As well as providing for a continuing and stable funding base, NAWCA establishes an administrative body, *i.e.*, Council, made up of a State representative from each of the four Flyways, three representatives from wetlands conservation organizations, the Secretary of the Board of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Director of the Service. This North American Wetlands Conservation Council is exempt from the requirements of Public Law 92–463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act). The purpose of the Council is to recommend wetlands conservation project proposals to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC) for funding.

Subsection (c) of Section 5 (Council Procedures) provides that the ''* * * Council shall establish practices and procedures for the carrying out of its functions under subsections (a) and (b) of this section * * *,'' which are consideration of projects and recommendations to the MBCC, respectively. The means by which the Council decides which project proposals are important to recommend to the MBCC is through grants programs that are coordinated through the Council Coordinator's office (Division of Bird Habitat Conservation) within the Service.

Applications from partnerships competing for regular grant program funds must describe in substantial detail project locations and other characteristics that will meet standards established by the Council and requirements of NAWCA. The Evaluation Grants Program differs in that it provides a two-stage process wherein successful applicants will have submitted both a pre-proposal and a proposal. Pre-proposals are intended to allow screening such that only the projects that have the greatest potential for contributing to the evaluation program will be continued into the proposal stage. The Council Coordinator's office currently publishes and distributes Standard and Small Grants instructional booklets that assist applicants in formulating project proposals for Council consideration. The guidelines for the grants evaluation program, to be contained in the request for proposal, is an additional information collection instrument. The guidelines and instructions and other instruments, *e.g.*, **Federal Register** notices on request for proposals, are the basis for this information collection request for OMB clearance. Information collected under this program is used to respond to such needs as: audits, program planning and management, program evaluation, Government Performance and Results Act reporting, Standard Form 424 (Application For Federal Assistance), grant agreements, budget reports and justifications, public and private requests for information, data provided to other programs for databases on similar programs, Congressional inquiries and reports required by NAWCA, *etc.* In the case of the additional Evaluation Grants Program guidelines, the request responds also to the statutory requirements of the Act.

In summary, information collection under this program is required to obtain a benefit, *i.e.*, a cash reimbursable grant that will be given competitively to selected applicants based on eligibility and the relative value of their projects to contribute to meaningful technical evaluation of the success of the grants programs. The information collection is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act requirements for such activity, which includes soliciting comments from the general public regarding the nature and burden imposed by the collection.

Frequency of Collection: Occasional. We intend the Evaluation Grant Program to have one project proposal submissions window per year.

Description of Respondents: Households and/or individuals; business and/or other for-profit; not-for-profit institutions; farms; Federal Government; and State, local and/or Tribal governments.

Estimated Completion Time: We estimate the reporting burden, or time involved in writing project submissions, to be 8 hours for a pre-proposal and 40 hours for a proposal.

Number of Respondents: We estimate that 30 pre-proposals and 10 proposals will be submitted each year for the grants evaluation program.

Dated: July 16, 2002.

Marshall P. Jones,

Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 02–23844 Filed 9–18–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Grand-White Lakes Land Bridge Protection Project, Cameron Parish, LA

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

The Service announces the availability of the draft EA for the Grand-White Lakes Land Bridge Protection Project. A more detailed description of the project is outlined in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below. A copy of the draft EA may be obtained by sending a written request to the Service's Louisiana Field Office (*see* **ADDRESSES**). Requests should be made in writing or can be obtained by calling Mr. Darryl Clark at 337/291–3100 or by fax at 337/291–3139. This notice is provided pursuant to NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

The Service specifically requests information, views, and opinions from the public via this Notice on the Federal action, including the identification of any other aspects of the human environment not already identified in the Service's EA.

If you wish to comment, you may submit comments by any one of several methods. You may mail comments to the Service's Louisiana Field Office (*see* **ADDRESSES**). You also may comment via the internet to *Darryl_Clark@fws.gov.* Please submit comments over the internet as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include your name and return address in your internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the Service that we have received your internet message, contact us directly at the telephone numbers listed below (*see* **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**). Finally, you may hand deliver comments to the Service office listed below (*see* **ADDRESSES**). Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the administrative record. We will honor such requests to the extent allowable by law. There may also be circumstances in which we would withhold from the administrative record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. We will not, however, consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

