

Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Docket Number: 96-119. *Applicant:* University of Pennsylvania, 3231 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6272. *Instrument:* Electron Microscope, Model JEM-2010F. *Manufacturer:* JEOL Ltd., Japan. *Intended Use:* The instrument will be used to study the structure and chemistry of structural metals and alloys, fuel cell materials, conducting polymers, catalytic materials, dielectrics, ferroelectrics and composites. In addition, the instrument will be used for educational purposes in the graduate course, MSE610, Electron Microscopy by providing training in electron microscopy techniques.

Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: November 22, 1996.

Docket Number: 96-121. *Applicant:* State University of New York, P.O. Box 6000, Vestal Parkway East, Binghamton, NY 13902-6000. *Instrument:* Binocular Eye Tracking System, Model ET4.

Manufacturer: AMTech, Germany. *Intended Use:* The instrument will be used for studies of two related phenomena: the fluency and seeming effortlessness of skilled reading, and oculomotor control in the reading task, where readers' eyes need to "jump" along lines of text to obtain new information. In addition, the instrument will be used for training of doctoral and undergraduate students in courses referred to as "thesis credit" and "independent study". *Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs:* November 22, 1996.

Docket Number: 96-122. *Applicant:* University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Chemistry Department, Lincoln, NE 68588-0304. *Instrument:* Diamond Anvil Cells, Model Diacell.

Manufacturer: Diacell, United Kingdom. *Intended Use:* The instrument will be used to investigate the role of high pressure on solid state chemical reactions and phase transitions of solids. In particular, the research will involve study of high pressure on chemical reactions, phase transitions, the dynamics of the crystal lattice, electronic and magnetic properties, crystal structure, and solidification processes. *Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs:* November 22, 1996.

Docket Number: 96-123. *Applicant:* William Marsh Rice University, 6100 Main Street, Houston, TX 77005.

Instrument: Stopped-Flow Fluorescence Spectrophotometer, Model SX.18MV. *Manufacturer:* Applied Photophysics Ltd., United Kingdom. *Intended Use:* The instrument will be used for studies of the processes of protein-mediated DNA strand exchange that occur during

genetic recombination; specifically, homologous genetic recombination directed by the RecA protein of *Escherichia coli*. These investigations will involve the use of recombinant proteins and synthetic DNA oligomers containing fluorescent analogs of the four natural bases. During these investigations, the instrument will be used for monitoring the rate of changes in either fluorescence emission intensity or absorbance of the nonnatural DNA analogs as they interact with the RecA protein and take part in the events of recombination. *Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs:* November 22, 1996.

Docket Number: 96-124. *Applicant:* Federal Highway Administration, Special Projects & Engineering Division, HNR-20, 6300 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101-2296. *Instrument:* ACFM Crack Microgauge, Model U9. *Manufacturer:* Technical Software Consultants, Ltd., United Kingdom.

Intended Use: The instrument will be used to detect fatigue crack in welded steel girders. The speed, practicality, accuracy and reliability of the device for fatigue crack detection are compared with conventional techniques currently in use. Also, the equipment's ability to detect crack by its non-contact method is compared with contact methods available. *Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs:* November 26, 1996.

Frank W. Creel,

Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff.

[FR Doc. 97-298 Filed 1-6-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The U.S. GOES Data Collection System (DCS) Application

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

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, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 10, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Acting Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327,

14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Marlin O. Perkins, NOAA/NESDIS, Office of Satellite Data Processing and Distribution, Data Services Division, 5627 Allentown Road Suite 200, Code E/SP3, Camp Springs, MD 20233, telephone 301-763-8063 (Fax 301-763-8449).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

NOAA's Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES) Data Collection System (DCS) collects and transmits environmental data from remote platforms. NOAA allows other users access to any excess capacity on the system if they meet certain criteria, primarily that they are sponsored by another government agency and that no other adequate common carrier is available. NOAA needs a minimal amount of information from applicants to determine if their request for access meets the requirements as stated in 15 CFR Part 911(a)-(c).

II. Method of Collection

Applicants prepare narrative applications. No forms are used.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0157.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular Submission.

Affected Public: Individuals,

businesses, not-for-profit institutions, Federal government, and State, local, or tribal governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 9.

Estimated Time Per Response: 3 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 27 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

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: January 2, 1997.

Linda Engelmeier,

Acting Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 97-288 Filed 1-6-97; 8:45 a.m.]

BILLING CODE 3510-12-P

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Weather Service Modernization and Associated Restructuring

AGENCY: National Weather Service (NWS), NOAA, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice and opportunity for public comment.

