

streamed by videoconference. The number of participants is limited and is on a first-come basis. Any member of the public who wishes to participate via videoconference must register by contacting DACOWITS at osd.pentagon.ousd-p-r.mbx.dacowits@mail.mil or by contacting Mr. Robert Bowling at (703) 380-0116 no later than Monday, June 17, 2024. Once registered, the videoconference information will be provided.

Special Accommodations: Individuals requiring special physical or electronic accommodations to access the public meeting should contact Mr. Robert Bowling no later than Monday, June 17, 2024, so appropriate arrangements can be made.

Written Statements: Pursuant to 41 CFR 102-3.140 and section 10(a)(3) of the FACA, interested persons may submit a written statement to the DACOWITS pertaining to its overall mission/scope or in response to the approved meeting agenda announced in this notice. Individuals submitting a written statement must submit their statement no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday, June 17, 2024, to Mr. Robert Bowling, (703) 380-0116 (voice), or to osd.pentagon.ousd-p-r.mbx.dacowits@mail.mil. Mailing address is 4800 Mark Center Drive, Suite 06E22, Alexandria, VA 22350. Members of the public interested in making an oral statement must submit a written statement of their comments. If a statement is not received by Monday, June 17, 2024, it may not be provided to or considered by the Committee during this quarterly business meeting. After reviewing the written statements, the Chair and the DFO will determine if the requesting persons are permitted to make an oral presentation. Oral presentations will be limited to two minutes. The DFO will review all timely submissions with the DACOWITS Chair and will provide to all members of the Committee.

Dated: May 23, 2024.

Aaron T. Siegel,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 2024-11824 Filed 5-29-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Adoption of National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration Categorical Exclusion Pursuant to a Section of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

AGENCY: Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice of adoption of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) categorical exclusion for habitat restoration.

SUMMARY: DARPA is adopting the NOAA categorical exclusion C1 for the restoration of coral reefs in south Florida. This notice describes the proposed action for which DARPA intends to use the NOAA categorical exclusion and details the consultation between the agencies.

DATES: This action is effective May 30, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Catherine Campbell, 703-526-2044 (Voice), Catherine.Campbell@darpa.mil (Email).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

National Environmental Policy Act and Categorical Exclusions

NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347 requires all Federal agencies to assess the environmental impacts of their actions. Congress enacted NEPA to encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between humans and the environment, recognizing the profound impact of human activity and the critical importance of restoring and maintaining environmental quality to the overall welfare of humankind. NEPA seeks to ensure agencies consider the environmental effects of their proposed actions in their decision-making processes and inform and involve the public in that process. NEPA created the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), which promulgated NEPA implementing regulations, 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) parts 1500 through 1508 (CEQ regulations).

To comply with NEPA, agencies determine the appropriate level of review—an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Environmental Assessment (EA), or categorical exclusion. (42 U.S.C. 4336). If a proposed action is likely to have significant environmental effects, the agency must prepare an EIS and document its decision in a record of

decision. Id. If the proposed action is not likely to have significant environmental effects or the effects are unknown, the agency may instead prepare an EA, which involves a more concise analysis and process than an EIS. Id.

Following the EA, the agency may conclude the process with a finding of no significant impact if the analysis shows that the action will have no significant effects. If the analysis in the EA finds that the action is likely to have significant effects, however, then an EIS is required.

Under NEPA and the CEQ regulations, a Federal agency may establish in its NEPA implementing procedures categorical exclusions, which are categories of actions the agency has determined normally do not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. (40 CFR 1501.4, 1507.3(e)(2)(ii), 1508.1(d)). If an agency determines that a categorical exclusion covers a proposed action, it then evaluates the proposed action for extraordinary circumstances in which a normally excluded action may have a significant effect. (40 CFR 1501.4(b)). If no extraordinary circumstances are present or if further analysis determines that the extraordinary circumstances do not involve the potential for significant environmental impacts, the agency may apply the categorical exclusion to the proposed action without preparing an EA or EIS. (40 CFR 1501.4). If the extraordinary circumstances have the potential to result in significant effects, the agency is required to prepare an EA or EIS.