DATES: Written comments on the draft EA should be sent to the Service's Louisiana Field Office (*see* **ADDRESSES**) and should be received on or before October 21, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the draft EA may obtain a copy by

writing to the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 646 Cajundome Boulevard, Suite 400, Lafayette, Louisiana 70506. Documents will be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the Service's Louisiana Field Office (Attn: Darryl Clark). Written data or comments regarding the draft EA should be submitted to the Service's Louisiana Field Office. The data and comments must be submitted in writing to be adequately considered in the Service's decision-making process.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Darryl Clark, Senior Field Biologist, (*see* **ADDRESSES** above), telephone: 337/291–3111 or 337/291–3100, facsimile: 337/291–3139.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Grand-White Lakes Land Bridge Protection Project is being funded through the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act from the Tenth Priority Project List. The project purpose is to protect and facilitate the formation of marsh and submerged aquatic vegetation through the construction of a foreshore dike (with marsh creation) and earthen terraces, and by planting vegetation. The project is located in southwestern Louisiana in the southeastern portion of Grand Lake, approximately 15 miles northeast of Grand Chenier in Cameron Parish, Louisiana. The project area has experienced extensive marsh loss since the mid-1960s, with shoreline loss rates as high as 27 feet per year due mostly to elevated water levels produced by operation of water control structures for navigation and agricultural water supply purposes. The preferred alternative is to construct a foreshore dike, create marsh with dredged material from access channel construction, construct earthen terraces, and plant vegetation to protect and restore fresh marsh in the area and prevent the 17 mile-wide Grand Lake from eroding into Collicon Lake.

Dated: August 29, 2002.

Sam D. Hamilton,

Regional Director, Southeastern Region.

[FR Doc. 02–23794 Filed 9–18–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of the Draft Joint Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Lower Fox River and Green Bay Area

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior, lead; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce, cooperating agency; Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior, invited to be a cooperating agency, response pending.

ACTION: Notice of 30 day comment period.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public and other agencies of the availability of the draft document titled ''Joint Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Lower Fox River and Green Bay Area'' (Plan) for public review and comment. Prior to implementing restoration projects Federal agencies are required to analyze alternatives to restore, rehabilitate, replace and/or acquire the equivalent of those natural resources injured and related services lost to the public associated with those resources. This analysis is contained in the Plan as required by the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) for the Federal action of restoration project implementation. This notice is provided pursuant to Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) regulations (43 CFR 11.81(d)(4)) and NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before October 21, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the document may obtain copies by contacting: Colette S. Charbonneau, 1015 Challenger Court, Green Bay, Wisconsin 54311, Telephone: (920) 465–7407, Fax: (920) 465–7410, e-mail: *colette_charbonneau@fws.gov.* The document is also available at the following Internet address: *http://midwest.fws.gov/nepa/. See* **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for library addresses where copies may also be viewed.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The U.S. Department of the Interior (represented by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs), U.S. Department of Commerce (represented by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrations), Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Michigan Attorney General (Trustees) are trustees for natural resources considered in this NRDAR project, pursuant to subpart G of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (40 CFR 300.600 and 300.610) and Executive Order 12580.

The Trustees have a Memorandum of Agreement which establishes a Trustee Council to develop and implement a restoration plan for ecological restorations in the Fox River Valley and Green Bay watershed. The Trustees followed the NRDAR regulations found at 43 CFR part 11 for the development of the Plan.

The draft Joint Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment will be finalized prior to implementation after all public comments received during the public comment period are considered. Any significant additions or modifications to the Plan as restoration actions proceed will be made available for public review before any tasks called for in the addendum or modification are undertaken.

The objective of the NRDAR process in the Lower Fox River and Green Bay area is to compensate the public, through environmental restoration, for losses to natural resources that have been caused by historic releases of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) into the environment. The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA, more commonly known as the Federal ''Superfund'' law) [42 U.S.C. 9601, *et seq.*] and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (commonly known as the Clean Water Act (CWA)) [33 U.S.C. 1251, *et seq.*] authorize states, federally recognized tribes, and certain Federal agencies that have authority to manage or control natural resources, to act as ''trustees'' on behalf of the public, to restore, rehabilitate, replace, and/or acquire natural resources equivalent to those harmed by release of hazardous substances. The Trustees have worked together, in a cooperative process, to determine appropriate restoration activities to address natural resource injuries caused by historic releases of PCBs into the Lower Fox River and Green Bay environment. The results of this administrative process are contained in a series of planning and decision documents that have been published for public review under CERCLA and the CWA. Natural resource damages received, either through negotiated settlements or adjudicated awards, must be used to restore, rehabilitate, replace and/or acquire the equivalent of those natural resources that have been injured. The Plan addresses the Trustees' overall approach