

of 10–15 U.S. company executives from three industry sectors: electronics, environmental technologies, and medical technologies.

The business purpose of the mission is the promotion of U.S. trade and investment interests in Northern Ireland, and in the European Union. The present state of the Northern Ireland economy and the ready access to the \$7.8 trillion European market provides strong and growing markets for U.S. products and services.

The itinerary of the mission will include stops in Belfast and Londonderry (Derry), the largest and second largest cities, respectively, and the two major industrial centers in Northern Ireland.

The private sector participants will be offered: (1) One-on-one pre-screened business appointments; (2) expert market briefings with senior U.K. (Northern Ireland) Government officials and development authorities; (3) site visits to U.S. companies operating in Northern Ireland; and, (4) logistical support, transportation in Belfast and Londonderry, and ground tours of the two cities.

Mission Goals

The goals of the mission are to increase U.S. exports and to promote trade and investment in Northern Ireland through strategic alliances, joint ventures, and other partnerships between U.S. and Northern Ireland companies.

Participation Criteria

A maximum of 15 companies will be selected to participate in the mission. Participants must fall into one of the three sectors of environmental technologies, medical technologies, and electronics identified for the mission, and must be U.S. companies providing U.S. origin goods and/or services that are export-ready. Participant executives ideally will be at the level of president or vice president. Each firm participating in this mission will have been recruited by U.S. DOC in Washington and reviewed by our U.S. Embassy in London, our commercial representative in Belfast, and Northern Ireland's Industrial Development Board (IDB) for: (1) Consistency of the company's goals with the scope, nature and desired outcome of the mission (as described herein); (2) relevance of the company's sector to the mission; (3) past, present, or prospective business activity in the U.K., Ireland, or Europe; (4) diversity of company size, type, location, demographics and traditional under-representation in business; and, (5) timeliness of completed application

by company (including payment of participation fee).

An applicant's partisan political activities (including political contributions) are entirely irrelevant to selection of mission participants.

Endorsements/Referrals

Third parties may nominate or endorse potential applicants, but companies that are nominated or endorsed must themselves submit an application in order to be eligible for consideration. Referrals from political organizations will not be considered.

Costs

The fee to participate in the mission is \$1800. The participation fee does not cover the participant's travel, lodging or other personal expenses.

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 1512.

Dated: May 19, 1997.

Franklin Vargo,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Market Access and Compliance, International Trade Administration.

[FR Doc. 97-13662 Filed 5-22-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Public Meeting To Gather Information for an Assessment of the State-of-Knowledge of the Properties of Possible SF₆ Replacement Gases

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce Department.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice of public meeting to gather information for an assessment of the state-of-knowledge of the properties of possible sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆) replacement gases.

DATES: The meeting will be on Wednesday, June 18, 1997 from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in Lecture Room B at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Olthoff, 301-975-2431.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Institute of Standards and Technology is in the process of evaluating available data on the properties of dielectric gases and mixtures, in order to assess the potential use of these gases or mixtures in high-voltage applications which currently utilize sulfur hexafluoride. The end

purpose of this investigation is to provide a thorough assessment of the state-of-knowledge of the properties of possible SF₆-replacement gases. This report is intended for use by high voltage equipment manufacturers, electric utilities, and the Environmental Protection Agency in making decisions about the future use of SF₆ by the electric-power industry. The purpose of the meeting is to gather information from informed individuals from within equipment manufacturing companies, electric utilities, gas companies, and academia. Four major areas will be discussed during the meeting: (1) Possible "drop-in" gases or mixtures that could substitute for SF₆ in existing equipment; (2) the identification of gases or gas mixtures that may be likely candidates for use in further designs of high voltage equipment; (3) the identification of gases which have potentially useful dielectric properties, but for which insufficient data is currently available to allow a decision as to their practical use; and (4) areas of research required for the development of environmentally acceptable alternatives to pure SF₆ use. A draft copy of the NIST report will be provided to participants, upon request. The tentative meeting schedule is as follows.

9:00 a.m. Introduction

9:20 a.m. Possible universal application "drop-in" gas mixtures

10:00 a.m. Likely gases for arc interruption and high voltage insulation

11:00 a.m. Future Research and Development: Continue search for substitutes

11:40 a.m. Comments, input, further discussion

Input from the discussions may be incorporated into the NIST final report prior to its publication.

Dated: May 16, 1997.

Elaine Buntin-Mines,

Director, Program Office.

