

*activity-atlantic* without change. All personal identifying information (*e.g.*, name, address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ben Laws, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401. Electronic copies of the original IHA, change request, and other documents relevant to issuance of the original IHA may be obtained online at: [www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/incidental-take-authorization-oil-and-gas-industry-geophysical-survey-activity-atlantic](http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/incidental-take-authorization-oil-and-gas-industry-geophysical-survey-activity-atlantic). In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed above.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce (as delegated to NMFS) to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and either regulations are issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed authorization is provided to the public for review.

An authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth.

**Summary of Request**

On November 30, 2018, NMFS issued an IHA to ION to take marine mammals, by harassment, incidental to a proposed geophysical survey in the Atlantic Ocean (83 FR 63268). NMFS subsequently received a written request, co-signed by officers from both ION and GXT, to administratively change the name of the IHA holder from ION to GXT. This November 6, 2019, request states that GXT, a U.S. corporation, is a wholly owned subsidiary of ION Exploration Productions (U.S.A.), Inc., which, in turn, is wholly owned by ION Geophysical Corporation. The request further states that "ION GeoVentures" is the name of a business unit within ION

Geophysical Corporation that performs a specific business function for entities in the corporate structure of ION Geophysical Corporation, including for GXT. According to the request, however, GXT is the company that plans to carry out the subject geophysical survey in the Atlantic Ocean and should have been listed as the applicant. The request explains that inclusion of the name "ION GeoVentures" on the original IHA request was an unintentional clerical error. With the name change, GXT expressly agrees to comply with the associated terms, conditions, stipulations, and restrictions of the original IHA.

Based on this request, we propose to revise the issued IHA by correcting the name of the IHA holder to reflect GXT. No other changes were requested. Written notification has not yet been received from the IHA holder and, therefore, the IHA is not yet effective. The revised IHA, if issued, would become effective upon notification from the IHA holder, with an expiration date no later than November 30, 2020.

There are no other changes to the issued IHA as described in the December 7, 2018, **Federal Register** notice of a final IHA (83 FR 63268): The specified activity; description of marine mammals in the area of the specified activity; potential effects on marine mammals and their habitat; mitigation and related monitoring used to implement mitigation; reporting; estimated take by incidental harassment; negligible impact and small numbers analyses and determinations; impact on availability of affected species or stocks for subsistence uses and the period of effectiveness remain unchanged and are herein incorporated by reference.

**Proposed Revisions to the IHA**

NMFS is proposing a change in the name of the holder of the IHA from "ION GeoVentures" to "GX Technology Corporation."

**Request for Public Comments**

NMFS invites comment on the proposed change in the name of the holder of the IHA only. The scope of NMFS' decision and, therefore, the scope of this solicitation for public comment, is limited to the requested change. Comments that are not relevant to this decision will not be considered. Please include with your comments any supporting information to help inform our final decision on GXT's request.

Dated: November 26, 2019.

**Angela Somma,**

*Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2019-26054 Filed 12-2-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Patent and Trademark Office**

[Docket No. PTO-C-2019-0038]

**Request for Comments on Intellectual Property Protection for Artificial Intelligence Innovation**

**AGENCY:** United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Request for comments; extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) published a request for comments in the **Federal Register** on October 30, 2019, seeking public comment on the impact of artificial intelligence ("AI") technologies on intellectual property law and policy. Through this notice, the USPTO is extending the period for public comment until January 10, 2020. **DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before January 10, 2020. **ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be sent by email to [AIPartnership@uspto.gov](mailto:AIPartnership@uspto.gov). Comments may also be submitted by postal mail addressed to the Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. Although comments may be submitted by postal mail, the USPTO prefers to receive comments via email.

Because written comments and testimony will be made available for public inspection, information that a respondent does not desire to be made public, such as a phone number, should not be included in the testimony or written comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Coke Stewart, Office of the Under Secretary and Director of the USPTO, (571) 272-8600.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On October 30, 2019, the United States Patent and Trademark Office published a notice in the **Federal Register** requesting public input on copyright, trademark, and other intellectual property rights issues that may be impacted by AI. See Request for Comments on Intellectual Property Protection for Artificial Intelligence Innovation, 84 FR 58141 (Oct. 30, 2019). The notice requested public comments

on or before December 16, 2019. Through this notice, the USPTO is extending the period for public comment until January 10, 2020, to give interested members of the public additional time to submit comments. All other information and instructions to commenters provided in the original notice remain unchanged. Previously submitted comments do not need to be resubmitted.

Dated: November 26, 2019.

**Andrei Iancu,**

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

[FR Doc. 2019-26104 Filed 12-2-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED-2019-ICCD-0150]

### Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Student Assistance General Provisions—Subpart J—Approval of Independently Administered Tests

**AGENCY:** Federal Student Aid (FSA), Department of Education (ED).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, ED is proposing an extension of an existing information collection.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before February 3, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** To access and review all the documents related to the information collection listed in this notice, please use <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching the Docket ID number ED-2019-ICCD-0150. Comments submitted in response to this notice should be submitted electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> by selecting the Docket ID number or via postal mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery. If the [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) site is not available to the public for any reason, ED will temporarily accept comments at [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov). Please include the docket ID number and the title of the information collection request when requesting documents or submitting comments. *Please note that comments submitted by fax or email and those submitted after the comment period will not be accepted.* Written requests for information or comments submitted by postal mail or delivery should be addressed to the Director of the Strategic Collections and Clearance Governance and Strategy Division, U.S. Department

of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, LBJ, Room 6W208, D, Washington, DC 20202-4537.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Beth Grebeldinger, 202-377-4018.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Education (ED), in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the Department's information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. ED is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

*Title of Collection:* Student Assistance General Provisions—Subpart J—Approval of Independently Administered Tests.

*OMB Control Number:* 1845-0049.

*Type of Review:* An extension of an existing information collection.

*Respondents/Affected Public:* Private Sector; Individuals or Households; State, Local, and Tribal Governments.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 48,779.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 6,340.

*Abstract:* This request is for an extension without change of the approval for the reporting and recordkeeping requirements that are contained in the information collection 1845-0049 for Student Assistance General Provision in the regulations in Subpart J-Approval of Independently Administered Tests; Specification of Passing Score; Approval of State Process. There are no forms or formats

established by the Department for the reporting or recordkeeping requirements. These regulations govern the application for and approval by the Secretary of assessments by a private test publisher or State that are used to measure a student's skills and abilities. The administration of approved ability to benefit (ATB) tests may be used to determine a student's eligibility for assistance for the Title IV student financial assistance programs authorized under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA) when, among other conditions, the student does not have a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent. The language of the current statute and regulations have not changed.

Dated: November 27, 2019.

**Kate Mullan,**

*PRA Coordinator, Strategic Collections and Clearance, Governance and Strategy Division, Office of Chief Data Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2019-26080 Filed 12-2-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Paducah

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Management.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Paducah. The Federal Advisory Committee Act requires that public notice of this meeting be announced in the **Federal Register**.

**DATES:** Thursday, January 16, 2020; 6:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** West Kentucky Community and Technical College, Emerging Technology Center, 5100 Alben Barkley Drive, Paducah, Kentucky 42001.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jennifer Woodard, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, U.S. Department of Energy, Paducah Site Office, Post Office Box 1410, MS-103, Paducah, Kentucky 42001, (270) 441-6825; email: [Jennifer.woodard@pppo.gov](mailto:Jennifer.woodard@pppo.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Purpose of the Board:* The purpose of the Board is to make recommendations to DOE-EM and site management in the areas of environmental restoration, waste management and related activities.