

with the project leader before or after the meeting. Following the open session, the committee will hold two closed sessions.

The first closed session, reserved for individual presentations by paint manufacturers, will provide an opportunity for them to present products and information about tree marking paint for consideration in future testing or for use by the agency. Companies may also provide comments on tree-marking paint specifications or other requirements. This portion of the meeting is open only to the representative(s) of the company, their guests, and government representatives to ensure that trade secrets will not be disclosed to other paint companies or to the public. Companies or corporations wishing to make presentations to the Tree-Marking Paint Committee during the closed session should contact the project leader at the telephone number listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. The second closed session is reserved for federal government employees only and will be held April 26.

Any person with special access needs should contact the project leader to make those accommodations. Space for individuals who are not members of the National Tree-Marking Paint Committee is limited and will be available to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

Dated: March 14, 2001.

**James R. Furnish,**

*Deputy Chief, National Forest System.*

[FR Doc. 01-6858 Filed 3-19-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-11-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Housing Service

#### Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Rural Housing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comments requested.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Housing Service's intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the program for Fire and Rescue Loans.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by May 21, 2001 to be assured of consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Andrea Barnett, Loan Specialist, Community Programs Division, RHS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop

0787, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0787. Telephone (202) 720-0487.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* Fire and Rescue Loans.

*OMB Number:* 0575-0120.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* July 31, 2001.

*Type of Request:* Extension of a currently approved information collection.

*Abstract:* The Fire and Rescue Loan program is authorized by Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926) to make loans to public entities, nonprofit corporations, and Indian tribes for the development of community facilities for public use in rural areas and is covered by 7 CFR 1942-C. The primary regulation for administering the Community Facilities program is 7 CFR 1942-A (OMB Number 0575-0015) that outlines eligibility, project feasibility, security, and monitoring requirements.

The Community Facilities fire and rescue program has been in existence for many years. This program has financed a wide range of fire and rescue projects varying in size and complexity from construction of a fire station with fire fighting and rescue equipment to financing a 911 emergency system. These facilities are designed to provide fire protection and emergency rescue services to rural communities.

Information will be collected by the field offices from applicants, borrowers, and consultants. This information will be used to determine applicant/borrower eligibility, project feasibility, and to ensure borrowers operate on a sound basis and use funds for authorized purposes. Failure to collect proper information could result in improper determination of eligibility, improper use of funds, and/or unsound loans.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2.22 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Not-for-profit institutions, State, local, or tribal governments.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,100.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 5.89.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 6,482 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Tracy Gillin, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, (202) 692-0039.

**Comments**

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information

is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Rural Housing Service (RHS), including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of RHS' estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Tracy Gillin, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 13, 2001.

**James C. Alsop,**

*Acting Administrator, Rural Housing Service.*

[FR Doc. 01-6812 Filed 3-19-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-XV-U**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Coastal Zone Management: Federal Consistency Appeal by John T. Keegan From an Objection by the Puerto Rico Planning Board

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

**ACTION:** Notice of Appeal and Request for Comments.

By letter dated October 26, 1999, John T. Keegan (Appellant) filed with the Secretary of Commerce a notice of appeal pursuant to section 307(c)(3)(A) of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). The appeal is taken from an objection by the Puerto Rico Planning Board (PRPB) to Appellant's consistency certification for a permit to install 50 helix-screw anchor moorings at Guanica Bay, Guanica, Puerto Rico. The purpose of the project, as stated in Appellant's application, is to provide moorings to boat owners for storm protection during hurricane season. The PRPB's concerns, as stated in the Board's objection letter, include the potential for (1) increases in watercraft collisions with endangered manatees; (2) water quality deterioration

in the area of the mooring buoys, owing to the possibility of the area becoming a "mini-marina" without sanitary facilities; and (3) interference with public access to the vicinity for fisherman.

The CZMA provides that a timely objection by a state precludes any federal agency from issuing licenses or permits for the activity unless the Secretary finds that the activity is either "consistent with the objectives" of the CZMA (Ground I) or "necessary in the interest of national security" (Ground II). Section 307(c)(3)(A). To make such a determination, the Secretary must find that the proposed project satisfies the requirements of 15 CFR 930.121 or 930.122. 15 CFR part 930, subpart H has been revised effective January 8, 2001. This appeal is being processed according to the regulations in effect at the time of Appellant's notice.

