

deletion. If we receive no adverse comment(s) on this notice of intent to delete or the direct final notice of deletion, we will not take further action on this notice of intent to delete. If we receive adverse comment(s), we will withdraw the direct final notice of deletion and it will not take effect. We will, as appropriate, address all public comments in a subsequent final deletion notice based on this notice of intent to delete. We will not institute a second comment period on this notice of intent to delete. Any parties interested in commenting must do so at this time. For additional information, see the direct final notice of deletion which is located in the Rules section of this **Federal Register**.

DATES: Comments concerning this Site must be received by February 18, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to: Beverly Negri, Community Involvement Coordinator, U.S. EPA Region 6 (6SF-LP), 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX 75202-2733, (214) 665-8157 or 1-800-533-3508 (negri.beverly@epa.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Petra Sanchez, Remedial Project Manager (RPM), U.S. EPA Region 6 (6SF-LT), 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX 75202-2733, (214) 665-6686 or 1-800-533-3508 (sanchez.petra@epa.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For additional information, see the Direct final notice of deletion which is located in the Rules section of this **Federal Register**.

Information Repositories: Comprehensive information about the Site is available for viewing and copying at the Site information repositories located at: U.S. EPA Region 6 Library, 12th Floor, 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 12D13, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733, (214) 665-6427, Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Clovis-Carver Public Library, 701 N. Main Street, Clovis, New Mexico, 88101 (505) 769-7840 Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; New Mexico Environment Department, Harold Runnels Building, 1190 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87502, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Contact: Mr. George Schuman (505) 827-2911.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 300

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Chemicals, Hazardous substances, Hazardous waste, Intergovernmental relations, Penalties, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Superfund, Water pollution control, Water supply.

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1321(c)(2); 42 U.S.C. 9601-9657; E.O. 12777, 56 FR 54757, 3 CFR, 1991 Comp., p. 351; E.O. 12580, 52 FR 2923; 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 193.

Dated: December 23, 2002.

Lawrence E. Starfield,
Deputy Regional Administrator, Region 6.
[FR Doc. 03-734 Filed 1-15-03; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Parts 73 and 76

[CS Docket No. 97-80; PP Docket No. 00-67; FCC 03-3]

Commercial Availability of Navigation Devices; Compatibility Between Cable Systems and Consumer Electronics Equipment

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Further notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: This document initiates a rulemaking seeking public comment on a memorandum of understanding reached among members of the cable television and consumer electronics manufacturing industries on a cable compatibility standard for an integrated, unidirectional digital cable television receiver.

DATES: Comments due March 28, 2003; reply comments are due April 28, 2003. Written comments on the proposed information collection(s) must be submitted by the public, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and other interested parties on or before March 17, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554. For further filing instructions, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Mort, 202-418-1043 or smort@fcc.gov. For additional information concerning the information collection(s) contained in this document, contact Judith B. Herman at 202-418-0214, or via the Internet at jboley@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's further notice of proposed rulemaking ("FNPRM"), FCC 03-3, adopted January 7, 2003; released January 10, 2003. The full text of the Commission's FNPRM, including the memorandum of understanding referenced herein, is available for inspection and copying

during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center (Room CY-A257) at its headquarters, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554, or may be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, Qualex International, (202) 863-2893, Portals II, Room CY-B402, 445 12th St., SW, Washington, DC 20554, or may be reviewed via Internet at <http://www.fcc.gov/mb>.

Initial Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Analysis

This FNPRM contains proposed information collection(s). The Commission, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, invites the general public and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to comment on the information collection(s) contained in this FNPRM, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), Public Law 104-13. Public and agency comments are due at the same time as other comments on this FNPRM; OMB notification of action is due March 17, 2003. Comments should address: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimates; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

In addition to filing comments with the Secretary, a copy of any comments on the information collections contained herein should be submitted to Judith B. Herman, Federal Communications Commission, Room 1-C804, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554, or via the Internet to jboley@fcc.gov, and to Kim A. Johnson, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10236 NEOB, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, or via the Internet to Kim.A.Johnson@omb.eop.gov.

