

## 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](http://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](http://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.*

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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](mailto: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.<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup>

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.<sup>3</sup> Similarly, the FirstNet Authority also included comparable language relating to its intent to prepare SPEISs in each of the RODs.<sup>4</sup>

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.<sup>5</sup> The revised FirstNet

<sup>1</sup> 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).

<sup>2</sup> 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).

<sup>3</sup> 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).

<sup>4</sup> 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).

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