SUMMARY: The NWS is publishing proposed certifications for the closure of the following Weather Service offices:

(1) Grand Island Weather Service Office (WSO), with services being provided by the future Hastings Weather Forecast Office (WFO);

(2) Residual St. Louis WSO, with services being provided by the future St. Louis WFO;

(3) Cape Hatteras WSO, with services being provided by the future Morehead City and Wakefield WFOs;

(4) Harrisburg WSO, with services being provided by the future Central Pennsylvania WFO;

(5) Residual New York City WSO, with services being provided by the future New York City WFO;

(6) Reading WSO, with services being provided by the future Philadelphia WFO;

(7) Apalachicola WSO, with services being provided by the future Tallahassee WFO;

(8) Athens WSO, with services being provided by the future Atlanta and Greenville/Spartanburg WFOs;

(9) Austin WSO, with services being provided by the future Austin/San Antonio, Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston/Galveston and San Angelo WFOs;

(10) Bristol WSO, with services being provided by the future Knoxville/Tri-Cities, Roanoke, and Charleston WFOs;

(11) Columbus, Georgia WSO, with services being provided by the future Birmingham, Tallahassee, and Atlanta WFOs;

(12) Del Rio WSO, with services being provided by the future Austin/San Antonio WFO;

(13) Fort Myers WSO, with services being provided by the future Tampa Bay Area WFO;

(14) Galveston WSO, with services being provided by the future Houston/Galveston WFO;

(15) Macon WSO, with services being provided by the future Atlanta and Tallahassee WFOs;

(16) Residual New Orleans WSO, with services being provided by the future New Orleans/Baton Rouge WFO;

(17) Orlando WSO, with services being provided by the future Melbourne WFO;

(18) Pensacola WSO, with services being provided by the future Mobile and Tallahassee WFOs;

(19) Port Arthur WSO, with services being provided by the future Lake Charles and Shreveport WFOs;

(20) Roswell WSO, with services being provided by the future Albuquerque and Midland/Odessa WFOs;

(21) Waco WSO, with services being provided by the future Dallas/Ft. Worth and Houston/Galveston WFOs;

(22) Bakersfield WSO, with services being provided by the future San Joaquin Valley WFO;

(23) Residual Billings WSO, with services being provided by the future Billings WFO;

(24) Eugene WSO, with services being provided by the future Portland and Medford WFOs;

(25) Helena WSO, with services being provided by the future Great Falls and Missoula WFOs;

(26) Klamath Falls WSO, with services being provided by the future Medford WFO;

(27) Residual Los Angeles WSO, with services being provided by the future Los Angeles WFO;

(28) Olympia WSO, with services being provided by the future Seattle/Tacoma and Portland WFOs;

(29) Residual Phoenix WSO, with services being provided by the future Phoenix WFO;

(30) Residual Reno WSO, with services being provided by the future Reno WFO;

(31) Salem WSO, with services being provided by the future Portland WFO;

(32) Winslow WSO, with services being provided by the future Flagstaff WFO;

In accordance with Public Law 102-567, the public will have 60 days in which to comment on these proposed closure certifications.

DATES: Comments are requested by March 10, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the proposed closure packages should be sent to Tom Beaver, Room 09356, 1325 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, telephone 301-713-0300. All comments should be sent to Tom Beaver at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julie Scanlon at 301-713-1698 ext 151.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with section 706 of Public Law 102-567, the Secretary of Commerce must certify that these closures will not result in any degradation of service to the affected areas of responsibility and must publish the proposed closure certifications in the Federal Register. The documentation supporting each proposed certification includes the following:

(1) A draft memorandum by the meteorologist(s)-in-charge recommending the certification, the final of which will be endorsed by the Regional Director and the Assistant Administrator of the NWS if appropriate, after consideration of public comments and completion of consultation with the Modernization Transition Committee (the Committee);

(2) A description of local weather characteristics and weather-related concerns which affect the weather services provided within the service area;

(3) A comparison of the services provided within the service area and the services to be provided after such action;

(4) A description of any recent or expected modernization of NWS operation which will enhance services in the service area;

(5) An identification of any area within the affected service area which would not receive coverage (at an elevation of 10,000 feet) by the next generation weather radar network;

(6) Warning and forecast verification statistics for pre-modernized and modernized services which were utilized in determining that services have not been degraded;

(7) An Air Safety Appraisal, if applicable, for offices which are located on an airport; and

(8) A letter appointing the liaison officer.

These proposed certifications do not include any report of the Committee which could be submitted in accordance with sections 706(b)(6) and 707(c) of Public Law 102-567. In December 1995 the Committee decided that, in general, they would forego the optional consultation on proposed certifications. Instead, the Committee would just