

# Notices

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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

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

#### Boulder River Watershed, Montana

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources conservation Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to deauthorize Federal funding.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, Public Law 83-566, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Guidelines (7 CFR 622), the Natural Resources Conservation Service gives notice of the intent to deauthorize Federal funding for the Boulder River Watershed project in Jefferson County, Montana.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Richard J. Gooby, State Conservationist, Natural Resource Conservation Service, 10 East Babcock Street Room 442, Bozeman, Montana 59715, telephone: 406-587-6813.

Boulder River Watershed, Montana

Notice of Intent to Deauthorize Federal Funding

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** A determination has been made by Richard J. Gooby that the proposed works of improvement for the Boulder River Watershed project will not be installed. The sponsoring local organizations have concurred in this determination and agree that Federal funding should be deauthorized for the project. Information regarding this determination may be obtained from Richard J. Gooby, State Conservationist, at the above address and telephone number.

No administrative action on implementation of the proposed deauthorization will be taken until 60 days after the date of this publication in the Federal Register.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 10.904, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention. Office of management and Budget Circular A-95 regarding State and local clearinghouse review of Federal and federally assisted programs and projects is applicable.)

Dated: December 6, 1995.

Christine Peterson,

*Acting State Conservationist.*

[FR Doc. 95-30658 Filed 12-15-95; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### National Weather Service Modernization and Associated Restructuring

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** On October 27, 1995, the Secretary of Commerce released a report to Congress entitled, *Secretary's Report to Congress on Adequacy of NEXRAD Coverage and Degradation of Weather Services under the National Weather Service Modernization for 32 Areas of Concern*. This report was prepared by a Departmental team with expertise in radar meteorology, operational weather services, employee relations, and strategic planning. The Secretary's report applied the criteria developed in the National Research Council's (NRC) study, *Toward a New National Weather Service—Assessment of NEXRAD Coverage and Associated Weather Services*, which was delivered to the Secretary in June, 1995. The Modernization Transition Committee (MTC), a Federal advisory committee established by the Weather Service Modernization Act (WSMA), 15 U.S.C. 313 note, P.L. 102-567, was consulted on the Secretary's Report on October 30, 1995.

The Secretary's report assessed the adequacy of Doppler weather surveillance radar (WSR-88D), also known as NEXRAD, coverage and degradation of weather services under the National Weather Service (NWS) modernization plan for 32 geographical areas of concern and identified mitigation actions for areas where degradation was indicated. Late last year, comments from the public were solicited to identify community

concerns about possible degradation of weather services under the NWS modernization plan (published November 4, 1994, 59 FR 55254). Over 67,000 public comments were received from 32 different geographical areas. These 32 areas were then established as areas of concern to receive in depth analysis based on the NRC's assessment criteria (published February 23, 1995, 60 FR 10066).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Julie Scanlon at 301-713-1413 or Nick Scheller at 301-713-0454.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** *Mitigation Recommendations:* The mitigation recommendations contained in the report and the Secretary's transmittal letter are:

*Additional WSR-88Ds and/or WFO—* The Secretary's team recommends the acquisition and siting of three additional WSR-88Ds and one Weather Forecast Office (WFO) to provide coverage for:

"(1) Northern Indiana and Northwest Ohio. The Team recommends that the National Weather Service install a WSR-88D, along with a fully staffed WFO, to provide forecast and warning services to the citizens of northern Indiana and northwestern Ohio. The Team finds that this combined area experiences a high frequency of especially severe weather, and that the present NEXRAD configuration will not provide the low level surveillance necessary for detecting reflectivity and velocity signatures associated with tornado formation and other severe weather phenomena. It is the opinion of the Team that the frequency of severe weather, areal extent of radar coverage degradation, increased work load associated with a large spotter network, argues for the establishment of a full-service WFO. In addition, the Team recommends that the NWS re-examine the distribution of county warning responsibility throughout northern Indiana and northwestern Ohio following placement of the WSR-88D. The Team further recommends that the Fort Wayne Weather Service Office and WSR-74C remain in service until the new WSR-88D and WFO are operational.

(2) Northern Alabama and Southeast Tennessee. The Team recommends the addition of a WSR-88D optimized for coverage of severe weather phenomena (particularly mini-supercells and