OMB Control Number: 3060-[XXXX].

Title: Commercial Availability of Navigation Devices and Compatibility Between Cable Systems and Consumer Electronics Equipment, FNPRM, CS Docket No. 97-80 and PP Docket No. 00-67.

Form Number: Not applicable.

Type of Review: New collection.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit entities.

Number of Respondents: 554.

Estimated Time per Response: 30 seconds.

Frequency of Response: On occasion reporting requirements; Third party disclosure.

Total Annual Burden: 36,667 hours.

Total Annual Costs: None.

Needs and Uses: The FNPRM seeks comment on two proposed information collections. The first is a voluntary labeling regime for unidirectional digital cable television receivers and related digital cable products. The proposed regime would prevent consumer electronics manufacturers from labeling or marketing products as "digital cable compatible" (or an alternative term to be established) unless they meet certain specified technical standards ensuring their compatibility with digital cable systems. Pursuant to the second information collection, consumer electronics manufacturers would be required to provide consumers with appropriate post-sale material, such as an owner's guide, describing the features and functionality of the product. We estimate that the total labeling and consumer disclosure burden for collections of information under the proposed rules is 36,667 hours.

Synopsis of the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

1. The Commission initiated its Commercial Availability of Navigation Devices proceeding by notice of proposed rulemaking in CS Docket No. 97-80 (FCC 97-53), 62 FR 10011, March 5, 1997, and later issued a further notice of proposed rulemaking and declaratory ruling (FCC 00-341), 65 FR 58255, September 28, 2000. In its Compatibility Between Cable Systems and Consumer Electronics Equipment proceeding, the Commission adopted a notice of proposed rulemaking in PP Docket No. 00-67 (FCC 00-137), 65 FR 24671, April 27, 2000. In connection with the ongoing digital television ("DTV") transition, certain commenters in these proceedings have expressed the need for adoption of a standard to ensure the compatibility of cable television systems with DTV receivers and related consumer electronics equipment. To this end, the consumer electronics and cable industries are engaged in ongoing inter-industry discussions seeking to establish a so-called "cable plug and play" standard. Such a standard would allow consumers to directly attach their DTV receivers to cable systems and receive cable television services without the need for an external navigation device.

2. On December 19, 2002, the members of this discussion group, headed by the Consumer Electronics Association ("CEA") and the National

Cable and Telecommunications Association ("NCTA"), filed with the Commission a memorandum of understanding ("MOU") which details an agreement on a cable compatibility standard for an integrated, unidirectional digital cable television receiver, as well as other unidirectional digital cable products. NCTA and CEA assert that unidirectional digital cable television receivers manufactured pursuant to the MOU would be capable of receiving analog basic, digital basic and digital premium cable television programming by direct connection to a cable system providing digital programming. The receivers would have a Digital Visual Interface ("DVI") connector with High-Bandwidth Digital Content Protection ("HDCP") to connect with other consumer electronics devices. The MOU also calls for such receivers to contain a point of deployment ("POD") interface slot into which a POD module provided by the cable operator would be inserted in order to view encrypted programming. Due to the unidirectional nature of this receiver specification, an external navigation device will still be needed to receive advanced features such as cable operator-enhanced electronic programming guides ("EPGs"), impulse pay per view ("IPPV") or video on demand ("VOD"). The MOU indicates that the discussion group continues to work on a bidirectional receiver specification which would eliminate the need for an external navigation device to receive advanced services.