[FR Doc. 97-13565 Filed 5-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Federal Approval of the Ohio Coastal Management Program

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,

National Ocean Service's approval of the Ohio Coastal Management Program pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended 16 U.S.C. 1451 *et seq.*

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) approved the Ohio Coastal Management Program (OCMP) on May 16, 1997, pursuant to the provisions of section 306 of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1455 (CZMA). The OCMP is described in the Ohio Coastal Management Program and Final Environmental Impact Statement (P/FEIS) published on April 11, 1997.

Ohio is the 31st state to receive Federal approval of its coastal management program. Ohio submitted a proposed coastal program to NOAA in 1996. Upon reaching a preliminary decision that the program met the requirements of the CZMA, and in order to meet its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act, NOAA published the Ohio Coastal Management Program and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (P/DEIS) for public review on September 6, 1996. NOAA published the P/FEIS including public comments on the P/DEIS and responses to those comments on April 11, 1997. NOAA has also fulfilled its responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act through consultations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The OCMP is the culmination of several years of development by the State of Ohio, interest groups, the general public, Federal agencies, and in consultation with NOAA. The OCMP consists of numerous state policies on diverse coastal management issues which are prescribed by statute and other legal mechanisms and made enforceable under state law. The OCMP will improve the decision making process for determining appropriate coastal land and water uses in light of resource consideration and increase public awareness of coastal resources and processes. The OCMP will increase long term protection of the state's coastal resources, while providing for sustainable economic development.

NOAA approval of the OCMP makes the state eligible for federal financial assistance for program administration and enhancement under sections 306, 306A, 308 and 309 of the CZMA (16 U.S.C. Secs. 1455, 1455a, 1456a, and 1456b). Ohio has submitted an application for \$804,000 in FY 1997 Federal CZMA funds which are available to Ohio. These funds will generally be used to assist the state in

administering the various state authorities included in the OCMP, as well as be used to fund local management efforts.

NOAA approval of the OCMP also makes operational, as of the date of this **Federal Register** notice, the CZMA federal consistency requirement with respect to the OCMP (16 U.S.C. 1456; 15 CFR part 930). Therefore, as of today, direct federal activities occurring within or outside the Ohio Coastal Zone must be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the OCMP. In addition, activities within or outside the Ohio Coastal Zone requiring a federal license or permit listed in the P/FEIS, and federal financial assistance to state agencies and local governments that are reasonably likely to affect any land or water use or natural resource of the Ohio Coastal Zone must be consistent with the enforceable policies of the OCMP.

Chapter 5 of the P/FEIS identifies the enforceable policies of the Ohio program. Chapter 7 of the P/FEIS identifies federally licensed or permitted activities subject to the federal consistency requirements. Chapters 4 and 7 and Appendix Q of the P/FEIS, as well as the CZMA regulations at 15 CFR part 930, provide specific procedures to be used in the Federal/State coordination process.

ADDRESSES: For further information please contact Diana Olinger at (301) 713-3113, ext. 168; or via fax at (301) 713-4009; or via the Internet at <dolinger@coasts.nos.noaa.gov>.

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog 11.419 Coastal Zone Management Program Administration)

Dated: May 19, 1997.

David L. Evans,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 97-13553 Filed 5-22-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Judges Panel of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of closed meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, notice is hereby given that there will

be a closed meeting of the Judges Panel of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award on Tuesday, June 10, 1997. The Judges Panel is composed of nine members prominent in the field of quality management and appointed by the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The purpose of this meeting is to begin the review process of the 1997 Award applicants to be recommended as Award winners. The applications under review contain trade secrets and proprietary commercial information submitted to the Government in confidence.

DATES: The meeting will convene June 10, 1997, at 8:00 a.m. and adjourn at 2:00 p.m. on June 10, 1997. The entire meeting will be closed.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Administration Building, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Harry Hertz, Director, National Quality Program, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, telephone number (301) 975-2361.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, formally determined on February 10, 1997, that the meeting of the Judges Panel will be closed pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, as amended by Section 5(c) of the Government in the Sunshine Act, Public Law 94-409. The meeting, which involves examination of records and discussion of Award applicant data, may be closed to the public in accordance with Section 552b(c)(4) of Title 5, United States Code, since the meeting is likely to disclose trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential.

Dated: May 16, 1997.

Elaine Buntin-Mines,

Director, Program Office.

[FR Doc. 97-13566 Filed 5-22-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 050597D]

Marine Mammals; Permit No. 963 (P532B)

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and