

and Birmingham, Alabama are single purpose duty stations, and are being closed based on workload rather than under a reorganization of HUD/OIG field offices. Although notice of the closing of a duty station is not subject to the requirement of section 7(p), as supported by legislative history, HUD/OIG nevertheless prepared a cost benefit analysis for its own use in determining whether to proceed with the closing. Through this notice, HUD/OIG advises the public of the closing of the Portland, Oregon; Omaha, Nebraska; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Birmingham, Alabama duty stations and provides the cost benefit analysis of the impact of the closure.

Impact of the Closure of the Portland, Oregon; Omaha, Nebraska; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Birmingham, Alabama; Post-of-Duty Stations: HUD/OIG considered the costs and benefits of closing the Portland, Oregon; Omaha, Nebraska; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Birmingham, Alabama post-of-duty stations, and is publishing its cost-benefit analyses with this notice. In summary, HUD/OIG has determined that the closures will result in a cost savings, and, as a result of the size and limited function of the office, will cause no appreciable impact on the provision of authorized investigative services/activities in the area.

Cost-Benefit Analysis

A. Cost Savings: The Portland, Oregon post-of-duty station currently costs approximately \$2866.82 per month for space rental. Additional associated overhead expenses (e.g., telephone service) are incurred to operate the post-of-duty station. Thus, closing the office will result in annual savings of at least \$34,401.00. In addition, by closing the office HUD/OIG will not be required to incur additional costs associated with current plans to install high-speed computer access lines to and on the premises.

The Omaha, Nebraska, post-of-duty station currently costs approximately \$225 per month for space rental. Additional associated overhead expenses are incurred to operate the post-of-duty station. In addition, the agent is required to travel to the Regional Office in Kansas City, Missouri on a quarter-yearly basis for required agent qualification update training. Thus, closing the office will result in annual savings of at least \$4,000. In addition, by closing the office HUD/OIG will not be required to incur additional costs associated with current plans to install high-speed computer access lines to and on the premises.

The Albuquerque, New Mexico post-of-duty station currently costs approximately \$1288.08 per month for space rental. Additional associated overhead expenses are incurred to operate the post-of-duty station. Thus, closing the office will result in annual savings of at least \$15,457.00. In addition, by closing the office HUD/OIG will not be required to incur additional costs associated with current plans to install high-speed computer access lines to and on the premises.

The Birmingham, Alabama, post-of-duty station currently costs approximately \$4,034 per month for space rental. Additional associated overhead expenses are incurred to operate the post-of-duty station. Thus, closing the office will result in annual savings of at least \$48,000.

B. Additional Costs: With respect to the Portland, Oregon and Albuquerque, New Mexico post-of-duty stations there will be no offsetting costs. HUD/OIG currently has no staff in either office. Relocation costs associated with personnel in the Omaha, Nebraska and Birmingham, Alabama post-of-duty stations are estimated to total no more than \$90,000.

C. Impact on Local Economy: No appreciable impact on the local economy of Portland, Oregon; Omaha, Nebraska; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Birmingham, Alabama is anticipated. The post-of-duty stations are co-located with office space leased by other federal agencies, and it is anticipated that the space can easily be re-leased to other tenants.

D. Effect on Availability, Accessibility and Quality of Services Provided to Recipients of Those Services: The establishment of the Portland, Oregon; Omaha, Nebraska; and Albuquerque, New Mexico post-of-duty stations were based entirely on the needs of the HUD/OIG to have Special Agents in closer proximity to OSH activities conducted in the Portland, Omaha and Albuquerque areas. These activities have been terminated. Further, as was the case prior to the establishment of these offices, special agents assigned to other HUD/OIG offices can cost-effectively address fraud investigations in the Portland, Omaha and Albuquerque areas.

Similarly, the establishment of the Birmingham, Alabama post-of-duty station was based on the needs of the HUD/OIG to have auditors in closer proximity to audit activities conducted in the Birmingham area. However, HUD/OIG currently believes that auditors assigned to the Atlanta Regional Office can cost-effectively

address the limited number of audits in the Birmingham area.

For the reasons stated in this notice, HUD/OIG intends to proceed to close its Portland, Oregon; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Omaha, Nebraska; and Birmingham, Alabama post-of-duty stations at the expiration of the 90-day period from the date of publication of this notice.

Dated: October 20, 2004.

Kenneth M. Donohue, Sr.,

Inspector General.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council; Renewal of the Public Advisory Committee Charter

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice is published in accordance with 41 CFR Part 102-3, Subpart B, How Are Advisory Committees Established, Renewed, Reestablished, and Terminated. Following the recommendation and approval of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, the Secretary of the Interior hereby renews the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Public Advisory Committee Charter to continue for approximately 2 years, to September 30, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Douglas Mutter, Department of the Interior, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, 1689 "C" Street, Room 119, Anchorage, Alaska, (907) 271-5011.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 24, 1989, the T/V Exxon Valdez ran aground on Bligh Reef in Prince William Sound in Alaska spilling approximately 11 million gallons of North Slope crude oil. Oil moved into the Gulf of Alaska, along the Kenai coast to Kodiak Island and the Alaska Peninsula—some 600 miles from Bligh Reef. Massive clean-up and containment efforts were initiated and continued to 1992. On October 8, 1991, an agreement was approved by the United States District Court for the District of Alaska that settled claims of the United States and the State of Alaska against the Exxon Corporation and the Exxon Shipping Company for various criminal and civil violations. Under the civil settlement, Exxon agreed to pay to the governments \$900

million over a period of 10 years. An additional 5-year period was established to possibly make additional claims.