3. The compromise reached in the MOU, as detailed in the FNPRM, requires, *inter alia*, the consumer electronics and cable television industries to commit to certain voluntary acts and seeks the creation or revision of Commission rules in the following general areas:

(1) Requiring digital cable systems with an activated channel capacity of 750 MHz or greater to support operation of unidirectional digital cable products and to ensure that navigation devices utilized in connection with such systems have an IEEE 1394 interface and comply with specified technical standards;

(2) Establishing a labeling regime for unidirectional digital cable television receivers and related digital cable products that meet certain technical specifications that would be voluntarily used by consumer electronics manufacturers. This regime would include testing and self-certification standards, as well as consumer information disclosures to purchasers of such receivers and products;

(3) Prohibiting the use of selectable output controls by all multichannel video programming providers ("MVPDs"); and

(4) Adopting encoding rules for audiovisual content applicable to all MVPDs.

4. We hereby seek comment on the MOU and the proposed Commission rules contained therein. We also seek comment on the potential impact of the MOU and its proposed rules upon consumers, content providers, small cable operators and MVPDs other than cable operators, as well as the jurisdictional basis for Commission action in this area, including the creation of encoding rules for audiovisual content provided by MVPDs. As to issues not addressed by the MOU, such as the down-resolution of programming, we seek comment on whether Commission action is needed and authorized. We also seek comment on any other issues germane to the Commission's consideration of the MOU and these proposed rules.

5. *Authority.* This FNPRM is issued pursuant to authority contained in sections 1, 4(i), 4(j), 303, 403, 601, 624A and 629 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

6. *Ex Parte Rules—Non-Restricted Proceeding.* This is a non-restricted notice and comment rulemaking proceeding. Ex parte presentations are permitted, except during the Sunshine Agenda period, provided that they are disclosed as provided in the Commission's Rules. See generally 47 CFR 1.1202, 1.1203, and 1.1206(a).

7. Accessibility Information.

Accessible formats of this FNPRM (computer diskettes, large print, audio recording and Braille) are available to persons with disabilities by contacting Brian Millin, of the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau, at (202) 418-7426, TTY (202) 418-7365, or at bmillin@fcc.gov.

8. *Comment Information.* Pursuant to §§ 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 1.415, 1.419, interested parties may file comments on or before March 28, 2003, and reply comments on or before April 28, 2003. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies. See *Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 FR 24121 (1998).

9. Comments filed through the ECFS can be sent as an electronic file via the Internet to <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. If multiple docket or rulemaking numbers appear in the caption of this

proceeding, however, commenters must transmit one electronic copy of the comments to each docket or rulemaking number referenced in the caption. In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, U.S. Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking number. Parties may also submit an electronic comment by Internet e-mail. To get filing instructions for e-mail comments, commenters should send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov, and should include the following words in the body of the message, "get form <your e-mail address>." A sample form and directions will be sent in reply. Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and four copies of each filing. If more than one docket or rulemaking number appear in the caption of this proceeding, commenters must submit two additional copies for each additional docket or rulemaking number. Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail (although we continue to experience delays in receiving U.S. Postal Service mail). The Commission's contractor, Vistrionix, Inc., will receive hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary at 236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE., Suite 110, Washington, DC 20002. The filing hours at this location are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes must be disposed of before entering the building. Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. U.S. Postal Service first-class mail, Express Mail, and Priority Mail should be addressed to 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

10. *Regulatory Flexibility Act.* As required by the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Commission has prepared an Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis ("IRFA") of the possible significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities of the proposals addressed in this FNPRM. Written public comments are requested on the IRFA. These comments must be filed in accordance with the same filing deadlines for comments on the FNPRM, and they should have a separate and distinct heading designating them as responses to the IRFA.

Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

11. As required by the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980, as amended ("RFA") the Commission has prepared this initial regulatory flexibility analysis ("IRFA") of the possible significant economic impact on small entities by the policies and rules proposed in this further notice of proposed rulemaking ("FNPRM"). Written public comments are requested on this IRFA. Comments must be identified as responses to the IRFA and must be filed by the deadlines for comments on the FNPRM provided above in paragraph 8. The Commission will send a copy of the FNPRM, including this IRFA, to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration. In addition, the FNPRM and IRFA (or summaries thereof) will be published in the **Federal Register**.

