

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**GENERAL SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION****NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND
SPACE ADMINISTRATION****[OMB Control No. 9000-0059]****Federal Acquisition Regulation;
Information Collection; North Carolina
Sales Tax Certification**

AGENCIES: Department of Defense (DOD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Notice of request for an extension to an existing OMB clearance.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Secretariat will be submitting to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request to review and approve an extension of a currently approved information collection requirement concerning North Carolina sales tax certification. The clearance currently expires April 30, 2002.

Public comments are particularly invited on: Whether this collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of functions of the FAR, and whether it will have practical utility; whether our estimate of the public burden of this collection of information is accurate, and based on valid assumptions and methodology; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways in which we can minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through the use of appropriate technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Submit comments on or before April 12, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (MVP), 1800 F Street, NW., Room 4035, Washington, DC 20405.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Victoria Moss, Acquisition Policy Division, GSA (202) 501-4764.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**A. Purpose**

The North Carolina Sales and Use Tax Act authorizes counties and incorporated cities and towns to obtain

each year from the Commissioner of Revenue of the State of North Carolina a refund of sales and use taxes indirectly paid on building materials, supplies, fixtures, and equipment that become a part of or are annexed to any building or structure in North Carolina. However, to substantiate a refund claim for sales or use taxes paid on purchases of building materials, supplies, fixtures, or equipment by a contractor, the Government must secure from the contractor certified statements setting forth the cost of the property purchased from each vendor and the amount of sales or use taxes paid. Similar certified statements by subcontractors must be obtained by the general contractor and furnished to the Government. The information is used as evidence to establish exemption from State and local taxes.

B. Annual Reporting Burden

Respondents: 424.

Responses Per Respondent: 1.

Annual Responses: 424.

Hours Per Response: 17.

Total Burden Hours: 72.

Obtaining Copies of Proposals

Requesters may obtain a copy of the information collection package from the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (MVP), Room 4035, 1800 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20405, telephone (202) 208-7312. Please cite OMB Control No. 9000-0059, North Carolina Sales Tax Certification, in all correspondence.

Dated: February 5, 2002.

Al Matera,

Director, Acquisition Policy Division.

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BILLING CODE 6820-EP-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Navy****Record of Decision for the Final
Environmental Impact Statement for
North Pacific Acoustic Laboratory
Project**

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DOD.

ACTION: Notice of record of decision.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, 42 U.S.C. section 4321 *et seq.*, the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality that implement NEPA procedures, 40 CFR parts 1500-1508, and Navy regulations implementing NEPA procedures (31 CFR 775); the Department of the Navy announces its decision to conduct the

North Pacific Acoustic Laboratory (NPAL) project, which will entail resumption of transmissions from a sound source off the north coast of Kauai for five years. The action will be accomplished as described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement's (FEIS) preferred alternative, denoted "Continued Operation of the Kauai Sound Source." The Navy was the lead agency and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) was a cooperating agency in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process.

Background: The action will be conducted by Scripps Institution of Oceanography of the University of California, San Diego (Scripps), which carried out the first phase of Acoustic Thermometry of Ocean Climate (ATOC) feasibility research, and by the Applied Physics Laboratory of the University of Washington. Funding will be provided by the Office of Naval Research (ONR). Based on the success of the ATOC effort, the Navy recognizes the opportunity to transition into a second phase of research, NPAL, which will use the same acoustic source that was used in the Kauai ATOC program.

The purposes of the NPAL project are to study the feasibility and value of large scale acoustic thermometry; to study the behavior of sound transmissions in the ocean over long distances; and to study the possible long-term effects of sound transmission on marine life.

Under this action, the seabed power cable and sound source will remain in their present locations, and transmissions will continue with approximately the same signal parameters and transmission schedule used in the ATOC project. NPAL transmissions will consist of six 20-minute transmissions (one every four hours), every fourth day, with each transmission preceded by a five minute ramp-up period during which the signal intensity will be gradually increased. This represents an average duty cycle of two percent. With the possible exception of short duration testing with duty cycles of up to eight percent, or equipment failure, this schedule will continue for a period of five years. The signals transmitted by the source will have a center frequency of 75 Hertz (Hz) and a bandwidth of approximately 35 Hz. Approximately 260 watts of acoustic power will be radiated during transmission. At one meter from the source, the sound intensity will be about 195 decibels (dB) referenced to the intensity of a signal with a sound pressure level of one microPascal on a "water standard" basis. These signal