

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of periodic need for break-bulk refrigerated cargo vessels.

SUMMARY: NMFS publishes for public review and comment information provided by U.S. joint venture (JV) partners regarding their need for break-bulk refrigerated cargo vessels to support approved foreign fishing operations in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted to NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, International Fisheries Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert A. Dickinson, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, (301) 713-2276.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) (Magnuson-Stevens Act), any person may submit an application requesting a permit authorizing a vessel other than a vessel of the United States to engage in fishing consisting solely of transporting fish or fish products at sea from a point within the EEZ or, with the concurrence of a State, within the boundaries of that State, to a point outside the United States.

This notice concerns the fact that U.S. JV partners report they will need to have a number of break-bulk refrigerated cargo vessels permitted in 2001 under section 204(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to support approved foreign fishing operations in the EEZ. The JV partners report that arrangements for such support vessels must generally be made on short notice immediately prior to the need for transport services. The U.S. JV partners also report they are not aware of the availability of any U.S.-flag break-bulk refrigerated cargo vessels and that it will therefore be necessary for them to employ foreign break-bulk refrigerated cargo vessels to support their operations.

In the interest of expediting the issuance of required permits and in accordance with Section 204 (d)(3) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the U.S. JV partners have requested and received from the New England Fishery Management Council and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, a general recommendation that any break-bulk refrigerated cargo vessels required to support approved foreign fishing operations in the EEZ be permitted under Section 204 (d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

In accordance with Section 204 (d)(3)(D) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NMFS is notifying interested parties of the periodic need of the U.S. JV partners for break-bulk refrigerated cargo vessels to transship processed fishery products at-sea and transport the products to points outside the United States. Further information about the requirements of the U.S. JV partners is available from NMFS (see **ADDRESSES**). Owners or operators of vessels of the United States who purport to have vessels with adequate capacity to perform the required transportation at fair and reasonable rates should indicate their interest in doing so to NMFS (see **ADDRESSES**).

In consideration of the Councils' recommendation, the apparent lack of available U.S.-flag break-bulk refrigerated cargo vessels (as reported by the U.S. JV partners), and the requirement to process and issue on short notice permits requested in accordance with Section 204 (d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, until an owner or operator of a vessel of the United States having adequate capacity to perform the required transportation at fair and reasonable rates is identified, the NMFS intends to approve as expeditiously as possible all complete applications for 204 (d) transshipment permits in support of approved foreign fishing operations in the EEZ, provided all criteria in Section 204 (d) are satisfied.

Dated: July 18, 2001.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

[OMB Control Number 0704-0390]

Information Collection Requirements; Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Taxes

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice and request for comments regarding a proposed extension of an approved information collection requirement.

SUMMARY: In compliance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), DoD announces the proposed extension of a public information collection requirement and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. DoD invites comments on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of

information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of DoD, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved this information collection requirement for use through April 30, 2002. DoD proposes that OMB extend its approval for use through April 30, 2005.

DATES: DoD will consider all comments received by September 24, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Respondents may submit comments directly on the World Wide Web at <http://emissary.acq.osd.mil/dar/dfars.nsf/pubcomm>. As an alternative, respondents may e-mail comments to: dfars@acq.osd.mil. Please cite OMB Control Number 0704-0390 in the subject line of e-mailed comments.

Respondents that cannot submit comments using either of the above methods may submit comments to: Defense Acquisition Regulations Council, Attn: Ms. Susan L. Schneider, OUSD (AT&L) DP (DAR), IMD 3C132, 3062 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-3062; facsimile (703) 602-0350. Please cite OMB Control Number 0704-0390.

At the end of the comment period, interested parties may view public comments on the World Wide Web at <http://emissary.acq.osd.mil/dar/dfars.nsf>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Susan L. Schneider, (703) 602-0326. The information collection requirements addressed in this notice are available electronically on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dp.dars/dfars.html>. Paper copies are available from Ms. Susan L. Schneider, OUSD (AT&L) DP (DAR), IMD 3C132, 3062 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-3062.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Title and OMB Number:* Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) Part 229, Taxes, and related clause in DFARS 252.229; OMB Control Number 0704-0390.

Needs and Uses: DoD uses this information to determine if DoD contractors in the United Kingdom have attempted to obtain relief from customs duty on vehicle fuels in accordance with contract requirements.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit institutions.

Annual Burden Hours: 88.

Number of Respondents: 22.

Responses Per Respondent: 1.

Annual Responses: 22.

Average Burden Per Response: 4 hours.

Frequency: On occasion.

