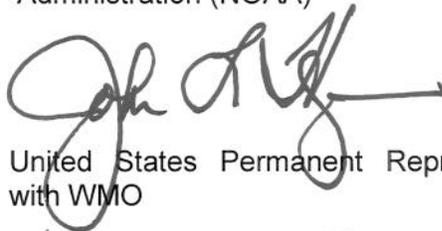
For
The World Meteorological Organization
(WMO)



Secretary-General

New Orleans, LA USA
Location, *January 18,*.....2008

For
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration (NOAA)



United States Permanent Representative
with WMO

New Orleans, LA USA
Location, *January 18,*.....2008

the ITC of the margins of dumping and the subsidy rates likely to prevail were the orders revoked. *See Stainless Steel Plate in Coils From Belgium, Italy, South Africa, South Korea, and Taiwan: Final Results of the Expedited Sunset Reviews of the Antidumping Duty Orders*, 75 FR 61699 (Oct. 6, 2010); *see also Stainless Steel Plate in Coils From South Africa: Final Results of Expedited Sunset Review*, 75 FR 62103 (Oct. 7, 2010).

On August 15, 2011, the ITC published its determination, pursuant to sections 751(c) and 752 of the Act, that revocation of the AD and CVD orders on SSPC from Belgium, Korea, South Africa, and Taiwan, would likely lead to a continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry within a reasonably foreseeable time.¹ *See Stainless Steel Plate From Belgium, Italy, Korea, South Africa, and Taiwan*, 76 FR 50495 (Aug. 15, 2011), and *Stainless Steel Plate in Coils from Belgium, Italy, Korea, South Africa, and Taiwan* (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-379 and 731-TA-788, 790-793 (Second Review), USITC Publication 4248, Aug. 2011).

Scope of the Orders

Stainless steel is an alloy steel containing, by weight, 1.2 percent or less of carbon and 10.5 percent or more of chromium, with or without other elements. The subject plate products are flat-rolled products, 254 mm or over in width and 4.75 mm or more in thickness, in coils, and annealed or otherwise heat treated and pickled or otherwise descaled. The subject plate may also be further processed (*e.g.*, cold-rolled, polished, *etc.*) provided that it maintains the specified dimensions of plate following such processing. Excluded from the scope of the orders are the following: (1) Plate not in coils, (2) plate that is not annealed or otherwise heat treated and pickled or otherwise descaled, (3) sheet and strip, and (4) flat bars.

The merchandise subject to the orders is currently classifiable in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) at subheadings: 7219.11.00.30, 7219.11.00.60, 7219.12.00.06, 7219.12.00.21, 7219.12.00.26, 7219.12.00.51, 7219.12.00.56, 7219.12.00.66, 7219.12.00.71, 7219.12.00.81, 7219.31.00.10, 7219.90.00.10, 7219.90.00.20, 7219.90.00.25, 7219.90.00.60, 7219.90.00.80, 7220.11.00.00, 7220.20.10.10,

7220.20.10.15, 7220.20.10.60, 7220.20.10.80, 7220.20.60.05, 7220.20.60.10, 7220.20.60.15, 7220.20.60.60, 7220.20.60.80, 7220.90.00.10, 7220.90.00.15, 7220.90.00.60, and 7220.90.00.80. Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the merchandise subject to these orders is dispositive.

Continuation of the Orders

As a result of the determinations by the Department and the ITC that revocation of these AD and CVD orders would likely lead to a continuation or recurrence of dumping or a countervailable subsidy, and material injury to an industry in the United States, pursuant to section 751(d)(2) of the Act, the Department hereby orders the continuation of the AD and CVD orders on SSPC from Belgium, Korea, South Africa, and Taiwan. U.S. Customs and Border Protection will continue to collect antidumping duty cash deposits at the rates in effect at the time of entry for all imports of subject merchandise.

The effective date of the continuation of the orders will be the date of publication in the **Federal Register** of this notice of continuation. Pursuant to sections 751(c)(2) and 751(c)(6) of the Act, the Department intends to initiate the next five-year review of these orders not later than 30 days prior to the fifth anniversary of the effective date of continuation.

