

information in operational decision-making to provide input on FAA's plans for implementing new weather products.

DATES: The meeting will be held at Northrop Grumman, 475 School Street, SW., Washington, DC 20024; Times: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 14, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Debi Bacon, Aerospace Weather Policy Division, ARS-100, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone number (202) 385-7705; Fax: (202) 385-7701; e-mail: debi.bacon@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

History

In 1999, the FAA established an Aviation Weather Technology Transfer (AWTT) Board to manage the orderly transfer of weather capabilities and products from research and development (R&D) into operations. The Director of the Aerospace Weather Policy and Standards Staff, ARS-20, chairs the AWTT Board. The board is composed of stakeholders in Air Traffic Services, ATS; Regulation and Certification, AVR; and Research and Acquisitions, ARA in the Federal Aviation Administration and the Office of Climate, Water and Weather Services, OS and the Office of Science and Technology, OST in the National Weather Service.

The AWTT Board meets semi-annually or as needed, to determine the readiness of weather R&D products for experimental use, full operational use for meteorologists or full operational use for end users. The board's determinations are based upon criteria in the following areas: Users needs; benefits; costs; risks; technical readiness; operational readiness and budget requirements.

FAA has the sole responsibility and authority to make decisions intended to provide a safe, secure, and efficient U.S. national airspace system. However, it behooves FAA to not make decisions in a vacuum. Rather, FAA is seeking inputs from the user community before decisions are finalized. The purpose of this meeting is to obtain industry feedback.

Industry users will be invited to participate in quarterly, one-day meetings to provide input for development of concepts of use (ConUse) for individual aviation weather products approaching specific AWTT board decision points. The decision points are for transition from the test stage (D2) to the experimental stage (D3) and/or from the experimental

stage (D3) to the operational stage (D4). Industry meetings will precede the scheduled AWTT board meetings approximately one month prior to each board meeting and in each of the other two quarters of the year. These industry review sessions will be announced in the **Federal Register** and open to all interested parties.

This meeting is the industry session intended to provide input for a roadmap for aviation weather. It is also intended to receive feedback on weather R&D products that will be presented for consideration at the May and November 2004 and May 2005 AWTT Board meetings. The products to be considered include the Current Icing Potential (CIP) Severity product for D3; the National Convective Weather Forecast (NCWF) 2 hour product (D3); the Forecast Icing Potential (FIP)—Alaska product (D3); the FIP Supercooled Large Droplets (SLD) product (D4); the FIP Severity product (D3); the Graphical Turbulence Guidance (GTG) Flight Level 100–200 (D3); the Oceanic Cloud Top Height product (CTOP) (D3); and the GTG Mountain Wave Turbulence (MWT), probabilistic and 24 hour capability products (D3).

Meeting Procedures

(a) The meeting will be informal in nature and will be conducted by representatives of the FAA Headquarters.

(b) The meeting will be open to all persons on a space-available basis. Every effort was made to provide a meeting site with sufficient seating capacity for the expected participation. There will be neither admission fee nor other charge to attend and participate. Attendees must present themselves to the security guard at the Northrop Grumman Office, 475 School Street, SW., Washington, DC 20024 to obtain a visitor pass and adhere to security instructions for the Northrop Grumman facility.

(c) FAA personnel will conduct an overview briefing on the user input process to the AWTT and changes made to that process. Questions may be asked during the presentation and FAA personnel will clarify any part of the process that is not clear.

(d) FAA personnel will lead a session intended to refine an aviation weather roadmap, and a second session intended to refine ConUses for specific weather products due for AWTT board decisions during 2004. Any person present may offer comment or feedback on the aviation weather roadmap, or the specific products due for board decisions. Comments/Feedback on the proposed products will be captured

through discussion between FAA personnel and those persons attending the meeting.

(e) FAA will not take any action items from this meeting nor make any commitments to accept specific user suggestions. The meeting will not be formally recorded. However, informal tape recordings may be made of the presentations to ensure that each respondent's comments are noted accurately.

(f) An official verbatim transcript or minutes of the informal meeting will not be made. However, a list of the attendees and a digest of discussions during the meeting will be produced. Any person attending may receive a copy of the written information upon request to the information contact, above.

(g) Every reasonable effort will be made to hear each person's feedback consistent with a reasonable closing time for the meeting. Written feedback is also solicited and may be submitted to FAA personnel for the period April 15–May 31, 2004.

Agenda

- (a) Opening Remarks and Discussion of Meeting Procedures
- (b) Review of AWTT user input process and calendar updates
- (c) Roadmap Work Session
- (d) ConUse Work Session
- (e) Closing Comments

Issued in Washington, DC on March 9, 2004.

