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Comment Date: November 8, 2012.

Dated: October 18, 2012.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-9747-6]

Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Committee

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of cancellation of teleconference.

SUMMARY: EPA announced in the **Federal Register** on October 3, 2012 [FRL-9737-3] a Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Committee (FRRCC) Teleconference to be held on October 22, 2012. Under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92463, EPA gives notice of cancellation of that public meeting for the Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Committee (FRRCC). The FRRCC provides policy advice, information, and recommendations to the EPA Administrator on a range of environmental issues and policies that are of importance to agriculture and rural communities. The purpose of this teleconference was to discuss specific topics of relevance for consideration by the Committee in order to provide advice and insights to the Agency on environmental policies and programs that affect and engage agriculture and rural communities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Alicia Kaiser, Designated Federal Officer, kaiser.alicia@epa.gov, 202-564-7273, U.S. EPA, Office of the Administrator (1101A), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20460.

Dated: October 17, 2012.

Alicia Kaiser,
Designated Federal Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012-26527 Filed 10-26-12; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-9747-5]

Reissuance of the NPDES General Permits for Oil and Gas Exploration Facilities on the Outer Continental Shelf and Contiguous State Waters in the Beaufort Sea and on the Outer Continental Shelf in the Chukchi Sea, AK

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability of final NPDES general permits.

SUMMARY: The Director, Office of Water and Watersheds, EPA Region 10, is publishing this notice of availability of the final National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permits for Oil and Gas Exploration Facilities on the Outer Continental Shelf and Contiguous State Waters in the Beaufort Sea (Permit No. AKG282100) and on the Outer Continental Shelf in the Chukchi Sea (Permit No. AKG288100). The Beaufort and Chukchi general permits authorize thirteen types of discharges from facilities engaged in field exploration and exploratory drilling activities under the Offshore Subcategory of the Oil and Gas Extraction Point Source Category (40 CFR part 425, Subpart A), as authorized by Section 402 of the Clean Water Act (CWA or “the Act”), 33 U.S.C. 1342. The Beaufort and Chukchi general permits contain effluent limitations and requirements that ensure the discharges will not cause unreasonable degradation of the marine environment, as required by Section 403(c) of the Clean Water Act (i.e. the Ocean Discharge Criteria), 33 U.S.C. 1343(c).

DATES: The issuance date of the Beaufort and Chukchi NPDES general permits is October 29, 2012, the date of publication of this notice. The Beaufort and Chukchi general permits shall become effective on November 28, 2012. Operators must submit a new Notice of Intent (NOI) to discharge within 120

days prior to initiation of discharges. Operators that have administratively extended coverage under the previous general permit must submit new NOIs that comply with the submission requirements of the Beaufort and Chukchi general permits.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Beaufort and Chukchi general permits, the Response to Comments document, and the Ocean Discharge Criteria Evaluations may be found on the Region 10 Web site at: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/water.nsf/npdes+public+notices/arctic-gp-pn-2012>. Copies of the documents are available upon request. Written requests for copies of the documents may be submitted to EPA, Region 10, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900, OWW-130, Seattle, WA 98101. Electronic requests may be sent to: washington.audrey@epa.gov. Requests by telephone may be made to Audrey Washington at (206) 553-0523.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Erin Seyfried at (206) 553-1448, seyfried.erin@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 26, 2011, the previous NPDES general permit, the Arctic general permit, No. AKG280000, expired. EPA is replacing the Arctic general permit with two general permits, the Beaufort and Chukchi general permits, renumbered as AKG282100 and AKG288100, respectively. EPA solicited public comments on the draft Beaufort and Chukchi general permits in the **Federal Register** on January 31, 2012. Notices of the draft general permits were also published in the Anchorage Daily News, the Arctic Sounder, and Petroleum News on January 30, 2012. Public meetings and hearings were held in communities on the North Slope and in Anchorage the week of March 12-16, 2012. The comment period closed on March 30, 2012. Changes have been made to the general permits in response to comments received from tribal, state, and local governments, the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, environmental advocacy groups, industry representatives, trade organizations, and individual citizens. All comments, along with EPA’s responses, are summarized in the Response to Comments document.

State Certification of Beaufort General Permit. Pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1341, on October 9, 2012, the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) certified that the conditions of the Beaufort general permit comply with State Water Quality Standards (Alaska Administrative Code 18 AAC 15, 18 AAC 70, and 18 AAC

72), including the State's antidegradation policy.

Oil Spill Requirements. Section 311 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. 1321, prohibits the discharge of oil and hazardous materials in harmful quantities. Discharges authorized under the Beaufort and Chukchi general permits are excluded from the provisions of CWA Section 311, 33 U.S.C. 1321. However, the Beaufort and Chukchi general permits will not preclude the institution of legal action, or relieve the permittees from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties for other unauthorized discharges of oil and hazardous materials, which are covered by Section 311.