12. *Need for, and Objectives of, the Proposed Rules.* The need for FCC regulation in this area derives from the lack of a so-called cable compatibility "plug and play" standard for a digital cable television receiver and related digital cable television consumer electronics equipment. The absence of such a standard has been identified as a key impediment to the anticipated rate and scope of the transition to digital television ("DTV"). Such a standard would allow consumers to directly attach their DTV receivers to cable systems and receive certain cable television services without the need for an external navigation device. Since more than 60 percent of television households subscribe to cable programming services, the availability of digital cable television receivers and products would encourage more consumers to convert to DTV, thereby furthering the transition. Private industry negotiations between cable operators and consumer electronics manufacturers have resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") on a cable compatibility standard for an integrated, unidirectional digital cable television receiver, as well as for other unidirectional digital cable products. The MOU requires the consumer electronics and cable television industries to each commit to certain voluntary acts and seeks the creation or revision of certain relevant Commission rules. The objective of the proposed rules, as embodied in the MOU, will be to facilitate the DTV transition.

13. *Legal Basis.* The authority for the action proposed in this rulemaking is contained in sections 1, 4(i) and (j), 303, 403, 601, 624A and 629 of the Communications Act of 1934, as

amended, 47 U.S.C. 151, 154(i) and (j), 303, 403, 521, 544a and 549.

14. *Description and Estimate of the Number of Small Entities to Which the Proposed Rules Will Apply.* The RFA directs the Commission to provide a description of and, where feasible, an estimate of the number of small entities that will be affected by the proposed rules. The RFA generally defines the term "small entity" as having the same meaning as the terms "small business," "small organization," and "small governmental entity" under section 3 of the Small Business Act. In addition, the term "small business" has the same meaning as the term "small business concern" under the Small Business Act. A small business concern is one which: (1) Is independently owned and operated; (2) is not dominant in its field of operation; and (3) satisfies any additional criteria established by the Small Business Administration ("SBA").

15. *Television Broadcasting.* The proposed rules and policies could affect television broadcasting licensees, and potential licensees of television service. The Small Business Administration defines a television broadcasting station that has no more than \$12 million in annual receipts as a small business. Television broadcasting consists of establishments primarily engaged in broadcasting images together with sound, including the production or transmission of visual programming which is broadcast to the public on a predetermined schedule. Included in this industry are commercial, religious, educational, and other television stations. Also included are establishments primarily engaged in television broadcasting and which produce programming in their own studios. Separate establishments primarily engaged in producing programming are classified under other NAICS numbers.

16. There were 1,509 television stations operating in the nation in 1992. That number has remained fairly constant as indicated by the approximately 1,686 operating television broadcasting stations in the nation as of September 2001. For 1992, the number of television stations that produced less than \$10.0 million in revenue was 1,155 establishments. Thus, the new rules could affect approximately 1,686 television stations; approximately 77%, or 1,298 of those stations are considered small businesses. These estimates may overstate the number of small entities since the revenue figures on which they are based do not include or aggregate

revenues from non-television affiliated companies.

17. *Cable and Other Program Distribution.* The SBA has developed a small business size standard for cable and other program distribution services, which includes all such companies generating \$12.5 million or less in revenue annually. This category includes, among others, cable operators, direct broadcast satellite ("DBS") services, home satellite dish ("HSD") services, multipoint distribution services ("MDS"), multichannel multipoint distribution service ("MMDS"), Instructional Television Fixed Service ("ITFS"), local multipoint distribution service ("LMDS"), satellite master antenna television ("SMATV") systems, and open video systems ("OVS"). According to the Census Bureau data, there are 1,311 total cable and other pay television service firms that operate throughout the year of which 1,180 have less than \$10 million in revenue. We address below each service individually to provide a more precise estimate of small entities.