Richard J. Heuwinkel,

Acting Staff Director, Office of Aerospace Weather Policy and Standards.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Chapter 1

[FRL-7635-7]

RIN 2060-AL71

Approaches to an Integrated Framework for Management and Disposal of Low-Activity Radioactive Waste: Request for Comment; Extension of Comment Period

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR); extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency is extending the comment period for the Advance Notice of

Proposed Rulemaking titled "Approaches to an Integrated Framework for Management and Disposal of Low-Activity Radioactive Waste: Request for Comment," which appeared in the **Federal Register** on November 18, 2003 (68 FR 65120). The public comment period for this ANPR was to end on March 17, 2004. The purpose of this notice is to extend the comment period.

DATES: EPA will accept public comments on this ANPR until May 17, 2004. Comments received after that date will be marked "late" and accepted at our discretion.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted by mail to Air and Radiation Docket, Environmental Protection Agency, EPA West Room B108, Mailcode: 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW., Washington, DC 20460, Attention Docket ID No. OAR-2003-0095. Comments may also be submitted electronically or through hand delivery/courier. Follow the detailed instructions as provided in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Schultheisz, Radiation Protection Division, Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, Mailcode: 6608J, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC, 20460-0001; telephone (202) 343-9300; e-mail schultheisz.daniel@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The ANPR that is the subject of this notice, and which was published in the **Federal Register** on November 18, 2003 (68 FR 65120), requested public comment on a variety of technical and policy issues related to the management and disposal of "low-activity" radioactive waste. The ANPR outlined approaches that EPA believes could help improve the current regulatory system and provide more consistency in the management of these wastes. Most prominent is the potential use of hazardous waste landfills permitted under Subtitle C of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) for wastes containing low concentrations of radionuclides. Waste streams discussed in the ANPR include wastes currently regulated at the Federal level (such as mixed hazardous and radioactive wastes) and wastes primarily regulated by States (such as wastes containing natural radioactivity).

The comment period for the ANPR was scheduled to end on March 17, 2004. However, the Agency has received both formal and informal requests to extend the comment period. The Utilities Solid Waste Activities Group has formally requested that EPA extend the comment period, noting that it is

submitting comments on several other EPA rulemaking actions with comment periods ending close to that date. The National Mining Association and Wyoming Mining Association have made similar requests. EPA believes these requests are reasonable. EPA also notes that this action is not subject to any statutory or judicial deadlines. We are therefore extending the comment period for this ANPR until May 17, 2004.

EPA also notes that several public interest groups, particularly the Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) and Public Citizen, have requested extensions of six and eight months, respectively. The reason given for these requests is to ensure that those communities in the vicinity of disposal facilities potentially affected by an EPA action are fully informed of the issues raised in the ANPR. An extension of such length, particularly at the ANPR stage, would be highly unusual. Periods of 30 or 45 days are more typical. Further, should EPA decide that a rulemaking is appropriate, there will be additional opportunity for public comment on any proposed rule that contains specific regulatory language. EPA believes that a 60-day extension until May 17, 2004, making the entire comment period six months, is sufficient. However, EPA appreciates this concern and is considering a number of methods to ensure that local communities are involved in all stages of the process.

How and To Whom Do I Submit Comments?

You may submit comments electronically, by mail, by facsimile, or through hand delivery/courier. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, identify the appropriate docket identification number in the subject line on the first page of your comment. Please ensure that your comments are submitted within the specified comment period. Comments received after the close of the comment period will be marked "late." EPA is not required to consider these late comments, but will do so at its discretion.

Electronically

If you submit an electronic comment as prescribed below, EPA recommends that you include your name, mailing address, and an e-mail address or other contact information in the body of your comment. Also include this contact information on the outside of any disk or CD-ROM you submit, and in any cover letter accompanying the disk or CD-ROM. This ensures that you can be identified as the submitter of the

comment and allows EPA to contact you in case EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties or needs further information on the substance of your comment. EPA's policy is that EPA will not edit your comment, and any identifying or contact information provided in the body of a comment will be included as part of the comment that is placed in the official public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket. If EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment.

Your use of EPA's electronic public docket to submit comments to EPA electronically is EPA's preferred method for receiving comments. Go directly to EPA Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket>, and follow the online instructions for submitting comments. To access EPA's electronic public docket from the EPA Internet Home Page, select "Information Sources," "Dockets," and "EPA Dockets." Once in the system, select "search," and then key in Docket ID No. OAR-2003-0095. The system is an "anonymous access" system, which means EPA will not know your identity, e-mail address, or other contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment.

Comments may be sent by electronic mail (e-mail) to a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov, Attention Docket ID No. OAR-2003-0095. In contrast to EPA's electronic public docket, EPA's e-mail system is not an "anonymous access" system. If you send an e-mail comment directly to the Docket without going through EPA's electronic public docket, EPA's e-mail system automatically captures your e-mail address. E-mail addresses that are automatically captured by EPA's e-mail system are included as part of the comment that is placed in the official public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket.

