December 10, 2003, on the NIST budget, planning information and feedback sessions will be closed. Agenda may change to accommodate Committee business. Final agenda will be posted on website. All visitors to the National Institute of Standards and Technology site will have to pre-register to be admitted. Please submit your name, time of arrival, e-mail address and phone number to Carolyn Peters no later than Thursday, December 4, 2003, and she will provide you with instructions for admittance. Mrs. Peter's e-mail address is *carolyn.peters@nist.gov* and her phone number is (301) 975–5607.

DATES: The meeting will convene December 9, 2003 at 8:25 a.m. and will adjourn at 11:30 a.m. on December 10, 2003.

ADDRESS: The meeting will be held in the Employees Lounge, Administration Building, at NIST, Gaithersburg, Maryland. Please note admittance instructions under **SUMMARY** paragraph.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carolyn J. Peters, Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899–1004, telephone number (301) 975–5607.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, formally determined on February 25, 2003, that portions of the meeting of the Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology which deal with discussion of sensitive budget and planning information that would cause harm to third parties if publicly shared be closed in accordance with Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2.

Dated: November 20, 2003.

Arden L. Bement, Jr.,

Director.

[FR Doc. 03–29361 Filed 11–24–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Board of Overseers

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the Board of Overseers of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award on December 17, 2003. The Board of Overseers is composed of eleven members prominent in the field of quality management and appointed by the Secretary of Commerce, assembled to advise the Secretary of Commerce on the conduct of the Baldrige Award. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss and review information received from the National Institute of Standards and Technology with the members of the Judges Panel of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The agenda will include: Report from the Judges' Panel, Baldrige Program Update, Booz Allen CEO Marketing Study, Baldrige Program Metrics, Role Model Characteristics in a Labor/Management Relations Environment, BNQP Hoshin for 2004, Topics for Discussion with NIST Director, New Business, and Recommendations to the NIST Director. All visitors to the National Institute of Standards and Technology site will have to pre-register to be admitted. Please submit your name, time of arrival, e-mail address and phone number to Virginia Davis no later than Monday, December 15, 2003, and she will provide you with instructions for admittance. Ms. Davis' e-mail address is *virginia.davis@nist.gov* and her phone number is (301) 975–2361.

DATE: The meeting will convene December 17, 2003 at 8:30 a.m. and adjourn at 3 p.m. on December 17, 2003.

ADDRESS: The meeting will be held at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Administration Building, Lecture Room A, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899. Please note admittance instructions under **SUMMARY** paragraph.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Harry Hertz, Director, National Quality Program, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, telephone number (301) 975–2361.

Dated: November 20, 2003.

Arden L. Bement, Jr.,

Director.

[FR Doc. 03–29360 Filed 11–24–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Announcing a Workshop on Spam Technology

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

ACTION: Notice of public workshop and request for participation.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) announces a workshop to discuss various technical issues of e-mail spam.

DATE: The Spam Technology Workshop will be held on February 17, 2004, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The Spam Technology Workshop will be held in the Administration Building (Bldg. 101), Green Auditorium, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Further information may be obtained from the Spam Technology Web site at *http://csrc.nist.gov/spam* or by contacting Joan Hash, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8930, Gaithersburg, MD 20899–8930; telephone (301) 975–3357; fax (301) 975–4007, or e-mail *joan.hash@nist.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The workshop agenda topics will include filtering at the Internet/network and client sides (*e.g.*, how to detect spam and how to reduce it), input from standards bodies on relevant current activities, Internet service providers' current and future plans to deal with spam, and technical issues regarding the efficacy of proposals to create ''do not spam'' lists. NIST is also interested in hearing about research challenges to developing and measuring improvements in spam control and reduction technology.

NIST also wishes to discuss idea for criteria and procedures (that might be developed by NIST and others, resources permitting) by which the effectiveness of spam controls products might be tested (*e.g.*, by independent third party testing organizations).

Given the one-day workshop format, it is anticipated that following a keynote presentation and other opening remarks, there will be two sessions/panels in the morning and two in the afternoon. Anyone interested in speaking or coordinating a panel discussion should submit a paper or panel proposal to Joan Hash by December 31, 2003. Topics and proposed talks should not be ''sales pitches'' for specific commercial products or firms. Papers and additional information for distribution to workshop attendees and the website may also be submitted. (NIST may decide at its discretion not to include non-germane and product sales material.) Additional proposed agenda topics should be submitted immediately

for consideration by the NIST planning committee.