The Appellant requests that the Secretary override the State's consistency objections based on either Ground I or Ground II. To make the determination that the proposed activity is "consistent with the objectives" of the CZMA, the Secretary must find that: (1) The proposed activity furthers one or more of the national objectives or purposes contained in §§ 302 or 303 of the CZMA, (2) the adverse effects of the proposed activity do not outweigh its contribution to the national interest, (3) the proposed activity will not violate the Clean Air Act or the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and (4) no reasonable alternative is available that would permit the activity to be conducted in a manner consistent with the State's coastal management program. 15 CFR 930.121. The term "necessary in the interest of national security" describes a Federal license or permit activity, or a Federal assistance activity which, although inconsistent with a State's management program, is found by the Secretary to be permissible because a national defense or other national security interest would be significantly impaired if the activity were not permitted to go forward as proposed. 15 CFR 930.122.

Public comments are invited on the findings that the Secretary must make as set forth in the regulations at 15 CFR 930.121. Comments are due within 30 days of the publication of this notice and should be sent to Ms. Suzanne Bass, Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Ocean Services, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1305 East-West Highway, Room 6111, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Copies of comments

will also be forwarded to the Appellant and the State.

All nonconfidential documents submitted in this appeal are available for public inspection during business hours at the offices of the State and the Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Ocean Services.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Suzanne Bass, Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Ocean Services, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1305 East-West Highway, Room 6111, Silver Spring, MD 20910, 301-713-2967.

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog No. 11.419 Coastal Zone Management Program Assistance)

Dated: March 13, 2001.

**Craig O'Connor,**

*Acting General Counsel.*

[FR Doc. 01-6893 Filed 3-19-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-08-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### National Science Foundation

[Docket 000127019-0323-02; I.D. 111500D]

RIN: 0648-ZA77

#### Announcement of Funding Opportunity to Submit Proposals for the Global Ocean Ecosystems Dynamics Project

**AGENCIES:** Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research/Coastal Ocean Program (CSCOR/COP), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC); and the National Science Foundation (NSF), Directorate for Geosciences, Division of Ocean Sciences (OCE).

**ACTION:** Announcement of Funding Opportunity for financial assistance for project grants and cooperative agreements.

**SUMMARY:** The purpose of this document is to advise the public that CSCOR/COP and NSF are soliciting up to 4-year proposals for the GLOBEC-01 program as part of a Federal research partnership. Funding is contingent upon the availability of Federal Fiscal Year 2002 appropriations. It is anticipated that final recommendations for awards will be made in early FY 2002.

**DATES:** The deadline for receipt of proposals in the COP office is 3 p.m. local time July 10, 2001. Note that late-

arriving applications provided to a delivery service, on or before, July 9, 2001, with delivery guaranteed before 3 p.m., EST, on July 10, 2001, will be accepted for review if the applicant can document that the application was provided to the delivery service with delivery to the address listed below guaranteed prior to the specified closing date and time; and in any event, the proposals are received in the COP office by 3 p.m. EST, no later than two business days following the closing date.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit the original and 19 copies of your proposal to Coastal Ocean Program Office (GLOBEC-01), SSMC4, 8th Floor, Station 8243, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. NOAA and COP Standard Form Applications with instructions are accessible on the COP Internet site (<http://www.cop.noaa.gov>) under the COP Grants Support Section, Part D, Application Forms for Initial Proposal Submission. Forms may be viewed, and in most cases, filled in by computer. All forms must be printed, completed, and mailed to CSCOR/COP with original signatures. Blue ink for original signatures is recommended but not required. If you are unable to access this information, you may call CSCOR/COP at 301-713-3338 to leave a mailing request.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Technical Information: Elizabeth Turner, GLOBEC Program Manager, COP Office, 603-862-4680, Internet: [Elizabeth.Turner@noaa.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Turner@noaa.gov); or Dr. Phillip Taylor, NSF Division of Ocean Sciences, 703-292-8582, Internet: [prtaylor@nsf.gov](mailto:prtaylor@nsf.gov)

Business Management Information: Leslie McDonald, COP Grants Administrator, Internet: [Leslie.McDonald@noaa.gov](mailto:Leslie.McDonald@noaa.gov)

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Electronic Access

Data collected under the U.S. GLOBEC Northwest Atlantic/Georges Bank Program and associated documentation is available to all researchers at <http://globec.whoi.edu/globec-dir/globec.doc.html> under protocols established under the U.S. GLOBEC Data Policy.

The U.S. GLOBEC Report 10 is available at: <http://www.usglobec.org/reports/datapol/datapol.contents.html>. For a list of funded projects during phases I-III of the Georges Bank Study, consult <http://globec.whoi.edu/globec-dir/list-of-all-projects.html>.

Publications resulting from U.S. GLOBEC studies are catalogued at: