

---

---

**APPENDIX A:**  
**AGENCY AND PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE/COORDINATION**

---

---



## Notice of Intent (NOI) and Public Scoping



*respond*: It is estimated that 255 persons submit 1,106 completed DEA Forms 250, at 1 hour per form, for an annual burden of 1,106 hours. It is estimated that 25 companies submit information pertaining to new drug applications or abbreviated new drug applications, at 2 hours per response, for an annual burden of 50 hours.

(6) *An estimate of the total public burden (in hours) associated with the collection*: It is estimated that the total annual burden associated with this information collection is 1,156 hours.

If additional information is required contact: Brenda E. Dyer, Department Clearance Officer, United States Department of Justice, Justice Management Division, Policy and Planning Staff, Patrick Henry Building, Suite 1600, 601 D Street NW., Washington, DC 20530, or by e-mail at [brenda.e.dyer@usdoj.gov](mailto:brenda.e.dyer@usdoj.gov).

Dated: September 16, 2005.

**Brenda E. Dyer,**

*Department Clearance Officer, Department of Justice.*

[FR Doc. 05-18903 Filed 9-21-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-09-P

## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Notice of Intent To Prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement for the National Science Foundation To Address Potential Impacts on the Marine Environment Related to the Use of Seismic Sources in Support of NSF-Funded Research by U.S. Academic Scientists.

**AGENCY:** National Science Foundation.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), the National Science Foundation (NSF) announces its intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OES) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), a part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is being invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OES.

Publication of this notice begins the official scoping process that will help

identify alternatives and determine the scope of environmental issues to be addressed in the Programmatic EIS/OEIS. This notice requests public participation in the scoping process and provides information on how to participate.

**ADDRESSES AND DATES:** Public-scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations:

1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 p.m., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD;
2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erick Jonhohn Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA;
3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX;
4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, 555 West Fifth Avenue, Anchorage, AK;
5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA; and
6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be mailed to NSF by October 28, 2005 (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Written statements and questions regarding the scoping process should be mailed to Dr. Alexander Shor, Program Director, Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services, Division of Ocean Sciences, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725, Arlington, VA 22230; voice (703) 292-8583 or e-mail at [OCE-EIS@nsf.gov](mailto:OCE-EIS@nsf.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In the last 2 years, NSF has prepared 16 environmental assessments (EAs) on the impact of seismic noise on endangered species and marine mammals during planned marine research projects concerning the geology and geophysics of the seafloor. The EAs were prepared for various worldwide, academic research cruises that required the use of various marine seismic sources. These EAs were intended to address regulations and public concern over anthropogenic noise in the marine environment and its possible, negative impacts on marine life. They were prepared to address U.S. laws and regulations, including NEPA; the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972

(MMPA); the endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA); and Executive Order (EO) 12114 (1979), *Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions*. In some cases they have also been used as background information to address foreign regulations, especially where research has been carried out entirely or partially within territorial waters or Exclusive Economic Zone waters surrounding a foreign nation.

In each case, the NSF EA and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been used as the basis for consultation with NMFS Office of Protected Resources (OPR) under Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA, and in each case for which an action is finalized, NMFS OPR has issued a Biological Opinion and a related Incidental Take Statement authorizing the proposed project to be undertaken, and indicating any mitigation measures needed to reduce impacts on endangered species. In parallel with this effort, a separate application has been submitted for each cruise to apply for an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) under the MMPA from NMFS OPR, and an IHA has also been issued by NMFS for each of the projects. Increasingly over the past 2 years, public comments have expressed concern that by evaluating individual projects in isolation, the cumulative impacts of NSF-funded seismic activities on the marine environment are not being adequately addressed. NSF and NMFS OPR personnel have examined this concern and have concluded that a Programmatic EIS/OEIS could provide both the holistic view of cumulative impacts, as well as provide the principal technical and environmental foundation to form the basis of evaluating environmental impacts of most NSF-funded seismic efforts.

The Programmatic EIS/OEIS will take a view of the planned program as a whole and thereby assemble and analyze the broadest range of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts associated with the entire program rather than assessing individual cruises separately. This approach will also address possible concerns that NSF is analyzing their research program in segments, rather than holistically where the true cumulative impacts of the entire program can be identified. Further, the parent Programmatic EIS/OEIS will provide a broad analytical backdrop within which NSF, using tiered documents, will be able to analyze cruise-specific issues relevant for analysis and decision. Additionally, it will streamline the preparation of subsequent environmental documents for the individual cruises and also

enable NSF to identify any prudent conservation practices and mitigation measures that may be applied across the entire program. The site-specific information is required by NMFS (and sometimes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) for purposes of preparing Biological Opinions and Incidental Take Statements required by ESA.