Summary of Information Collection

The clause at DFARS 252.229-7010, Relief from Customs Duty on Fuel (United Kingdom), is prescribed at DFARS 229.402-70(j) for use in solicitations issued and contracts awarded in the United Kingdom that require the use of fuels (gasoline or diesel) and lubricants in taxis or vehicles other than passenger vehicles. The clause requires the contractor to provide the contracting officer with evidence that the contractor has initiated an attempt to obtain relief from customs duty on fuels and lubricants, as permitted by an agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom.

Michele P. Peterson,

Executive Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

National Nuclear Security Administration

Floodplain Statement of Findings for the Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Forest Health Improvement Program Projects at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico

AGENCY: National Nuclear Security Administration, Los Alamos Area Office, DOE.

ACTION: Floodplain statement of findings.

SUMMARY: This is a Floodplain Statement of Findings for the implementation of individual projects using mechanical and manual thinning methods to treat the forests at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), in an effort to reduce fuel loading and wildfire hazards, and to improve the overall forest health. This Statement of Findings is prepared in accordance with 10 CFR Part 1022. The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) plans to implement ecosystem-based management program projects over the next 18 to 36 months, or until completed, that will be followed by periodic maintenance projects to retain the desired end-state for wildfire risk

reduction with enhancements to improve forest health. The projects will include construction of access roads and fuel breaks as treatment measures. Wood materials generated by the treatment measures will be either donated or salvaged; wood waste materials will primarily be disposed of through chipping and use on-site or by burning in pits with the use of an air curtain destructor. Implementation of these projects will include areas of forest located on mesa tops, along canyon sides, and in canyon bottoms, including floodplain areas (but excluding wetland areas), located within LANL boundaries in Los Alamos and Santa Fe Counties, New Mexico. NNSA prepared a floodplain assessment describing the effects, alternatives, and measures designed to avoid or minimize potential harm to or within the affected floodplains.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Elizabeth Withers, Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Los Alamos Area Office, 528 35th Street, Los Alamos, NM 87544. Telephone: (505) 667-8690; Facsimile: (505) 667-9998; electronic address: ewithers@doeal.gov. For further information on general DOE floodplain environmental review requirements, contact: Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance, EH-42, Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington DC 20585-0119. Telephone (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756; facsimile (202) 586-7031.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A Notice of Floodplain Involvement was published in the *Federal Register* on June 29, 2001; this Notice announced that the Floodplain Assessment to be prepared would be available in hard copy upon request or electronically at: <http://libwww.lanl.gov/pubs/Environment.htm>.

The LANL program projects will be composed of a series of strategically planned projects located over most of LANL (see figure). These program projects will be implemented in three phases, which will treat about 10,000 acres, representing about 35 percent of the total of LANL. The phases are as follows: Phase 1 (high priority strategic projects, primarily fuel breaks, in heavily forested urban interface areas to reduce the wildfire hazard to the public, LANL employees, and key facilities and infrastructure); Phase 2 (moderate priority, larger forest fuels reduction projects in heavily forested areas to reduce the general wildfire hazard and improve forest health); and Phase 3 (lower priority, larger forest fuels

reduction projects in more moderately forested and remote areas to reduce wildfire hazard in general and improve forest health). Each project as it is developed will follow certain planning steps that include formulating a plan of action that will identify and assess potential risks and environmental concerns and formulating a reasoned treatment plan. These plans will include facility and forest fire hazard assessment, identification of resource issues, coordination with neighboring land management agencies and land owners, development of end-state conditions, and formulation of treatment and environmental protection measures. Treatment measures will be identified for each project including the equipment and involved job performances, and types of treatment measures to be performed based on the forest and site conditions in the project area. Integral to treatment measures will be complementary measures to protect public health and welfare and to protect and enhance cultural and natural resources. Worker protection and health and safety measures, cultural resource protection measures, air quality protection measures, water quality protection measures, threatened and endangered species protection measures, as well as other biological resources protection measures will be employed on each project. Wood materials generated from the treatment activities will be disposed of by donation or salvage, or may be contracted for to offset program operational costs; wastes will be disposed of on-site by chipping and reuse as mulch, by burning within pits using air curtain destructor devices to enhance the burning process, or at on-site or off-site waste disposal facilities. Post-treatment assessments will be conducted for each project area that will include some or all of the following: end-state conditions assessment, fuel load inventories, ecological field studies, watershed assessment and monitoring, and data analysis and modeling. Maintenance measures will be implemented on project areas at least once every 5 years (or as necessary) to maintain the desired end-state conditions of the forests at LANL. These maintenance measures will include the type of treatment measures used to initially treat an area and may also include periodic mowing and the maintenance of access roads.

The forest thinning project actions are proposed to be located within floodplains due to the need to reduce fuel loading in the canyon areas, especially near LANL facilities and