

support of individual proposed actions. Examples of new information may include, but are not limited to, changes to a species listing status or any other applicable laws and directives, and information regarding mission, training, homeporting, maintenance, and eventual decommissioning of the new PIBs.

A new PIB would be designed to carry out the U.S. Coast Guard's primary missions supported by the current polar icebreaker fleet. Expected missions include Ice Operations, Defense Readiness, Aids to Navigation, Living Marine Resources, Marine Safety, Marine Environmental Protection, Other Law Enforcement, Ports, Waterways, and Coastal Security, and Search and Rescue.

In executing its various missions, the U.S. Coast Guard protects the public, the environment, and U.S. economic and security interests in any maritime region, including international waters and the Nation's coasts, ports, and inland waterways, as required to support national security. Legislation and executive orders assign the U.S. Coast Guard a wide range of responsibilities applicable to Polar Regions. The U.S. Coast Guard derives its authority for the use of icebreaking from several statutes governing execution of its missions. These include 14 U.S.C. 81 (Coast Guard establishment, maintenance, and operation of aids to navigation), 14 U.S.C. 88 (Coast Guard saving of life and property), 14 U.S.C. 89 (Coast Guard law enforcement), 14 U.S.C. 90 (Arctic maritime transportation), 14 U.S.C. 91 (controlling anchorage and movement of vessels), 14 U.S.C. 94 (conduct oceanographic research), and 14 U.S.C. 141 (cooperation with agencies, States, territories, and others). In addition, Executive Order 7521 (Use of Vessels for Icebreaking in Channels and Harbors), 1 FR 2184, Dec. 24, 1936, directs the U.S. Coast Guard to assist in keeping channels and harbors open to navigation by means of icebreaking operations.

The U.S. Coast Guard proposes to conduct polar icebreaker operations and training exercises to meet Coast Guard mission responsibilities in the U.S. Arctic and Antarctic Regions of operation, in addition to vessel performance testing post-dry dock in the Pacific Northwest near the current polar icebreaker homeport of Seattle, Washington. The exact location for future homeporting has not been determined, but the current fleet of polar icebreakers is homeported in Seattle, Washington.

Polar Regions are becoming increasingly important to U.S. national

interests. The changing environment in these regions could lead to a rise in human activity and increased commercial ship, cruise ship, and naval surface ship operations, as well as increased exploration for oil and other resources, particularly in the Arctic. One of the U.S. Coast Guard's highest priorities is safety of life at sea. This entails the Arctic responsibilities described above as well as assisting with Antarctica logistics at McMurdo Station. Long-term projected increases in U.S. Coast Guard mission demand in the Polar Regions would require additional support from PIBs. A lack of infrastructure, polar environmental conditions, and long distances between operating areas and support bases all influence the U.S. Coast Guard's ability to provide comparable service and presence in Polar Regions as compared to that provided in other non-polar areas of operation with existing Coast Guard assets.

This EIS will analyze the potential impacts of up to six new PIBs, as this is the maximum number anticipated to be operational in the Polar Regions under the current PIB program acquisition strategy; A lesser number of icebreakers is expected to result in a similar or reduced impact than what will be discussed and evaluated in this EIS. Potential environmental stressors include acoustic (underwater acoustic transmissions, vessel noise, icebreaking noise, aircraft noise, and gunnery noise), and physical (vessel movement, aircraft or in-air device movement, in-water device movement, icebreaking, and marine expended materials).

### III. Scoping Process

The U.S. Coast Guard conducted scoping in accordance with Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing the NEPA (40 CFR 1500 et seq.) through public comment and public meetings. A summary of the scoping process can be found in the draft EIS.

### IV. Public Participation and Request for Comments

We encourage you to submit comments (or related material) on the draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. We will consider all submissions and may adjust our final action based on your comments. If you submit a comment, please include the docket number for this notice, indicate the specific section of this document to which each comment applies, and provide a reason for each suggestion or recommendation.

We encourage you to submit comments through the Federal

eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. If your material cannot be submitted using <http://www.regulations.gov>, contact the person in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document for alternate instructions. Documents mentioned in this notice, and all public comments, are in our online docket at <http://www.regulations.gov> and can be viewed by following that website's instructions. Additionally, if you go to the online docket and sign up for email alerts, you will be notified when comments are posted or a final EIS is published.

We accept anonymous comments. All comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov> and will include any personal information you have provided. For more about privacy and the docket, you may review a Privacy Act notice regarding the Federal Docket Management System in the March 24, 2005, issue of the **Federal Register** (70 FR 15086).

This notice is issued under authority of 5 U.S.C. 552(a).

Dated: June 31, 2018.

**Ahmed Majumder,**

*U.S. Coast Guard, Program Manager, Polar Icebreaker Program.*

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**BILLING CODE 9110-04-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### Federal Emergency Management Agency

[Docket ID FEMA-2008-0010]

### Board of Visitors for the National Fire Academy

**AGENCY:** Federal Emergency Management Agency, DHS.

**ACTION:** Committee management; notice of open federal advisory committee meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Board of Visitors for the National Fire Academy (Board) will meet on August 27-28, 2018, in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The meeting will be open to the public.