Because of NIST security regulations, advance registration is mandatory; there will be no on-site, same-day registration. To register, please register via the web at *http://www.nist.gov/conferences* or fax the registration form with your name, address, telephone, fax and e-mail address to 301–948–2067 (Attn: Spam Technology Workshop) by February 3, 2004. The registration fee will be $70. Payment can be made by credit card, check, purchase order, and government training form. Registration questions should be addressed to Teresa Vicente on 301–975–3883 or *teresa.vicente@nist.gov.*

Authority

This work effort is being initiated pursuant to NIST's responsibilities under the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002, the Computer Security Act of 1987, the Information Technology Management Reform Act of 1996, Executive Order 13011, and OMB Circular A–130.

Dated: November 20, 2003.

Arden L. Bement, Jr.,

Director.

[FR Doc. 03–29359 Filed 11–24–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–CN–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 092403A]

Small Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Seismic Retrofit of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, San Francisco Bay, CA

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

ACTION: Notice of issuance of an incidental harassment authorization.

SUMMARY: In accordance with provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, notification is hereby given that an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) has been issued to the California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) to take small numbers of Pacific harbor seals and possibly California sea lions, by harassment, incidental to seismic retrofit construction of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge (the Bridge), San Francisco Bay (SFB), CA.

DATES: This authorization is effective from November 19, 2003 through November 18, 2004.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the application may be obtained by writing to P. Michael Payne, Chief, Marine Mammal Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910–3225, or by telephoning one of the contacts listed here.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth R. Hollingshead, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 713–2055, ext 128 or Monica DeAngelis, Southwest Regional Office, (562) 980–3232.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and either regulations are issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, notice of a proposed authorization is provided to the public for review.

Permission may be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have no more than a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses and that the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking are set forth. NMFS has defined ''negligible impact'' in 50 CFR 216.103 as ''* * * an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival.''

Section 101(a)(5)(D) of the MMPA established an expedited process by which citizens of the United States can apply for an authorization to incidentally take small numbers of marine mammals by harassment. Under section 18(A), the MMPA defines ''harassment'' as:

> any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which (i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild [Level A harassment]; or (ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering [Level B harassment].

Section 101(a)(5)(D) establishes a 45–day time limit for NMFS review of an application followed by a 30–day public notice and comment period on any proposed authorizations for the incidental harassment of small numbers of marine mammals. Within 45 days of the close of the comment period, NMFS must either issue or deny issuance of the authorization.

Summary of Request

On September 22, 2003, NMFS received a letter from CALTRANS, requesting reauthorization of an IHA that was first issued to it on December 16, 1997 (62 FR 67045, December 23, 1997), was renewed on January 8, 2000 (65 FR 2375, January 14, 2000), September 19, 2001 (66 FR 49165, September 26, 2001), and September 23, 2002 (67 FR 61323, September 30, 2002).

The renewed authorization request is for the possible harassment of small numbers of Pacific harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) and possibly some California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*), incidental to seismic retrofit construction of the Bridge.

The Bridge is being seismically retrofitted to withstand a future severe earthquake. Construction is scheduled to extend until the year 2005. A detailed description of the work planned is contained in the Final Natural Environmental Study/Biological Assessment for the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Seismic Retrofit Project (CALTRANS, 1996). Among other things, seismic retrofit work will include excavation around pier bases, hydro-jet cleaning, installation of steel casings around the piers with a crane, installation of micro-piles, and installation of precast concrete jackets. Foundation construction will require approximately 2 months per pier, with construction occurring on more than one pier at a time. In addition to pier retrofit, superstructure construction and tower retrofit work will also be carried out. Because seismic retrofit construction between piers 52 and 57 has the potential to disturb harbor seals hauled out on Castro Rocks, an IHA is warranted. The duration for the seismic retrofit of foundation and towers on piers 52 through 57, which began this year, will take approximately 7 to 8 months to complete.

Comments and Responses

A notice of receipt of the application and proposed authorization was published on October 3, 2003 (68 FR