

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648–XG406

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Advisory Panel will hold a public meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 5, 2018, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton—Philadelphia Airport, 9000 Bartram Ave., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; telephone: (215) 365–4500.

Council address: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674–2331; www.mafmc.org.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, telephone: (302) 526–5255.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (MAFMC's) Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Advisory Panel will meet to provide feedback on the Public Hearing Document for the Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Excessive Shares Amendment. An agenda and background documents will be posted at the Council's website (www.mafmc.org) prior to the meeting. The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to M. Jan Saunders, (302) 526–5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: August 8, 2018.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2018–17326 Filed 8–10–18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Telecommunications and Information Administration****First Responder Network Authority**

[Docket Number 131219999–8730–04]

RIN 0660–XC009

Withdrawal of Notice of Intent To Prepare Supplemental Environmental Impact Statements and Amendment of Record of Decisions for Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements

AGENCY: First Responder Network Authority, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of intent; withdrawal.

SUMMARY: The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) is (1) withdrawing its Notice of Intent to Prepare Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements (SPEISs) and Conduct Scoping for the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN), and (2) amending five (5) records of decision to remove the references to the FirstNet Authority's intent to prepare the SPEISs.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eli Veenendaal, First Responder Network Authority, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 3122 Sterling Circle, Suite 100, Boulder, CO 80301 or elijah.veenendaal@firstnet.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1401 *et seq.*) created and authorized the FirstNet Authority to take all actions necessary to ensure the building, deployment, and operation of an interoperable NPSBN. As part of NPSBN deployment, the FirstNet Authority is required to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) (NEPA) and the implementing regulations issued by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR parts 1500–1508) (CEQ Regulations) to assess the environmental effects of its proposed actions prior to making a final decision and implementing the action.

To support NEPA compliance, the FirstNet Authority prepared and finalized five regional programmatic environmental impact statements (PEISs) that analyze the potential environmental impacts of the deployment and operation of the

NPSBN at a programmatic level.¹ However, prior to completing the PEISs and issuing corresponding records of decision (RODs), the FirstNet Authority was still in the process of revising the FirstNet Authority Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (FirstNet Authority NEPA Procedures) and identified a potential need to account for these changes in the PEISs and RODs.²

Consequently, on September 25, 2017, the FirstNet Authority published a notice of intent (NOI) in the **Federal Register** to prepare SPEISs to address the potential impact of the FirstNet Authority NEPA Procedures as well as the process the FirstNet Authority would follow to assess potential environmental impacts of the NPSBN deployment at the site specific-level.³ Similarly, the FirstNet Authority also included comparable language relating to its intent to prepare SPEISs in each of the RODs.⁴

Subsequently, on February 1, 2018, following the issuance of the NOI and RODs for each region, the FirstNet Authority completed the regulatory process for and published in the **Federal Register** a notice responding to comments and finalizing its proposed modifications to the FirstNet Authority NEPA Procedures.⁵ The revised FirstNet

¹ Notice of Availability of a Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the East Region of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network, 82 FR 49785 (Oct. 27, 2017); *See also* Notice of Availability of a Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the South Region of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network, 82 FR 45806 (Oct. 5, 2017); *See also* Notice of Availability of a Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Central Region of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network, 82 FR 41594 (Sept. 1, 2017); Notice of Availability of a Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the West Region of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network, 82 FR 33870 (July 21, 2017); Notice of Availability of a Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Non-Contiguous Region of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network, 82 FR 29825 (June 30, 2017).

² Revised National Environmental Policy Act Procedures and Categorical Exclusions, 82 FR 28621 (June 23, 2017) (proposing and seeking public comment on revised FirstNet Authority Procedures for Implementing NEPA).

³ Notice of Intent To Prepare a Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and Conduct Scoping for the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network, 82 FR 44556 (Sept. 25, 2017).

⁴ FirstNet Authority, *Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decisions for West Region, Central Region, South Region, East Region, and Non-Contiguous Region*, <https://website.azurewebsites.us/network/peis-content> (discussing the intent to prepare a SPEIS in section 3.4.1—Tiered Site Specific Analysis of each ROD).

