Global Change and weather research missions of NOAA. CIRA's research themes include global climate dynamics, local weather forecasting, applied cloud physics, satellite observations, air quality, and numerical modeling.

The Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies/ University of Oklahoma (CIMMS). The University of Oklahoma is the only university in the Norman area co-located with the NOAA research laboratory, and it is unique in graduate mesoscale meteorology research and training—a primary consideration for the study of tornadoes and severe convective storm processes. Also co-located with CIMMS are the National Weather Service Forecast Office and the Operational Support Facility, CIMMS' research themes include basic convective and mesoscale research, forecast improvements, climate effects of/controls on mesoscale processes, socioeconomic effects of mesoscale weather systems and regional climate variations.

The Cooperative Institute for Limnology and Ecosystems Research/ University of Michigan (CILER). The University of Michigan is the only university co-located with the NOAA Great Lakes ERL. The University is the only one in the Ann Arbor area that has expertise in Great Lakes limnology and ecosystems research. CILER's research themes include climate and large lakes dynamics, coastal and nearshore processes, and large lake ecosystem structure and function.

The Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies/University of Miami (CIMAS). The Rosenstiel School of Marine Atmospheric Sciences, University of Miami, is the only university component co-located with NOAA/AOML. It is also co-located with NOAA/Southeast Fisheries Center, is the only university in the Miami region that has a graduate program in meteorological and oceanic research, and has the number and caliber of researchers able to effectively coordinate research with NOAA Fisheries, Climate and Global Change, Coastal Ocean and Hurricane research elements. CIMAS' research themes include climate variability, fishery dynamics and coastal ocean ecosystem processes.

The Cooperative Institute for Arctic Research/University of Alaska (CIFAR). The University of Alaska is the only university situated in the Arctic region that has graduate programs in the collaborative research areas of fisheries oceanography, hydrographic studies and sea ice dynamics, atmospheric research, climate dynamics and variability, tsumani research and prediction, and environmental assessment, monitoring and numerical modeling. CIFAR's research themes include all phases of arctic research.

The Cooperative Institute of Atmospheric Sciences and Terrestrial Applications/Desert Research Institute of the University and Community College System of Nevada (CIASTA). The Desert Research Institute (DRI) represents the University and Community College system of Nevada. NOAA's National Weather Service forecast office is co-located on DRI's campus. DRI and NOAA will continue to collaborate on weather, climate and remote sensing research. CIASTA's research themes include atmospheric physics and chemistry in mountainous regions, hydrology and water supply in the arid regions, aerospace remote sensing, atmospheric modification, and global environmental change.

The Joint Institute for the Study of Atmosphere and Oceans/University of Washington (JISAO). The University of Washington is the only university in the Seattle area co-located with NOAA/ PMEL and is the only university in the Seattle area that has graduate research programs in oceanography and meteorology which coordinate research and support NOAA's Climate and Global Change, Coastal Ocean and Weather Research offices. JISAO's research themes include climate variability, estuarine processes, environmental chemistry, and interannual variability of fisheries recruitment.

The Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research/University of Hawaii (JIMAR). The University of Hawaii is co-located with the Tsunami Forecast Center, the National Marine Fisheries Center, the National Weather Service, is the closest university to the NOAA observatory on Mauna Loa and is the only U.S. university that supports graduate programs in Tsunami research. It is the only U.S. university that has a Pacific sea level measuring program, and is the only U.S. university sited geographically close enough to maintain a viable research program in fishery recruitment on volcanic islands in the Pacific. JIMAR's research themes include tsunamis, climate research, equatorial oceanography, fisheries oceanography and tropical meteorology.

Each of the universities provide the location/space, staff, and share in the financial support to operate the institutes. NOAA utilizes the institutes to collaborate on research and provides financial support to enhance the public benefits to be derived by universities' research activities. The institutes with universities are established based on their geographical location associated with the NOAA Environmental Research Laboratories and expertise in the research activity related to NOAA's mission.

The base funding for each institute generally ranges from $100,000 to $700,000 a year. The institutes' funding cycle will be contingent upon the appropriation of funds by the Congress of the United States and the legislature of the universities' states necessary for NOAA and the universities to meet all of their respective financial obligations.

NOAA does not intend to establish or fund new institutes at this time. This notice is not a solicitation for proposals.

Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance

The ERL institute program is listed in the Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance under number 11.432, Environmental Research Laboratories Cooperative Institutes and under number 11.455, Cooperative Science and Education Program.

Classification

This action has been determined to be not significant for purposes of E.O. 12866.

Dated: December 19, 1995.