Endangered Species Act. Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), 16 U.S.C. 1531–1544, requires federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) if their actions have the potential to either beneficially or adversely affect any threatened or endangered species, or designated critical habitat. On March 30, 2012 and April 11, 2012, EPA received concurrences from USFWS and NMFS, respectively, that exploration discharges authorized by the general permits are not likely to adversely affect endangered, threatened, and candidate and proposed species and designated critical habitat areas.

Essential Fish Habitat. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires EPA to consult with NMFS when a proposed discharge has the potential to adversely affect an Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). EPA's EFH assessments conclude that the discharges authorized by the Beaufort and Chukchi general permits will not adversely affect EFH or those species regulated under a Federal Fisheries Management Plan.

Coastal Zone Management Act. As of July 1, 2011, there is no longer a Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) program in Alaska. Consequently, federal agencies are no longer required to provide the State of Alaska with CZMA consistency determinations.

Paperwork Reduction Act. The information collection requirements of the Beaufort and Chukchi general permits are consistent with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, 44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.

Regulatory Flexibility Act. 5 U.S.C. 601 et seq., requires that EPA prepare a regulatory flexibility analysis on rules subject to the requirements of 5 U.S.C. 553(b) that have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities.

However, NPDES general permits are not "rules" and are therefore not subject to the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA).

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. Section 201 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA), Public Law 104–4, generally requires federal agencies to assess the effects of their "regulatory actions" (defined to be the same as "rules" subject to the RFA) on tribal, state, and local governments and the private sector. However, the Beaufort and Chukchi general permits are not "rules" subject to the RFA, and are therefore not subject to the UMRA.

Appeal of Permit. Any interested person may appeal the Beaufort and Chukchi general permits in the Federal Court of Appeals in accordance with section 509(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1369(b)(1). This appeal must be filed within 120 days of the permit issuance date. Persons affected by the permit may not challenge the conditions of the permit in further EPA proceedings (see 40 CFR 124.19). Instead, they may either challenge the permits in court or apply for an individual NPDES permit.

Authority: This action is taken under the authority of Section 402 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1342. I hereby provide public notice of the final permit action in accordance with 40 CFR 124.15(b).

Dated: October 23, 2012.

Christine Psyk,

Associate Director, Office of Water and Watersheds, Region 10.

[FR Doc. 2012–26518 Filed 10–26–12; 8:45 am]

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EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

Agency Information Collection Activities

AGENCY: Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

ACTION: Notice of Information Collection—Extension Without Change: Elementary-Secondary Staff Information Report (EEO–5).

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC or Commission) announces that it intends to submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request for a three-year extension of the Elementary-Secondary Staff Information Report (EEO–5). On July 2, 2012, the EEOC published a notice stating it was requesting OMB approval for a revision to the previously approved EEO–5 under the PRA's emergency processing procedures. 77

FR 39238 (July 2, 2012). At that time, EEOC requested approval to revise the race and ethnicity categories on the EEO–5 report to conform to OMB's *Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity*. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the revised EEO–5 through February 2013. EEOC is now requesting a regular extension without change of the revised EEO–5.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be submitted on or before December 28, 2012. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2000e–8(c), a public hearing concerning the EEO–5 will be held at a place and time to be announced. Persons wishing to present their views orally should notify the Commission of their desire to do so in writing no later than November 28, 2012. The request to present views orally at a public hearing should include a written summary of the remarks to be offered.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Bernadette Wilson, Acting Executive Officer, Executive Secretariat, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 131 M Street NE., Washington, DC 20507. As a convenience to commenters, the Executive Secretariat will accept comments totaling six or fewer pages by facsimile ("FAX") machine. This limitation is necessary to assure access to the equipment. The telephone number of the fax receiver is (202) 663–4114. (This is not a toll-free number). Receipt of FAX transmittals will not be acknowledged, except that the sender may request confirmation of receipt by calling the Executive Secretariat staff at (202) 663–4070 (voice) or (202) 663–4074 (TTD). (These are not toll-free telephone numbers.) Instead of sending written comments to EEOC, you may submit comments and attachments electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, which is the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Follow the instructions online for submitting comments. All comments received through this portal will be posted without change, including any personal information you provide. Copies of comments submitted by the public to EEOC directly or through the Federal eRulemaking Portal will be available for review, by advance appointment only, at the Commission's library between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5 p.m. or can be reviewed at <http://www.regulations.gov>. To schedule an appointment to inspect the comments at EEOC's library, contact the library staff at (202) 663–4630 (voice) or (202) 663–4641 (TTY). (These are not toll-free numbers.)