number of AM and FM channels operating or based on initial expression of interest by applicants, and whether either approach is consistent with 47 U.S.C. 307(b). The Commission requests comment on whether to use minimum geographic spacing distances or other engineering criteria to assess technical acceptability of new DAB allotments and modifications.

22. The Commission seeks comment on whether Channel 6 should be used to ensure adequate new entrant DAB opportunities and whether the Commission may give preferences to LPFM licensees in assigning Channel 6 spectrum, and if so, whether it should do so.

23. *DAB Transmission Standard.* The Commission tentatively concludes that it is in the public interest for the Commission to take a role in DAB standards development with the advice and involvement of all sectors of the industry. The Commission seeks comment on how likely the broadcast industry is to establish a de facto standard without Commission action and whether there is anything the Commission can do short of mandating a standard to assist the industry? The Commission lacks sufficient information at this time to conclude that a Commission-mandated transmission standard is necessary and seeks comment on whether a single mandated standard is desirable. The Commission seeks comment on whether there is a high degree of compatibility among the several DAB systems. It also seeks comment on whether developments in digital signal processors (DSPs) and DSP chip technology make a standard unnecessary, whether an ''open architecture'' approach is feasible, and what impact such an approach would have on the development and costs of receivers.

24. *Models for IBOC DAB System Testing and Evaluation.* The Commission believes that it is necessary to rely to some degree on the expertise of the private sector for DAB system evaluations and ultimately, recommendations for a transmission standard. However, it believes it is premature to select an approach at this time. The NRSC has set a deadline of December 15, 1999 for proponents to submit system test results and the Commission requests that the parties also submit the reports to the Commission as part of this proceeding. The Commission would give great weight to a fair and thorough NRSC testing process and any industry consensus the NRSC may achieve. However, the Commission will act promptly to provide an alternative mechanism if the current process breaks down. The Commission will revisit the effectiveness of the NRSC approach once the Commission reviews the NRSC report on IBOC tests expected the first quarter of 2000. The Commission seeks comment on evaluative models.

25. *Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis.* The Commission has prepared an Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis of the possible significant economic impact on small entities by the policies and rules proposed in this Notice. Comments are requested on this IRFA and must be identified as responses to the IRFA. The proposed rules and policies potentially will apply to all AM and FM radio broadcasting licensees and potential licensees. The SBA defines a radio broadcasting station that has no more than $5 million in annual receipts as a small business. A radio broadcasting station is an establishment primarily engaged in broadcasting aural programs by radio to the public, including commercial, religious, educational, and other radio stations. As of December 31, 1998, official Commission records indicate that 12,472 radio stations were operating, of which 4,793 were AM stations. Thus, the proposed rules will affect 12,472 radio stations, 11,973 of which are small businesses. These estimates may overstate the number of small entities since the revenue figures on which they are based do not include or aggregate revenues from non-radio affiliated companies. In addition, any entity that seeks or desires to obtain a DAB license may be affected by the proposals. The number of entities that seek to obtain a DAB radio broadcast license is unknown. The Commission invites comment on such number. The Notice sets forth policy objectives and proposes criteria for the selection of alternative DAB models and/or systems that will promote the interests of small entities and minimize the economic impact on such entities of a transition to DAB service.

Federal Communications Commission.

Magalie Roman Salas,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99–29270 Filed 11–8–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712–01–U

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

48 CFR Part 211

[DFARS Case 99–D024]

Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; OMB Circular A–119

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Proposed rule with request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Director of Defense Procurement is proposing to amend the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) to address use of a Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) provision that invites offerors to propose alternatives to Government-unique standards. This DFARS rule instructs DoD contracting officers not to use the FAR provision, since DoD uses the Single Process Initiative to encourage offerors to propose alternatives to Government-unique specifications and standards.

DATES: Comments on the proposed rule should be submitted in writing to the address specified below on or before January 10, 2000 to be considered in the formation of the final rule.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties should submit written comments on the proposed rule to: Defense Acquisition Regulations Council, Attn: Ms. Melissa Rider, PDUSD (AT&L) DP (DAR), IMD 3D139, 3062 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301–3062. Telefax (703) 602–0350. Please cite DFARS Case 99–D024.

E-mail comments submitted via the Internet should be addressed to: dfars@acq.osd.mil

Please cite DFARS Case 99–D024 in all correspondence related to this proposed rule. E-mail correspondence should cite DFARS Case 99–D024 in the subject line.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Melissa Rider, (703) 602–4245. Please cite DFARS Case 99–D024.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

This proposed DFARS rule supplements the final FAR rule that was published at 64 FR 51834 on September 24, 1999 (Federal Acquisition Circular 97–14, Item V) to implement Office of Management and Budget Circular A–119, Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities. The FAR rule added a provision at FAR 52.211–7 to permit offerors to propose voluntary consensus standards as alternatives to

Government-unique standards included in a solicitation. In accordance with the prescription at FAR 11.107(b), use of the provision is optional for agencies that use the categorical method of reporting their use of voluntary consensus standards to the National Institute of Standards and Technology. DoD uses the categorical method of reporting. In addition, DoD uses the Single Process Initiative procedures at DFARS 211.273 and 252.211–7005 to encourage offerors to propose industry standards as alternatives to Government-unique specifications and standards. Therefore, this DFARS rule specifies that the provision at FAR 52.211–7 will not be used in DoD solicitations.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The proposed rule is not expected to have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*, because the FAR already permits optional use of the provision at FAR 52.211–7, and DoD already has implemented procedures for encouraging offerors to propose alternatives to Government-unique specifications and standards through the Single Process Initiative. Therefore, an initial regulatory flexibility analysis has not been performed. Comments are invited from small businesses and other interested parties. Comments from small entities concerning the affected DFARS subpart also will be considered in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 610. Such comments should be submitted separately and should cite DFARS Case 99–D024 in correspondence.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply because the rule does not impose any information collection requirements that require the approval of the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Part 211

Government procurement.

Michele P. Peterson,

Executive Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council.

Therefore, 48 CFR part 211 is proposed to be amended as follows:

1. The authority citation for 48 CFR part 211 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 41 U.S.C. 421 and 48 CFR Chapter 1.

PART 211—DESCRIBING AGENCY NEEDS

2. Subpart 211.1 is added to read as follows:

Subpart 211.1—Selecting and Developing Requirements Documents

Sec.
211.107 Solicitation provision.

211.107 Solicitation provision.

(b) DoD uses the categorical method of reporting. Do not use the provision at FAR 52.211–7, Alternatives to Government-Unique Standards, in DoD solicitations.

[FR Doc. 99–29039 Filed 11–8–99; 8:45 am]

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