Marilyn Moll,

Program Manager, OAR/ERL Joint Institute Program.

[FR Doc. 96–5267 Filed 3–5–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–12–M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 020196C]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Marine Mammals

AGENCIES: National Marine Fisheries Service, (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce; and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Interior.

ACTION: Issuance of scientific research permit No. 985 (P405B).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a permit for scientific research has been issued to The Burke Museum, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment, in the following offices:

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713–2289);

Director, Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sandpoint Way, NE BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115–0070 (206/526–6150);

Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802–1668 (907/586–7221);

Director, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802–4213 (310/980–4001);

Director, Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930–2298 (508/281–9250); and

Director, Southeast Region, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive, St. Petersburg, FL 33702–2432 (813/570–5301).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 15, 1995, a document was published in the Federal Register (60 F.R. 57401) that a request for a scientific research permit had been submitted by the above-named individual. The request was to collect and import and/or export an unspecified number of specimen materials from dead individuals of all cetacean species, all pinniped species, all sirenian species, polar bears, sea and marine otters, worldwide, over a 5-year period for purposes of scientific research. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (MMPA) as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the regulations governing endangered species permits (50 CFR parts 217–227), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*) and regulations (50 CFR 215).

Issuance of this Permit as required by the ESA of 1973 was based on a finding that the permit: (1) was applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in Section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: February 16, 1996.

Ann D. Terbush,

Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

Dated: February 23, 1996.

Margaret Tieger,

Chief, Branch of Permits, Office of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 96–5234 Filed 3–5–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Notice of Meeting To Provide Information to the Public About the Sequence Search Systems Utilized by the Patent and Trademark Office

AGENCY: Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) will hold a meeting to provide information to the public on the search systems used at the PTO to search nucleic acid sequences found in the patent applications. interested members of the public are invited to attend the meeting and provide input to the PTO on other available search systems.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 3, 1996 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the PTO Patent Academy, Crystal Square 4, Suite 700, 1745 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia, 22202.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Doll by telephone at (703) 308–1123, by facsimile transmission to (703) 308–4930, by electronic mail at seqmeet@uspto.gov, or by mail marked to his attention addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Comments-Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission of Patents and Trademarks is authorized under 35 U.S.C. 131 to cause an examination to be made of patent applications. The PTO has received a small number of patent applications each of which claim thousands of nucleic acid sequences. The search and examination of these applications will require the dedication of human and computer resources far in excess of normal workloads. These relatively few applications alone will require a large share of resources from both the sequences searching staff of the PTO Scientific and Technical Information Center (STIC) and the biotechnology examining staff for over a year. In an effort to get public suggestions on how the PTO can best meet this challenge, the PTO is establishing a dialog with its customers. On April 3, 1996, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., the PTO will host an open house meeting to provide information about our current sequence search systems, including the hardware and software utilized, types of claims found in typical biotechnology applications, and the search times and costs associated with the volume of sequences which have been filed. The meeting will take place in the PTO Patent Academy, Crystal Square 4, Suite 700, 1745 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202. PTO would welcome recommendations from the public on available search systems, strategies, automated solutions or suggestions for efficiencies to address these search and examination challenges.

Space is limited and reservations will be allotted on a first come, first served basis. Individuals interested in participating should contact John Doll, Director, Patent Examining Group 1800, by telephone at (703) 308–1123, by fax at (703) 308–4930, by mail marked to his attention addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Comments-Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 or over the Internet to seqmeet@uspto.gov. A request for participation should include the names and addresses of attendees, the number of spaces requested, affiliation, the area of expertise for each attendee and telephone number. PTO will confirm your participation by telephone.

Dated: March 1, 1996.

Lawrence J. Goffney,

Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks.

[FR Doc. 96–5245 Filed 3–5–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–16–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Army Science Board; Notice of Closed Meeting

In accordance with Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463), announcement is made of the following Committee Meeting:

Name of Committee: Army Science Board (ASB).

Date of Meeting: 6 & 7 March 1996.

Time of Meeting: 0900–1700, 6 March 1996; 0930–1700, 7 March 1996.

Place: Pentagon—Washington, DC.

Agenda: The Army Science Board (ASB) Ad Hoc Study Group on ''Army Digitization Vulnerabilities'' will meet to hear selected briefings relative to the subject under study. These meetings will be closed to the public in accordance with Section 552b(c) of title 5, U.S.C., specifically subparagraph (4) thereof, and Title 5, U.S.C., Appendix 2, subsection 10(d). The proprietary matters to be discussed are so inextricably intertwined so as to preclude opening any portion of these