

conjunction with non-U.S. satellite systems and foreign satellite service providers file certain information regarding the foreign service, markets, and satellite systems. This is not estimated to be a significant economic burden for these entities.

E. Federal Rules That Overlap, Duplicate or Conflict With These Rules

15. None.

F. Description, Potential Impact and Number of Small Facilities Affected

16. The proposed rules would apply to all earth stations or service providers (including small entities) that seek authorization under Part 25 and Part 100 of the Commission's rules to operate with a non-U.S. licensed satellite. These proposals are intended to ensure that U.S. satellite systems can compete effectively in international markets and that competition in the United States is maximally enhanced. Copies of this Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking will be sent to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration.

G. Any Significant Alternative Minimizing Impact on Small Entities Consistent With Stated Objectives

17. The Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking solicits comment on other alternatives to achieve the Commission's objectives.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 25

Satellites.

Federal Communications Commission.

William F. Caton,
Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

48 CFR Part 236

[DFARS Case 97-D015]

Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Architect-Engineer Selection process

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).
ACTION: Proposed rule with request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Director of Defense Procurement is proposing to amend the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) to streamline the process for selection of firms for architect-engineer contracts.

DATES: Comments on the proposed rule should be submitted in writing to the

address shown below on or before September 29, 1997, to be considered in the formulation of the final rule.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties should submit written comments to: Defense Acquisition Regulations Council, Attn: Ms. Amy Williams, PDUSD (A&T) DP (DAR), IMD 3D139, 3062 Defense Pentagon, Washington DC 20301-3062. Telefax number (703) 602-0350. Please cite DFARS Case 97-D015 in all correspondence related to this issue.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ms. Amy Williams, (703) 602-0131.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

This rule proposes revisions to DFARS 236.602 to streamline the process for selection of firms for architect-engineer contracts. The rule eliminates requirements for formal constitution and minimum size of preselection boards; eliminates special approval requirements for selection of firms for contracts exceeding \$500,000; and changes the criteria for inclusion of firms on a preselection list from "the maximum practicable number of qualified firms" to "the qualified firms that have a reasonable chance of being considered as most highly qualified by the selection board."

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

This proposed rule is not expected to have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*, because the rule streamlines, but does not significantly alter, the process for selection of firms for architect-engineer contracts. An Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis has, therefore, not been performed. Comments are invited from small businesses and other interested parties. Comments from small entities concerning the affected DFARS subpart also will be considered in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 610. Such comments should be submitted separately and should cite DFARS Case 97-D015 in correspondence.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply, because this proposed rule does not impose any information collection requirements that require approval of the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3401, *et seq.*

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Part 236

Government procurement.

Michele P. Peterson,
Executive Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council.

Therefore, 48 CFR part 236 is proposed to be amended as follows:

Authority: 41 U.S.C. 421 and 48 CFR Chapter 1.

PART 236—CONSTRUCTION AND ARCHITECT-ENGINEER CONTRACTS

2. Section 236.602-2 is revised to read as follows:

§ 236.602-2 Evaluation boards

(a) Preselection boards may be used to identify to the selection board the qualified firms that have a reasonable chance of being considered as most highly qualified by the selection board.

3. Section 236-4 is revised to read as follows:

§ 236.602-4 Selection authority.

(a) The selection authority shall be at a level appropriate for the dollar value and nature of the proposed contract.

(c) A finding that some of the firms on the selection report are unqualified does not preclude approval of the report, provided that a minimum of three most highly qualified firms remains. The reasons for finding a firm or firms unqualified must be recorded.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[I.D. 072297A]

RIN: 0648-AJ71

Amendment 49 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish Fishery of the Gulf of Alaska

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce

ACTION: Notice of availability of an amendment to a fishery management plan; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has submitted Amendment 49 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska for Secretarial review. Amendment 49 would require all vessels fishing for groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) to retain all

pollock and Pacific cod beginning January 1, 1998, and all shallow-water flatfish beginning January 1, 2003. Amendment 49 also would establish minimum utilization standards for all at-sea processors—for pollock and Pacific cod beginning January 1, 1998, and for shallow-water flatfish beginning January 1, 2003. Comments from the public are requested.

DATES: Comments on Amendment 49 must be submitted on or before September 29, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments on Amendment 49 should be submitted to Ronald J. Berg, Chief, Fisheries Management Division, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668, Attn: Lori Gravel, or delivered to the Federal Building, 709 West 9th. Street, Juneau, AK. Copies of Amendment 49 and the Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review/Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis prepared for the amendment are available from NMFS at the above address, or by calling the Alaska Region, NMFS, at 907-586-7228.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kent Lind, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) requires that each Regional Fishery Management Council submit any fishery management plan (FMP) or plan amendment it prepares to NMFS for review and

approval, disapproval, or partial approval. The Magnuson-Stevens Act also requires that NMFS, upon receiving an FMP or amendment, immediately publish a document announcing that the FMP or amendment is available for public review and comment. NMFS will consider the public comments received during the comment period in determining whether to approve the FMP or amendment.

Amendment 49 is the result of over 3 years of specific discussions and analyses of alternative solutions to the discard problem occurring in the groundfish fisheries off Alaska. The expressed intent of the Council is to implement a program that "would provide an incentive for fishermen to avoid unwanted catch, increase utilization of fish that are taken, and thus reduce discards of whole fish." While such discards are counted against the overall total allowable catch established for each species and do not represent a direct biological concern, they do represent foregone harvest opportunities for other fishing operations which might otherwise target and utilize those fish. In addition, high levels of discards represent an important social policy issue, which the fishing industry and the Council feel the necessity to address.

In September 1996, after extensive debate and public testimony, the Council adopted an Improved Retention/Improved Utilization (IR/IU) program as Amendment 49 to the FMP

for the Groundfish Fishery in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (BSAI). A proposed rule to implement Amendment 49 in the BSAI was published in the **Federal Register** on June 26, 1997 (62 FR 34429). In June 1997, the Council adopted a parallel IR/IU program as Amendment 49 for the GOA. The retention requirement adopted by the Council for the GOA would require full retention of pollock and Pacific cod beginning January 1, 1998, and full retention of shallow-water flatfish beginning January 1, 2003. The utilization requirement adopted by the Council would require that the above species either be (1) processed at sea subject to minimum recovery rates and/or requirements to be specified by regulation, or (2) delivered in their entirety to onshore processing plants for which similar minimum requirements are to be implemented through state regulations.

NMFS will consider the public comments received during the comment period in determining whether to approve Amendment 49. A proposed rule to implement Amendment 49 is scheduled to be published within 15 days of this document.

Dated: July 23, 1997.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

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