18. *Cable Operators.* The Commission has developed, with SBA's approval, our own definition of a small cable system operator for the purposes of rate regulation. Under the Commission's rules, a "small cable company" is one serving fewer than 400,000 subscribers nationwide. We last estimated that there were 1,439 cable operators that qualified as small cable companies. Since then, some of those companies may have grown to serve over 400,000 subscribers, and others may have been involved in transactions that caused them to be combined with other cable operators. Consequently, we estimate that there are fewer than 1,439 small entity cable system operators that may be affected by the decisions and rules proposed in this Further Notice.

19. The Communications Act, as amended, also contains a size standard for a small cable system operator, which is "a cable operator that, directly or through an affiliate, serves in the aggregate fewer than 1% of all subscribers in the United States and is not affiliated with any entity or entities whose gross annual revenues in the aggregate exceed \$250,000,000." The Commission has determined that there are 68,500,000 subscribers in the United States. Therefore, an operator serving fewer than 685,000 subscribers shall be deemed a small operator if its annual revenues, when combined with the total annual revenues of all of its affiliates, do not exceed \$250 million in the aggregate. Based on available data, we find that the number of cable operators serving 685,000 subscribers or less totals

approximately 1,450. Although it seems certain that some of these cable system operators are affiliated with entities whose gross annual revenues exceed \$250,000,000, we are unable at this time to estimate with greater precision the number of cable system operators that would qualify as small cable operators under the definition in the Communications Act.

20. *Direct Broadcast Satellite ("DBS") Service.* Because DBS provides subscription services, DBS falls within the SBA-recognized definition of cable and other program distribution services. This definition provides that a small entity is one with \$12.5 million or less in annual receipts. There are four licensees of DBS services under part 100 of the Commission's rules. Three of those licensees are currently operational. Two of the licensees that are operational have annual revenues that may be in excess of the threshold for a small business. The Commission, however, does not collect annual revenue data for DBS and, therefore, is unable to ascertain the number of small DBS licensees that could be impacted by these proposed rules. DBS service requires a great investment of capital for operation, and we acknowledge, despite the absence of specific data on this point, that there are entrants in this field that may not yet have generated \$12.5 million in annual receipts, and therefore may be categorized as a small business, if independently owned and operated.

21. *Home Satellite Dish ("HSD") Service.* Because HSD provides subscription services, HSD falls within the SBA-recognized definition of cable and other program distribution services. This definition provides that a small entity is one with \$12.5 million or less in annual receipts. The market for HSD service is difficult to quantify. Indeed, the service itself bears little resemblance to other MVPDs. HSD owners have access to more than 265 channels of programming placed on C-band satellites by programmers for receipt and distribution by MVPDs, of which 115 channels are scrambled and approximately 150 are unscrambled. HSD owners can watch unscrambled channels without paying a subscription fee. To receive scrambled channels, however, an HSD owner must purchase an integrated receiver-decoder from an equipment dealer and pay a subscription fee to an HSD programming package. Thus, HSD users include: (1) Viewers who subscribe to a packaged programming service, which affords them access to most of the same programming provided to subscribers of other MVPDs; (2) viewers who receive only non-subscription programming;

and (3) viewers who receive satellite programming services illegally without subscribing. Because scrambled packages of programming are most specifically intended for retail consumers, these are the services most relevant to this discussion.

22. *Multipoint Distribution Service ("MDS"), Multichannel Multipoint Distribution Service ("MMDS"), Instructional Television Fixed Service ("ITFS") and Local Multipoint Distribution Service ("LMDS").* MMDS systems, often referred to as "wireless cable," transmit video programming to subscribers using the microwave frequencies of the MDS and ITFS. LMDS is a fixed broadband point-to-multipoint microwave service that provides for two-way video telecommunications.