You may submit comments on a disk or CD-ROM that you mail to the mailing address identified in the following paragraph. These electronic submissions will be accepted in WordPerfect or ASCII file format. Avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

By Mail

Send your comments to: Air and Radiation Docket, Environmental Protection Agency, EPA West Room B108, Mailcode: 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460, Attention Docket ID No. OAR-2003-0095.

By Hand Delivery or Courier

Deliver your comments to: Air and Radiation Docket in the EPA Docket Center, EPA West Room B108, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC, 20004, Attention Docket ID No. OAR-2003-0095. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays).

By Facsimile

Fax your comments to (202) 566-1741, Attention Docket ID. No. OAR-2003-0095.

Dated: March 4, 2004.

Robert Brenner,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation.

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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

48 CFR Parts 1827, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, and 1833

RIN 2700-AC68

Re-Issuance of NASA FAR Supplement Subchapter E

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This proposed rule would amend the NASA FAR Supplement (NFS) by removing from the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) those portions of the NFS containing information that consists of internal Agency administrative procedures and guidance that does not control the relationship between NASA and contractors or prospective contractors. This change is consistent with the guidance and policy in FAR Part 1 regarding what comprises the Federal Acquisition Regulations System and requires publication for public comment. The NFS document will continue to contain both information requiring codification in the CFR and internal Agency guidance in a single document that is available on the Internet. This change will reduce the administrative burden and time associated with maintaining the NFS by only publishing in the **Federal Register** for codification in the CFR material that is subject to public comment.

DATES: Comments should be submitted on or before May 11, 2004 to be considered in formulation of the final rule.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties may submit comments, identified by RIN number 2700-AC86, via the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Comments may also be submitted to Celeste Dalton, NASA, Office of Procurement, Contract Management Division (Code HK), Washington, DC 20546. Comments can also be submitted by e-mail to: Celeste.M.Dalton@nasa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Celeste Dalton, NASA, Office of Procurement, Contract Management Division (Code HK); (202) 358-1645; e-mail: Celeste.M.Dalton@nasa.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**A. Background**

Currently the NASA FAR Supplement (NFS) contains information to implement or supplement the FAR. This information contains NASA's policies, procedures, contract clauses, solicitation provisions, and forms that govern the contracting process or otherwise control the relationship between NASA and contractors or prospective contractors. The NFS also contains information that consists of internal Agency administrative procedures and guidance that does not control the relationship between NASA and contractors or prospective contractors. Regardless of the nature of the information, as a policy, NASA has submitted to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) within the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and published in the **Federal Register** all changes to the NFS. FAR 1.101 states in part that the "Federal Acquisition Regulations System consists of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), which is the primary document, and agency acquisition regulations that implement or supplement the FAR. The FAR System does not include internal agency guidance of the type described in 1.301(a)(2)." FAR 1.301(a)(2) states in part "an agency head may issue or authorize the issuance of internal agency guidance at any organizational level (e.g., designations and delegations of authority, assignments of responsibilities, work-flow procedures, and internal reporting requirements)." Further, FAR 1.303 states that issuances under FAR 1.301(a)(2) need not be published in the **Federal Register**. Based on the foregoing, NASA is not required to publish and codify internal Agency guidance.

This proposed rule will modify the existing practice by only publishing those regulations which may have a

significant effect beyond the internal operating procedures of the Agency or have a significant cost or administrative impact on contractors or offerors. The NFS will continue to integrate into a single document both regulations subject to public comments and internal Agency guidance and procedures that do not require public comment. Those portions of the NFS that require public comment will continue to be amended by publishing changes in the **Federal Register**. NFS regulations that require public comment are issued as Chapter 18 of Title 48, CFR. Changes to portions of the regulations contained in the CFR, along with changes to internal guidance and procedures, will be incorporated into the NASA-maintained Internet version of the NFS through Procurement Notices (PNs). The single official NASA-maintained version of the NFS will remain available on the Internet. NASA personnel must comply with all regulatory and internal guidance and procedures contained in the NFS.

This change will result in savings in terms of the number of rules subject to publication in the **Federal Register** and provide greater responsiveness to internal administrative changes.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

This proposed rule is not expected to have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities with the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601. *et seq.*, because this proposed rule would only remove from the CFR information that is considered internal Agency administrative procedures and guidance. The information removed from the CFR will continue to be made available to the public via the Internet.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply because the changes do not impose recordkeeping or information collection requirements which require the approval of the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Parts 1827 through 1833.

Government Procurement.

Tom Luedtke,

Assistant Administrator for Procurement.

Accordingly, 48 CFR parts 1827 through 1833 are amended as follows:

1. The authority citation for 48 CFR parts 1827 through 1833 continue to read as follows:

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 2473(c)(1).