

## National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

### National Weather Service Modernization and Associated Restructuring

**AGENCY:** National Weather Service (NWS), NOAA, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice and opportunity for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** The National Weather Service (NWS) is publishing proposed certifications for the proposed consolidations of:

(1) Evansville Weather Service Office (WSO) into the future Paducah, Central Illinois, Indianapolis, and Louisville Weather Forecast Offices (WFO);

(2) Wichita Falls WSO into the future Oklahoma City and Dallas/Fort Worth WFOs; and

(3) Astoria WSO into the future Portland WFO.

In accordance with Public Law 102-567, the public will have 60-days in which to comment on these proposed consolidation certifications.

**DATES:** Comments are requested by February 25, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for copies of the proposed consolidation packages should be sent to Tom Beaver, Room 09356, 1325 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, telephone 301-713-0300. All comments should be sent to Tom Beaver at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Julie Scanlon at 301-713-1698 ext 151.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with section 706 of Public Law 102-567, the Secretary of Commerce must certify that these consolidations will not result in any degradation of service to the affected areas of responsibility and must publish the proposed consolidation certifications in the FR. The documentation supporting each proposed certification includes the following:

(1) A draft memorandum by the meteorologist-in-charge recommending the certification, the final of which will be endorsed by the Regional Director and the Assistant Administrator of the NWS if appropriate, after consideration of public comments and completion of consultation with the Modernization Transition Committee (the Committee);

(2) A description of local weather characteristics and weather-related concerns which affect the weather services provided within the service area;

(3) A comparison of the services provided within the service area and the

services to be provided after such action;

(4) A description of any recent or expected modernization of NWS operation which will enhance services in the service area;

(5) An identification of any area within the affected service area which would not receive coverage (at an elevation of 10,000 feet) by the next generation weather radar network;

(6) Evidence, based upon operational demonstration of modernized NWS operations, which was considered in reaching the conclusion that no degradation in service will result from such action including the WSR-88D Radar Commissioning Report(s), User Confirmation of Services Report(s), and the Decommissioning Readiness Report (as applicable); and

(7) A letter appointing the liaison officer.

These proposed certifications do not include any report of the Committee which could be submitted in accordance with sections 706(b)(6) and 707(c) of Public Law 102-567. In December 1995 the Committee decided that, in general, they would forego the optional consultation on proposed certifications. Instead, the Committee would just review certifications after the public comment period had closed so their consultation would be with the benefit of public comments that had been submitted.

This notice does not include the complete certification packages because they are too voluminous to publish. Copies of the certification packages and supporting documentation can be obtained through the contact listed above.

Once all public comments have been received and considered, the NWS will complete consultation with the Committee and determine whether to proceed with the final certifications. If decisions to certify are made, the Secretary of Commerce must publish the final certifications in the FR and transmit the certifications to the appropriate Congressional committees prior to consolidating the offices.

Dated: December 20, 1996.

Elbert W. Friday, Jr.,

*Assistant Administrator for Weather Services.*

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## COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

### Announcement; National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs 1997 Grant Program

The 1997 National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs Program has received an appropriation of \$6,000,000. Washington, DC organizations which perform or exhibit the arts in the nation's capital and fulfill the following requirements may request an application package by writing the Commission of Fine Arts, National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs Program, Pension Building, Suite 312, 441 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001.

Questions may be referred to Donald B. Myer, Program Administrator at 202-504-2200.

Charles H. Atherton,  
*Secretary.*

1997 National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs Program

#### Guidelines

In Public Law 99-190, as amended, the U.S. Congress authorized a grant program to support artistic and cultural programs in the District of Columbia. Its purpose is to provide grants for general operating support to organizations whose primary purpose is performing, exhibiting and/or presenting the arts.

**Eligibility to Apply:** To be eligible for a grant from the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs Program, an organization must be designated in 20 U.S.C. 956a or must satisfy all the following criteria:

1. The organization must have its principal place of business in the District of Columbia and must have the primary purpose of performing, exhibiting, and/or presenting the arts;

2. The organization must be engaged primarily in performing, exhibiting and/or presenting the arts in a facility or facilities located in the District of Columbia;

a. "Performing" is the public presentation before a live audience of dance, theater, opera, music and related forms.

b. "Exhibiting" is the public display to a live audience of the visual arts, including, but not limited to painting, sculpture, photography, works on paper, textiles, crafts, cultural artifacts, and media arts.

c. "Presenting" is the programming and/or presentation of "Performing" or "Exhibiting" as defined above;

3. The organization must allocate a substantial portion of its annual income to exhibiting, performing and/or