⁵ Revised National Environmental Policy Act Procedures and Categorical Exclusions, 83 FR 4632 (Feb. 1, 2018) (responding to comments and

Authority NEPA Procedures describe the process and review criteria the FirstNet Authority will follow to comply with NEPA and CEQ Regulations for proposed actions related to NPSBN deployment.⁶ In particular, the FirstNet Authority NEPA Procedures define the roles and responsibilities of the FirstNet Authority and its applicants and describe the criteria and process for determining the appropriate level of NEPA review and making environmental determinations and final decisions for site-specific reviews of FirstNet Authority actions related to the NPSBN.⁷

Accordingly, the FirstNet Authority has reviewed and determined that the revisions to the FirstNet Authority NEPA Procedures do not significantly impact any of the environmental analyses in the PEISs and that the information anticipated to be presented in the SPEISs related to the process for conducting site-specific reviews has already been sufficiently included in the revised FirstNet Authority Implementing Procedures. Thus, to avoid duplicative analysis and the unnecessary use of resources, the FirstNet Authority is (1) withdrawing its Notice of Intent to Prepare SPEISs and Conduct Scoping for the NPSBN, and (2) amending five (5) records of decision to remove the references to the FirstNet Authority's intent to prepare SPEISs, including section 3.4.1—Tiered Site Specific Analysis, in each of the documents.⁸

Dated: August 7, 2018.

Elijah Veenendaal,

Attorney-Advisor, First Responder Network Authority.

[FR Doc. 2018-17225 Filed 8-10-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO-P-2018-0050]

Office Patent Trial Practice Guide, August 2018 Update

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

finalizing revisions to FirstNet Authority Procedures for Implementing NEPA).

⁶ FirstNet Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (January 2018), <https://www.firstnet.gov/content/notice-revised-national-environmental-policy-act-procedures-and-categorical-exclusions>.

⁷ See id.

⁸ The amended RODs for each of five regions are available at www.firstnet.gov.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (“Office”) issued an update to the Office Patent Trial Practice Guide (“TPG”) in August 2018 to provide updated guidance to the public on standard practices before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (“Board”) in the post-grant trial procedures implemented following the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (“AIA”). The Office publishes the TPG to provide practitioners with guidance on typical procedures and times for taking action in AIA trials, as well as to ensure consistency of procedure among panels of the Board.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Tierney and William Fink, Vice Chief Administrative Patent Judges, by telephone at (571) 272-9797.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office issued an update to the TPG in August 2018, to update the guidance set forth in the TPG by incorporating the Board's current practices and provide further explanation of certain aspects of the Board's practices to the public. The TPG is divided into sections, each directed to a particular stage of a typical AIA trial proceeding or a specific issue commonly encountered during such proceedings. As such, the TPG contains informative material and outlines the current procedures that panels of the Board typically follow in appropriate cases in the normal course of an AIA trial proceeding. In order to expedite these updates and provide guidance to the public as quickly as possible, the Office has chosen to issue updates to the Practice Guide on a section-by-section, rolling basis, rather than a single, omnibus update addressing all aspects of the current Practice Guide. The Office anticipates releasing further revisions to the remaining sections of the TPG on a periodic basis, to take into account feedback received from stakeholders, changes in controlling precedent or applicable regulations, or the further refinement of the Board's practices over time.

The August 2018 update revises Sections I.G. (Expert Testimony), II.A.3. (Word Count and Page Limits), II.D.2. (Considerations in Instituting a Review), II.I. (Reply to Patent Owner Response and Reply for a Motion to Amend; Sur-Replies), II.K. (Challenging Admissibility; Motions to Exclude; Motions to Strike), II.M. (Oral Hearing), and Appendix A (Sample Scheduling Order).

The August 2018 update of the TPG, containing only the revised sections, may be viewed or downloaded free of charge from the USPTO website at <https://go.usa.gov/xU7GP>. The full

version of the August 2012 TPG continues to be available for reference on the USPTO website at <https://go.usa.gov/xU7GK>.

Dated: August 8, 2018.

Andrei Iancu,

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2018-17315 Filed 8-10-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Notice of Intent To Extend Collection 3038-0101, Registration of Foreign Boards of Trade

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed renewal of a collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including proposed extension of an existing collection of information, and to allow 60 days for public comment. This notice solicits comments on collections of information provided for by Commission regulation Part 48, Registration of Foreign Boards of Trade.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before October 12, 2018.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by “FBOT Registration” or “OMB Control No. 3038-0101” by any of the following methods:

- The Agency's website, at <http://comments.cftc.gov/>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments through the website.

- *Mail:* Christopher Kirkpatrick, Secretary of the Commission, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street, NW, Washington, DC 20581.

- *Hand Delivery/Courier:* Same as Mail above.

Please submit your comments using only one method. All comments must be submitted in English, or if not, accompanied by an English translation. Comments will be posted as received to <http://www.cftc.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Duane C. Andresen, Associate Director,