**DATES:** The meeting will take place on Monday, August 27, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time and on Tuesday, August 28, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. Please note that the meeting may close early if the Board has completed its business.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the National Emergency Training Center, 16825 South Seton Avenue,

Building H, Room 300, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Members of the public who wish to obtain details on how to gain access to the facility and directions may contact Deborah Gartrell-Kemp as listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

**CONTACT** section by close of business August 17, 2018. Photo identification that meets *REAL ID ACT* standards ([https://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/admissions/campus\\_access.html](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/admissions/campus_access.html)) is required for access. Members of the public may also participate by teleconference and may contact Deborah Gartrell-Kemp to obtain the call-in number and access code. For information on services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance, contact Deborah Gartrell-Kemp as soon as possible.

To facilitate public participation, we are inviting public comment on the issues to be considered by the Board as listed in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section. Comments must be submitted in writing no later than August 17, 2018, must be identified by Docket ID FEMA-2008-0010 and may be submitted by one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- *Email:* [FEMA-RULES@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-RULES@fema.dhs.gov). Include the docket number in the subject line of the message.

- *Mail/Hand Delivery:* Deborah Gartrell-Kemp, 16825 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727, post-marked no later than August 17, 2018.

*Instructions:* All submissions received must include the words "Federal Emergency Management Agency" and the Docket ID for this action. Comments received will be posted without alteration at <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

*Docket:* For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received by the National Fire Academy Board of Visitors, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>, click on "Advanced Search," then enter "FEMA-2008-0010" in the "By Docket ID" box, then select "FEMA" under "By Agency," and then click "Search."

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

*Alternate Designated Federal Officer:* Kirby E. Kiefer, telephone (301) 447-1117, email [Kirby.Kiefer@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Kirby.Kiefer@fema.dhs.gov).

*Logistical Information:* Deborah Gartrell-Kemp, telephone (301) 447-7230 and email [Deborah.GartrellKemp@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Deborah.GartrellKemp@fema.dhs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Board will meet on Monday, August 27, and

Tuesday, August 28, 2018. The meeting will be open to the public. Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App.

**Purpose of the Board**

The purpose of the Board is to review annually the programs of the National Fire Academy (Academy) and advise the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), through the United States Fire Administrator, on the operation of the Academy and any improvements therein that the Board deems appropriate. In carrying out its responsibilities, the Board examines Academy programs to determine whether these programs further the basic missions that are approved by the Administrator of FEMA, examines the physical plant of the Academy to determine the adequacy of the Academy's facilities, and examines the funding levels for Academy programs. The Board submits a written annual report through the United States Fire Administrator to the Administrator of FEMA. The report provides detailed comments and recommendations regarding the operation of the Academy.

**Agenda**

On Monday, August 27, 2018, there will be five sessions, with deliberations and voting at the end of each session as necessary:

1. The Board will conduct a swearing in of new Board members and will then select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for Fiscal Year 2019.

2. The Board will receive annual ethics training and will tour the campus facility.

3. The Board will discuss deferred maintenance and capital improvements on the National Emergency Training Center campus and Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Request/Budget Planning.

4. The Board will deliberate and vote on recommendations on Academy program activities, including:

- Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) Recognition Program update, a certification program acknowledging that a collegiate emergency services degree meets the minimum standards of excellence established by FESHE development committees and the Academy;

- The National Professional Development Summit Report held on June 13-16, 2018, which brought national training and education audiences together for their annual conference and support initiatives;

- The Managing Officer Program progress report, a multiyear curriculum that introduces emerging emergency services leaders to personal and

professional skills in change management, risk reduction, and adaptive leadership;

- Program application selection results;

- The Executive Fire Officer (EFO) Program Symposium held April 6-8, 2018, an annual event for alumni which recognizes outstanding applied research completed by present EFO Program participants, recognizes recent EFO Program graduates, provides high-quality presentations offered by private and public sector representatives, facilitates networking between EFO Program graduates, promotes further dialog between EFO Program graduates and U.S. Fire Administrator and National Fire Academy faculty and staff;

- The EFO Program review initiative;

- Curriculum development and revision updates for Academy courses;

- Discussion on the approval process for state-specific courses;

- Online mediated instruction program update;

- Distance learning program update;

- Staffing update.

5. The Board will receive activity reports on the National Fire Incident Reporting System Subcommittee, the Professional Development Initiative Subcommittee, and four EFO Program Subcommittees: Admissions, Curriculum, Delivery and Design, and Evaluations and Outcomes.

On Tuesday, August 28, 2018, the Board will receive updates on U.S. Fire Administration data, research, and response support initiatives and will conduct classroom visits. The Board will also engage in an annual report writing session. Deliberations or voting may occur as needed during the report writing session.

There will be a 10-minute comment period after each agenda item and each speaker will be given no more than 2 minutes to speak. Please note that the public comment period may end before the time indicated, following the last call for comments. Contact Deborah Gartrell-Kemp to register as a speaker. Meeting materials will be posted at <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/about/bov.html> by August 17, 2018.

Dated: July 27, 2018.

**Tonya L. Hoover,**

*Superintendent, National Fire Academy, United States Fire Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency.*

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