23. In connection with the 1996 MDS auction, the Commission defined small businesses as entities that had annual average gross revenues of less than \$40 million in the previous three calendar years. This definition of a small entity in the context of MDS auctions has been approved by the SBA. The MDS auctions resulted in 67 successful bidders obtaining licensing opportunities for 493 Basic Trading Areas ("BTAs"). Of the 67 auction winners, 61 met the definition of a small business. MDS also includes licensees of stations authorized prior to the auction. As noted, the SBA has developed a definition of small entities for pay television services, which includes all such companies generating \$12.5 million or less in annual receipts. This definition includes multipoint distribution services, and thus applies to MDS licensees and wireless cable operators that did not participate in the MDS auction. Information available to us indicates that there are approximately 850 of these licensees and operators that do not generate revenue in excess of \$12.5 million annually. Therefore, for purposes of the IRFA, we find there are approximately 850 small MDS providers as defined by the SBA and the Commission's auction rules.

24. The SBA definition of small entities for cable and other program distribution services, which includes such companies generating \$12.5 million in annual receipts, seems reasonably applicable to ITFS. There are presently 2,032 ITFS licensees. All but 100 of these licenses are held by educational institutions. Educational institutions are included in the definition of a small business. However, we do not collect annual revenue data for ITFS licensees, and are not able to ascertain how many of the 100 non-educational licensees would be

categorized as small under the SBA definition. Thus, we tentatively conclude that at least 1,932 licensees are small businesses.

25. Additionally, the auction of the 1,030 LMDS licenses began on February 18, 1998, and closed on March 25, 1998. The Commission defined "small entity" for LMDS licenses as an entity that has average gross revenues of less than \$40 million in the three previous calendar years. An additional classification for "very small business" was added and is defined as an entity that, together with its affiliates, has average gross revenues of not more than \$15 million for the preceding calendar years. These regulations defining "small entity" in the context of LMDS auctions have been approved by the SBA. There were 93 winning bidders that qualified as small entities in the LMDS auctions. A total of 93 small and very small business bidders won approximately 277 A Block licenses and 387 B Block licenses. On March 27, 1999, the Commission re-auctioned 161 licenses; there were 40 winning bidders. Based on this information, we conclude that the number of small LMDS licenses will include the 93 winning bidders in the first auction and the 40 winning bidders in the re-auction, for a total of 133 small entity LMDS providers as defined by the SBA and the Commission's auction rules.

26. In sum, there are approximately a total of 2,000 MDS/MMDS/LMDS stations currently licensed. Of the approximate total of 2,000 stations, we estimate that there are 1,595 MDS/MMDS/LMDS providers that are small businesses as deemed by the SBA and the Commission's auction rules.

27. *Satellite Master Antenna Television ("SMATV") Systems.* The SBA definition of small entities for cable and other program distribution services includes SMATV services and, thus, small entities are defined as all such companies generating \$12.5 million or less in annual receipts. Industry sources estimate that approximately 5,200 SMATV operators were providing service as of December 1995. Other estimates indicate that SMATV operators serve approximately 1.5 million residential subscribers as of July 2001. The best available estimates indicate that the largest SMATV operators serve between 15,000 and 55,000 subscribers each. Most SMATV operators serve approximately 3,000–4,000 customers. Because these operators are not rate regulated, they are not required to file financial data with the Commission. Furthermore, we are not aware of any privately published financial information regarding these

operators. Based on the estimated number of operators and the estimated number of units served by the largest ten SMATVs, we believe that a substantial number of SMATV operators qualify as small entities.

28. *Open Video Systems ("OVS").* Because OVS operators provide subscription services, OVS falls within the SBA-recognized definition of cable and other program distribution services. This definition provides that a small entity is one with \$12.5 million or less in annual receipts. The Commission has certified 25 OVS operators with some now providing service. Affiliates of Residential Communications Network, Inc. ("RCN") received approval to operate OVS systems in New York City, Boston, Washington, DC and other areas. RCN has sufficient revenues to assure us that they do not qualify as small business entities. Little financial information is available for the other entities authorized to provide OVS that are not yet operational. Given that other entities have been authorized to provide OVS service but have not yet begun to generate revenues, we conclude that at least some of the OVS operators qualify as small entities.

