References

A complete list of the references used in this proposed rule is available upon request (see **ADDRESSES**).

Classification

National Environmental Policy Act

The 1982 amendments to the ESA, in section 4(b)(1)(A), restrict the information that may be considered when assessing species for listing. Based on this limitation of criteria for a listing decision and the opinion in *Pacific Legal Foundation* v. *Andrus,* 675 F. 2d 825 (6th Cir. 1981), NMFS has concluded that ESA listing actions are not subject to the environmental assessment requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (See NOAA Administrative Order 216–6).

Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: May 5, 2015.

Samuel D. Rauch III,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2015–11305 Filed 5–8–15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Notice of Intent To Grant Exclusive License

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, Department of Commerce DOC.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), intends to grant to Handix, LLC of Boulder, Colorado, an exclusive global license to manufacture and distribute its ''PRINTED OPTICAL SPECTROMETER (POPS), and its ''PORTABLE AEROSOL GENERATOR''.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before June 5, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to NOAA Technology Partnerships Office, SSMC4 Room 7605, 1305 East West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Derek Parks, NOAA Technology Transfer Program Manager, at: *derek.parks@noaa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Government's rights in this invention are assigned to the United States of America, as represented by the Secretary of Commerce. It is in the public interest to so license this invention, as Handix, LLC of Boulder, Colorado, has submitted a complete and sufficient application for a license. The prospective exclusive license will be royalty-bearing and will comply with the terms and conditions of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7. The prospective exclusive license may be granted unless, within thirty (30) days from the date of this published Notice, the NOAA Technology Partnerships Office receives written evidence and argument which establishes the grant of the license would not be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

Dated: May 4, 2015.

Jason Donaldson,

Chief Financial Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2015–11131 Filed 5–8–15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–KD–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. PTO–P–2015–0031]

Extension of the Period for Comments on Enhancing Patent Quality

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Extension of the comment period.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) recently launched a comprehensive and enhanced quality initiative. This initiative began with a request for public comments on a set of proposals for enhancing patent quality through submission of written comments. Public input on this initiative was also received through discussion at a two-day ''Quality Summit,'' held on March 25 and 26, 2015, at the USPTO headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. The USPTO is extending the comment period to ensure that all stakeholders have sufficient opportunity to submit comments on its new enhanced quality initiative.

DATES: To be assured of consideration, written comments must be received on or before May 20, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent by electronic mail message over the Internet addressed to: *WorldClassPatentQuality@uspto.gov.* Comments may also be submitted by postal mail addressed to: Mail Stop Comments—Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313–1450, marked to the attention of Michael Cygan, Senior Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy.

Although comments may be submitted by postal mail, the USPTO prefers to receive comments by electronic mail message over the Internet in order to facilitate sharing the received comments with the public. Electronic comments are preferred to be submitted in plain text, but also may be submitted in ADOBE® portable document format or MICROSOFT® WORD format. Comments not submitted electronically should be submitted on paper in a format that facilitates convenient digital scanning into ADOBE® portable document format.

The comments will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Commissioner for Patents, currently located in Madison East, Tenth Floor, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia. Comments also will be available for viewing via the USPTO's Internet Web site (*http://www.uspto.gov/patent/initiatives/enhanced-patent-quality-initiative.html*). Because comments will be made available for public inspection, information that the submitter does not desire to make public, such as an address or phone number, should not be included in the comments. It would be helpful to the USPTO if written comments included information about: (1) The name and affiliation of the individual responding; and (2) an indication of whether comments offered represent views of the respondent's organization or are the respondent's personal views.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael T. Cygan, Senior Legal Advisor, at (571) 272–7700; Maria Nuzzolillo, Legal Advisor, at (571) 272–8150; or Jeffrey R. West, Legal Advisor, at (571) 272–2226.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The USPTO is extending the period for public comment on its Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative. The USPTO launched a comprehensive and enhanced quality initiative beginning with a request for public comments on a set of six proposals outlined in a **Federal Register** Notice, *Request for Comments on Enhancing Patent Quality,* 80 FR 6475 (Feb. 5, 2015). The new enhanced quality initiative continued with a two-