

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 COMMERCE

Bureau of Export Administration

Materials Processing Equipment Technical Advisory Committee; Notice of Partially Closed Meeting

The Materials Processing Equipment Technical Advisory Committee will meet on November 17, 1998, 9:00 a.m., Room 1617M-2, in the Herbert C. Hoover Building, 14th Street between Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues, N.W., Washington, D.C. The Committee advises the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration with respect to technical questions that affect the level of export controls applicable to materials processing equipment and related technology.

Agenda

General Session

1. Opening remarks by the Chairman
2. Presentation of papers or comments by the public
3. Election of Committee Chairman
4. Update on Wassenaar Arrangement negotiations
5. Discussion on proposal for making Control List Category 2 more "user friendly"

Closed Session

6. Discussion of matters properly classified under Executive Order 12958, dealing with the U.S. export control program and strategic criteria related thereto.

The General Session of the meeting will be open to the public and a limited number of seats will be available. Reservations are not required. To the extent that time permits, members of the public may present oral statements to the Committee. The public may submit written statements at any time before or after the meeting. However, to facilitate distribution of public presentation materials, the Committee suggests that

presenters forward the materials prior to the meeting date to the following address: Ms. Lee Ann Carpenter, Advisory Committees MS:3886C, Bureau of Export Administration, 15th St. & Pennsylvania Ave, N.W., U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230.

The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, formally determined on December 3, 1997, pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, that the series of meetings of the Committee and of any Subcommittees thereof, dealing with the classified materials listed in 5 U.S.C., 552b(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 the Committee is available for public inspection and copying in the Central Reference and Records Inspection Facility, Room 6020, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230. For more information, contact Lee Ann Carpenter on (202) 482-2583.

Dated: October 20, 1998.

Lee Ann Carpenter,
Committee Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 092898C]

Small Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Construction of an Offshore Platform in the Beaufort Sea

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

ACTION: Notice of receipt of application and proposed authorization for a small take exemption; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS has received a request from the BP Exploration (Alaska), 900

East Benson Boulevard, Anchorage, AK 99519 (BPXA) for an authorization to take small numbers of marine mammals by harassment incidental to construction of an offshore oil platform and subsea pipeline at Northstar in the Beaufort Sea in state waters. Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is requesting comments on its proposal to authorize BPXA to incidentally take, by harassment, small numbers of marine mammals in the above mentioned area between December 1, 1998, and November 30, 1999.

DATES: Comments and information must be received no later than November 25, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the application should be addressed to Michael Payne, Chief, Marine Mammal Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3225. A copy of the application and a list of references used in this document may be obtained by writing to this address or by telephoning one of the contacts listed here. A copy of the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) may be obtained by contacting the U.S. Army Engineer District, Alaska, Regulatory Branch, P.O. Box 898, Anchorage, AK 99506-0898.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth R. Hollingshead, (301) 713-2055, Brad Smith, (907) 271-5006.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) directs the Secretary of Commerce 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) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and either regulations are issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed authorization is provided to the public for review.

Permission may be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses and that the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the