29. *Electronics Equipment Manufacturers.* Rules adopted in this proceeding could apply to manufacturers of DTV receiving equipment and other types of consumer electronics equipment. The SBA has developed definitions of small entity for manufacturers of audio and video equipment as well as radio and television broadcasting and wireless communications equipment. These categories both include all such companies employing 750 or fewer employees. The Commission has not developed a definition of small entities applicable to manufacturers of electronic equipment used by consumers, as compared to industrial use by television licensees and related businesses. Therefore, we will utilize the SBA definitions applicable to manufacturers of audio and visual equipment and radio and television broadcasting and wireless communications equipment, since these are the two closest NAICS Codes applicable to the consumer electronics equipment manufacturing industry. However, these NAICS categories are broad and specific figures are not available as to how many of these establishments manufacture consumer equipment. According to the SBA's regulations, an audio and visual equipment manufacturer must have 750 or fewer employees in order to qualify as a small business concern. Census Bureau data indicates that there are 554

U.S. establishments that manufacture audio and visual equipment, and that 542 of these establishments have fewer than 500 employees and would be classified as small entities. The remaining 12 establishments have 500 or more employees; however, we are unable to determine how many of those have fewer than 750 employees and therefore, also qualify as small entities under the SBA definition. Under the SBA's regulations, a radio and television broadcasting and wireless communications equipment manufacturer must also have 750 or fewer employees in order to qualify as a small business concern. Census Bureau data indicates that there are 1,215 U.S. establishments that manufacture radio and television broadcasting and wireless communications equipment, and that 1,150 of these establishments have fewer than 500 employees and would be classified as small entities. The remaining 65 establishments have 500 or more employees; however, we are unable to determine how many of those have fewer than 750 employees and therefore, also qualify as small entities under the SBA definition. We therefore conclude that there are no more than 542 small manufacturers of audio and visual electronics equipment and no more than 1,150 small manufacturers of radio and television broadcasting and wireless communications equipment for consumer/household use.

30. *Computer Manufacturers.* The Commission has not developed a definition of small entities applicable to computer manufacturers. Therefore, we will utilize the SBA definition of electronic computers manufacturing. According to SBA regulations, a computer manufacturer must have 1,000 or fewer employees in order to qualify as a small entity. Census Bureau data indicates that there are 563 firms that manufacture electronic computers and of those, 544 have fewer than 1,000 employees and qualify as small entities. The remaining 19 firms have 1,000 or more employees. We conclude that there are approximately 544 small computer manufacturers.

31. *Description of Projected Reporting, Recordkeeping and other Compliance Requirements.* At this time, we do not expect that the proposed rules would impose any additional reporting or recordkeeping requirements. However, compliance with the rules, if they are adopted, may require the manufacture of digital cable television receivers and other digital cable television consumer electronics equipment. Consumer electronics manufacturers may be required to

establish a voluntary labeling regime for unidirectional digital cable television receivers and related digital cable products that meet certain technical specifications. This regime would include testing and self-certification standards, as well as consumer information disclosures to purchasers of such receivers and products. Compliance may also require multichannel video programming distributors to encode certain commercial audiovisual content to prevent or limit its copying and prohibit the use of selectable output controls. Cable operators with systems of 750 MHz or greater activated channel capacity may be required to support operation of unidirectional digital cable products on digital cable systems and to ensure that navigation devices utilized in connection with such systems have an IEEE 1394 interface and comply with specified technical standards. While these requirements could have an impact on consumer electronics manufacturers and multichannel video programming distributors, it remains unclear whether there would be a differential impact on small entities. We seek comment on whether the burden of these requirements would fall on large and small entities differently.