Section 109 of NEPA, enacted as part of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, allows a Federal agency to adopt a categorical exclusion listed in another agency's NEPA procedures for a category of proposed agency actions for which the categorical exclusion was established (42 U.S.C. 4336(c)). To adopt another agency's categorical exclusion under Section 109, an agency must identify the relevant categorical exclusion listed in that agency's ("establishing agency") NEPA procedures that cover its category of proposed actions or related actions; consult with the establishing agency to ensure that the proposed adoption of the categorical exclusion to a category of actions is appropriate; identify to the public the categorical exclusion that the agency plans to use for its proposed actions; and document adoption of the categorical exclusion. Id. This notice documents DARPA's adoption of NOAA's categorical exclusion under Section 109 of NEPA.

II. Identification of the Categorical Exclusion

NOAA's categorical exclusion, C1, for habitat restoration actions is codified in NOAA's procedures for implementing NEPA (<https://www.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-10/NOAA-NAO-216-6A-Companion-Manual-03012018%20%281%29.pdf>) and related authorities, as contained in the Companion Manual to NOAA Administrative Order NAO 2–16–6A. The text of categorical exclusion C–1 is as follows, “Habitat restoration actions, provided that such action: (1) transplants only organisms currently or formerly present at the site or in its immediate vicinity (if transplant is a component of the action); (2) does not require substantial placement of fill or dredging; (3) does not involve any removal of debris, excavation, or conditioning of soils unless such removal of debris, excavation, or conditioning of soils is geographically limited to the impact area such that site conditions will not impede or negatively alter natural processes, is in compliance with all permit and disposal requirements, and will not impact critical aquifers or recharge areas; and (4) does not involve an added risk of human or environmental exposure to toxic or hazardous substances, pathogens, or radioactive materials. *Notes:* If applicable, limitations and mitigation measures identified in the NOAA Restoration Center Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Habitat Restoration Actions must be followed. This CE includes, but is not limited to, response or restoration actions under CERLCA, OPA, or NMSA, if such actions help to restore an ecosystem, habitat, biotic community, or population of living resources to a determinable pre-impact condition prior to the incident leading to the response or restoration.”

Proposed Action

DARPA proposes to deploy and field test ecological engineering and biological adaptation strategies for corals in south Florida that have been tested in laboratory settings. The need to field test these strategies is to determine the best methods for coral translocation that will maximize wave attenuation, promote coral growth, mimic natural reef building and self-repair, increase the adaptive capacity of coral, and provide for long-term resiliency of the artificial reef that will be a part of DARPA's Reefense program in south Florida.

III. Consideration of Extraordinary Circumstances

If an agency determines that a categorical exclusion covers a proposed action, the agency must evaluate the proposed action for extraordinary circumstances in which a normally excluded action may have a significant effect. (40 CFR 1501.4(b)). DARPA does not currently have its own NEPA implementing procedures to guide its application of extraordinary circumstances. Until DARPA establishes NEPA implementing procedures, for purposes of considering extraordinary circumstances in connection with the NOAA categorical exclusion discussed in this notice, DARPA has considered whether the proposed action has the potential to result in significant effects. DARPA has assessed extraordinary circumstances and determined they are not present.

IV. Consultation With NOAA and Determination of Appropriateness

DARPA and NOAA consulted on the appropriateness of DARPA's adoption of the categorical exclusion. This consultation included a review of NOAA's experience applying the categorical exclusion and the proposed action for which DARPA plans to utilize it. Following this consultation and review, DARPA has determined that the impacts of the proposed action to deploy and field test ecological engineering and biological adaptation strategies for corals that have been tested in laboratory settings are similar to the impacts, which are not significant, of projects for which NOAA may apply the categorical exclusion. Additionally, DARPA determined that there are no extraordinary circumstances. Therefore, DARPA has determined that its proposed use of NOAA's categorical exclusion C1, as described within this notice, would be appropriate.

Notice to the Public and Documentation of Adoption

This notice documents adoption of the NOAA categorical exclusion listed above and is available for use by DARPA, effective immediately.

Dated: May 22, 2024.

Aaron T. Siegel,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 2024–11865 Filed 5–29–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED–2024–SCC–0077]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Maintenance-of-Effort Requirements and Waiver Requests Under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund and the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund

AGENCY: Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE), Department of Education (ED).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Department is proposing an extension without change of a currently approved information collection request (ICR).

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before July 29, 2024.

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 Docket Search Results ED–2024–SCC–0077. 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 site is not available to the public for any reason, the Department will temporarily accept comments at 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 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 Manager of the Strategic Collections and Clearance Governance and Strategy Division, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, LBJ, Room 6W203, Washington, DC 20202–8240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Andrew Brake, (202) 453–6136.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department, 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