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council was established to manage the funds obtained from the civil settlement of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. The Trustee Council is composed of three State of Alaska trustees (Attorney General; Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation; and Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game) and three Federal representatives appointed by the Federal Trustees (Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture; the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior).

The Public Advisory Committee was created pursuant to Paragraph V.A.4 of the Memorandum of Agreement and Consent Decree entered into by the United States of America and the State of Alaska on August 27, 1991 and approved by the United States District Court for the District of Alaska in settlement of *United States of America v. State of Alaska*, Civil Action No. A91-081 CV. The Public Advisory Committee was originally chartered as the Public Advisory Group by the Secretary of the Interior on October 23, 1992, and functions solely as an advisory body, and in compliance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.).

The Public Advisory Committee was established to advise the Trustee Council, and began functioning in October 1992. The Public Advisory Committee consists of 20 members representing the following principal interests: sport hunting and fishing, conservation and environmental, public-at-large, recreation users, commercial tourism, local government, science/technical, subsistence, commercial fishing, aquaculture and mariculture, marine transportation, regional monitoring programs, tribal government, and Native landowners. Members are appointed to serve a 2-year term.

To carry out its advisory role, the Public Advisory Committee makes recommendations to, and advises, the Trustee Council in Alaska on the following matters:

All decisions related to injury assessment, restoration activities, or other use of natural resource damage recovery monies obtained by the governments, including all decisions regarding:

a. Planning, evaluation and allocation of available funds;

b. Planning, evaluation and conduct of injury assessment and restoration activities;

c. Planning, evaluation and conduct of long-term monitoring and research activities; and

d. Coordination of a, b, and c.

Trustee Council intentions regarding the importance of obtaining a diversity of viewpoints is stated in the *Public Advisory Committee Background and Guidelines*: "The Trustee Council intends that the Public Advisory Committee be established as an important component of the Council's public involvement process." The Council continues, stating their desire that " * * * a wide spectrum of views and interest are available for the Council to consider as it evaluates, develops, and implements restoration activities. It is the Council's intent that the diversity of interests and views held by the Public Advisory Committee members contribute to wide ranging discussions that will be of benefit to the Trustee Council."

In order to ensure that a broad range of public viewpoints continues to be available to the Trustee Council, and in keeping with the settlement agreement, the continuation of the Public Advisory Committee for another two-year period is recommended.

Certification

I hereby certify that the renewal of the Charter of the Public Advisory Committee, an advisory committee to make recommendations to and advise the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council mandated by the settlement of *United States of America v. State of Alaska*, No. A91-081 CV, and is in accordance with the comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended and supplemented.

Dated: October 12, 2004.

Gale A. Norton,

Secretary of the Interior.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Information Collection Renewal Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Approval Under the Paperwork Reduction Act; OMB Control Number 1018-0066; Marine Mammal Marking, Tagging, and Reporting Certificates, 50 CFR 18.23(f)

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice, request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service, have submitted the collection of information described below to OMB for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. To obtain copies of specific information collection requirements, related forms, and explanatory materials, contact our Information Collection Clearance Officer at the address or phone number listed below.

DATES: You must submit comments on or before November 26, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments and suggestions on this information collection renewal to the Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior at OMB-OIRA at (202) 395-6566 (fax) or OIRA-DOCKET@OMB.eop.gov (e-mail). Please provide a copy of your comments to Hope Grey, Information Collection Clearance Officer, Fish and Wildlife Service, MS 222-ARLSQ, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203 (mail); (703) 358-2269 (fax); or hope_grey@fws.gov (e-mail).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request a copy of the information collection request, related forms, or explanatory information, contact Hope Grey by phone at (703) 358-2482 or by e-mail at hope_grey@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We have submitted a request to OMB to renew approval of information collection requirements for forms R7-50, R7-51, and R7-52 (Marine Mammal Marking, Tagging, and Reporting Certificates). Currently, we have approval from OMB to collect information under OMB control number 1018-0066. This approval expires on October 31, 2004. We may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless we display a currently valid OMB control number. OMB regulations at 5 CFR 1320, which implement provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), require that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (*see* 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). Following our submittal, OMB has up to 60 days to approve or disapprove our information collection request; however, their response may be given as early as 30 days after our submittal. Therefore, to ensure your comments receive consideration, send your comments and suggestions to OMB by the date listed in the DATES section near the beginning of this notice.

On April 30, 2004, we published in the **Federal Register** (69 FR 23802) a 60-