32. *Steps Taken to Minimize Significant Impact on Small Entities, and Significant Alternatives Considered.* The RFA requires an agency to describe any significant alternatives that it has considered in reaching its proposed approach, which may include the following four alternatives (among others): (1) The establishment of differing compliance or reporting requirements or timetables that take into account the resources available to small entities; (2) the clarification, consolidation, or simplification of compliance or reporting requirements under the rule for small entities; (3) the use of performance, rather than design, standards; and (4) an exemption from coverage of the rule, or any part thereof, for small entities.

33. As indicated above, the FNPRM seeks comment on whether the Commission should adopt or revise rules relating to the creation of a cable "plug and play" standard for digital cable television receivers and other digital cable television consumer electronics equipment in order to facilitate the DTV transition. This regime may require may require the manufacture of digital cable television receivers and other digital cable television consumer electronics equipment. Consumer electronics manufacturers may be required to establish a labeling regime for

unidirectional digital cable television receivers and related digital cable products that meet certain technical specifications. This regime would include testing and self-certification standards, as well as consumer information disclosures to purchasers of such receivers and products. Compliance may also require multichannel video programming distributors to encode certain commercial audiovisual content to prevent or limit its copying and prohibit the use of selectable output controls. Cable operators with systems of 750 MHz or greater activated channel capacity may be required to support operation of unidirectional digital cable products on digital cable systems and to ensure that navigation devices utilized in connection with such systems have an IEEE 1394 interface and comply with specified technical standards. However, we welcome comment on modifications of the proposals if based on evidence of potential differential impact on smaller entities. In addition, the Regulatory Flexibility Act requires agencies to seek comment on possible small entity-related alternatives, as noted above. We therefore seek comment on alternatives to the proposed rules that would assist small entities while maintaining the compromise reached in the Memorandum of Understanding.

34. *Federal Rules Which Duplicate, Overlap, or Conflict with the Commission's Proposals.* None.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene H. Dortch,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-948 Filed 1-15-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 12-Month Finding for a Petition To List the Sierra Nevada Distinct Population Segment of the Mountain Yellow-legged Frog (*Rana muscosa*).

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of 12-month petition finding.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce a 12-month finding for a petition to list the Sierra Nevada distinct population segment of the mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa*) under the

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. After review of all available scientific and commercial information, we find that the petitioned action is warranted, but precluded by higher priority actions to amend the Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. Upon publication of this 12-month petition finding, this species will be added to our candidate species list. We will develop a proposed rule to list this population pursuant to our Listing Priority System.

DATES: The finding announced in this document was made on January 10, 2003. Comments and information may be submitted until further notice.

ADDRESSES: You may send data, information, comments, or questions concerning this finding to the Field Supervisor (Attn: MYLF), Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605, Sacramento, California 95825. You may inspect the petition, administrative finding, supporting information, and comments received, during normal business hours by appointment, at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peter Epanchin, Susan Moore, or Chris Nagano at the above address (telephone, (916) 414-6600; fax, (916) 414-6710).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 4(b)(3)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), requires that, for any petition to revise the List of Threatened and Endangered Species that contains substantial scientific and commercial information that listing may be warranted, we make a finding within 12 months of the date of the receipt of the petition on whether the petitioned action is: (a) Not warranted, or (b) warranted, or (c) warranted but that the immediate proposal of a regulation implementing the petitioned action is precluded by other pending proposals to determine whether any species is threatened or endangered, and expeditious progress is being made to add or remove qualified species from the List of Threatened and Endangered Species. Section 4(b)(3)(C) of the Act requires that a petition for which the requested action is found to be warranted but precluded shall be treated as though resubmitted on the date of such finding, *i.e.*, requiring a subsequent finding to be made within 12 months. Such 12-month findings are to be published promptly in the **Federal Register**.