

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[ER-FRL-5479-9]

**Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment for the Interim Final Rule for Environmental Impact Assessment of Nongovernmental Activities in Antarctica**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), pursuant to Public Law 104-227, the Antarctic Science, Tourism, and Conservation Act of 1996 (Act), has published an Interim Final Rule. In support of the Interim Final Rule, EPA prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA), "Environmental Assessment of Proposed Rules for Non-Governmental Activity in Antarctica," and made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND FOR COPIES OF THE EA, FNSI, AND INTERIM FINAL RULE CONTACT:**

Mr. Joseph Montgomery or Ms. Katherine Biggs, Office of Federal Activities (2252A), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460; telephone: (202)564-7157 or (202)564-7144, respectively. Copies of the EA, FNSI and Interim Final Rule are also available on the World Wide Web at: <http://es.inel.gov/oeca/ofa/>. Information on the process for development of the EIS and Final Rule discussed in the

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below may also be obtained from these contacts.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Act implements the Protocol on Environmental Protection (Protocol) to the Antarctic Treaty of 1959 (Treaty). Pursuant to the Act, the EPA is required to promulgate regulations that provide for assessment of the environmental impacts of nongovernmental activities, including tourism, in Antarctica and for coordination of the review of information regarding environmental impact assessments received from Parties to the Protocol. The EPA promulgated an Interim Final Rule so that the United States would have the ability to implement its obligations under the Protocol as soon as the Protocol enters into force. The EPA prepared the EA to evaluate the environmental and cultural impacts of an interim rule relative to the No Action Alternative, i.e., no interim rule. Based on the EA analysis, EPA issued a FNSI concluding that the promulgation of the Interim Final Rule will not have or cause significant impacts on the Antarctic environment. Through the EA,

EPA concluded that the Interim Final Rule will foster appropriate environmental impact assessment and documentation procedures, including documentation regarding planned mitigation and monitoring, if appropriate, by tour operators; enhance the collection of data on effects and intensity of activities by nongovernmental visitors in Antarctica; reduce the likelihood of inadvertent environmental perturbations that may be avoidable; and will allow the U.S. to immediately ratify the Protocol which, in turn, should lead to its adoption by all Parties. The EPA concluded that all of the potential impacts of the Interim Final Rule would be beneficial for the Antarctic environment. The Interim Final Rule was issued without notice and comment pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), as discussed in the Preamble to the Interim Final Rule and, for the same reasons, under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) became effective on April 30, 1997 (**Federal Register**/Vol. 62, No. 83/Wednesday, April 30, 1997/23538-23549). The Interim Final Rule is limited in time and effect and applies only to nongovernmental activities to be conducted in Antarctica through the 1998-99 austral summer; it will expire upon the earlier of the end of the 1998-99 austral summer or upon issuance of a Final Rule. To support the regulatory development of the Final Rule, EPA is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to consider the environmental and regulatory issues to be addressed in the Final Rule and the alternatives for addressing these issues within the rule-making process. Although the Interim Final Rule was promulgated without public notice and comment, the Final Rule and the associated EIS will include extensive opportunities for public comment.

*Responsible Official:*

Dated: May 1, 1997.

**Richard E. Sanderson,**

*Director, Office of Federal Activities.*

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**BILLING CODE 6560-50-P**

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

**Notice of Public Information Collections Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission**

April 30, 1997.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Communications Commission, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this

opportunity to comment on the following information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) that does not display a valid control number. Comments are requested concerning whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**DATES:** Persons wishing to comment on this information collection should submit comments by July 7, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all comments to Dorothy Conway, Federal Communications Commission, Room 234, 1919 M St., N.W., Washington, DC 20554 or via Internet to [dconway@fcc.gov](mailto:dconway@fcc.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For additional information or copies of the information collections, contact Dorothy Conway at 202-418-0217 or via Internet at [dconway@fcc.gov](mailto:dconway@fcc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*OMB Approval Number:* 3060-XXXX.

*Title:* Auction Forms and License Transfer Disclosures—Supplement for the Second Report and Order, Order on Reconsideration, and Fifth Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 92-297.

*Type of Review:* New Collection.

*Respondents:* Businesses or other for-profit entities.

Category	Number of respondents	Estimated time for response
1. Ownership and Gross Revenues Information.	44,000	.5-4 hours.
2. Disclosure of Terms of Joint Bidding Agreements.	44,000	.5 hour.