These five-year (sunset) reviews and this notice are in accordance with section 751(c) of the Act and published pursuant to section 777(i)(1) of the Act.

Dated: August 24, 2011.

Ronald K. Lorentzen,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 2011-22151 Filed 8-29-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; NOAA Satellite Ground Station Customer Questionnaire

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general

public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before October 31, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Marlin Perkins, 301-817-4523 or marlin.o.perkins@noaa.gov or Paul Seymour, 301-817-4521 or paul.seymourf@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for an extension of a currently approved collection. NOAA asks people who operate ground receiving stations that receive data from NOAA satellites to complete a questionnaire about the types of data received, its use, the equipment involved, and similar subjects. The data obtained are used by NOAA for short-term operations and long-term planning. Collection of this data assists in complying with the terms of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the World Meteorological Organization: United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on area of common interest (2008).

II. Method of Collection

The information is collected via an online questionnaire.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0227.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission (extension of a currently approved collection).

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions; business or other for-profit organizations, individuals or households; federal government; state, local or tribal government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 300.

Estimated Time Per Response: 5 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 25.

¹ The ITC also determined that revocation of the AD order on SSPC from Italy would not be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0 in capital and recordkeeping/reporting costs.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: August 24, 2011.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2011-22070 Filed 8-29-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-HR-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XA638

Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to U.S. Navy Operations of Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System Low Frequency Active Sonar

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

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application for letter of authorization; request for comments and information.

SUMMARY: NMFS has received a request from the U.S. Navy (Navy) for authorization to take, by harassment, marine mammals incidental to conducting operations of Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System (SURTASS) Low Frequency Active (LFA) sonar for the period beginning August 2012 and ending August 2017. Pursuant to the implementing regulations of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is announcing our receipt of the Navy's

request for regulations governing the incidental taking of marine mammals and inviting information, suggestions, and comments on the Navy's application and request.

DATES: Comments and information must be received no later than September 29, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the application should be addressed to P. Michael Payne, Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3225. The mailbox address for providing e-mail comments is ITP.Cody@noaa.gov. NMFS is not responsible for e-mail comments sent to addresses other than the one provided here. Comments sent via e-mail, including all attachments, must not exceed a 10-megabyte file size.

Instructions: All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm#applications> without change. All Personal Identifying Information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeannine Cody, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Availability

An electronic copy of the Navy's application may be obtained by writing to the address specified above (See **ADDRESSES**), telephoning the contact listed above (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**), or visiting the internet at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm#applications>. The Navy released a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the employment of SURTASS LFA sonar on August 19, 2011. A copy of the DSEIS, which would also support NMFS' proposed rulemaking under the MMPA, is available at <http://www.surtass-lfa-eis.com>.

Background

Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional taking of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than

commercial fishing) if certain findings are made and regulations are issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, notice of a proposed authorization is provided to the public for review.

Authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such taking are set forth.

NMFS has defined "negligible impact" in 50 CFR 216.103 as " * * * an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival."

With respect to military readiness activities, the MMPA defines "harassment" as:

(i) any act that injures or has the significant potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild [Level A Harassment]; or (ii) any act that disturbs or is likely to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of natural behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, surfacing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering, to a point where such behavioral patterns are abandoned or significantly altered [Level B Harassment].

Summary of Request

On August 17, 2011, NMFS received an application from the Navy requesting authorization to take individuals of 94 species of marine mammals (70 cetaceans and 24 pinnipeds), by harassment, incidental to upcoming training, testing, and routine military operations (all categorized as military readiness activities) using SURTASS LFA sonar over the course of five years.

The Navy states that these training, testing, and routine military activities may expose some of the marine mammals present in the operational areas to sound from low-frequency active sonar sources. Because marine mammals may be harassed due to noise disturbance incidental to the use of SURTASS LFA sonar during training, testing, and routine military operations, the Navy requests authorization to take individuals of 94 species of marine mammals by Level B Harassment. Further, the Navy states that the probability of taking marine mammals by Level A Harassment is less than 0.001 percent. However, because the probability is not zero, the Navy has