The main focus of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS will be on the seismic operations to be conducted from NSF's primary seismic ship, soon to be the R/V Marcus G. Langseth. The Programmatic EIS/OEIS will address the variety of airgun configurations to be operated from the Langseth, as well as the multi-beam bathymetric sonar, sub-bottom profiler, and other acoustic sources to be deployed as standard equipment. In addition, the Programmatic EIS/OEIS will deal with the generally small airgun sources occasionally operated from other vessels under NSF sponsorship.

Major environmental issues that will be addressed in the Programmatic EIS/OEIS include marine biological resources including Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), acoustic impacts to marine mammals, fish, sea turtles, invertebrates, and threatened and endangered species; cultural resources; human health and safety; socioeconomic and land use (*i.e.*, commercial, private, and recreational uses of the marine environment); and water quality.

NSF is initiating this scoping process for the purpose of determining the extent of issues to be addressed and identifying the significant issues related to this action. NSF will hold public scoping meetings as identified in the **DATES AND ADDRESSES** section of this notice. These meetings will also be advertised in area newspapers. NSF and NMFS representatives will be available at these meetings to receive comments from the public regarding issues of concern to the public. Federal, state, and local agencies and interested individuals are encouraged to take this opportunity to identify environmental concerns that should be addressed during the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS. Agencies and the public are also invited and encouraged to provide written comments on scoping issues in addition to, or in lieu of, oral comments at the public meeting. To be most helpful, scoping comments should clearly describe issues or topics that the commenter believes the Programmatic EIS/OEIS should address.

We invite you to learn about the NSF seismic research program at an informational open house, and to assist

NSF in defining the alternatives and the scope of environmental issues related to the seismic research program. All our public meeting locations are wheelchair-accessible. If you plan to attend a scoping meeting/open house, and need special assistance such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodation, please notify NSF (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least 3 business days in advance. Include your contact information as well as information about your specific needs.

We request public comments or other relevant information on environmental issues related to the NSF seismic research program. The public meetings are not the only opportunity you have to comment. In addition to or in place of attending a meeting, you can submit comments to Dr. Alexander Shor by October 28, 2005 (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**). We will consider all comments received during the comment period. We request that you include in your comments:

- Your name and address (especially if you would like to receive a copy of the Draft Programmatic EIS/OEIS upon completion);
- An explanation for each comment; and
- Include any background materials to support your comments as you feel necessary.

You may mail, e-mail, or hand deliver your comments to NSF (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**). All comment submissions must be unbound, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, and suitable for copying and electronic scanning. Please note that regardless of the method used for submitting comments or material, all submissions will be publicly available and, therefore, any personal information you provide in your comments will be open for public review. In addition, if you wish to receive a copy of the Draft Programmatic EIS/OEIS, please indicate this in your comment. No decision will be made to implement any alternative until the NEPA process is completed.

Dated: September 19, 2005.

**Alexander Shor,**

*Program Director, Division of Ocean Sciences,  
National Science Foundation.*

[FR Doc. 05-18962 Filed 9-21-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7555-01-M**

## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Sunshine Act Meeting

**AGENCY HOLDING MEETING:** National Science Foundation, National Science Board and its Subdivisions

**DATE AND TIME:** September 28–29, 2005.

September 28, 2005, 8:15 a.m.–5 p.m. Sessions:

- 8:15 a.m.–9 a.m., Open;
- 9 a.m.–9:30 a.m., Closed;
- 9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m., Open;
- 10:30 a.m.–11 a.m., Open;
- 11 a.m.–11:45 a.m., Open;
- 11:45 a.m.–12:05 p.m., Open;
- 12:05 p.m.–12:15 p.m., Closed;
- 12:45 p.m.–12:55 p.m., Closed;
- 12:55 p.m.–3 p.m., Open;
- 3 p.m.–5 p.m., Open.

September 29, 2005, 8 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Sessions:

- 8:30 a.m.–10 a.m., Open;
- 10 a.m.–10:30 a.m., Closed;
- 10:30 a.m.–11 a.m., Open;
- 11 a.m.–11:15 a.m., Closed;
- 1 p.m.–1:15 p.m., Executive Closed;
- 1:15 p.m.–1:30 p.m., Closed;
- 1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m., Open.

**PLACE:** National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd, Room 1235, Arlington, VA 22230.

**PUBLIC MEETING ATTENDANCE:** All visitors must report to the NSF's visitor's desk at the 9th and N. Stuart Streets entrance to receive a visitor's badge.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Please refer to the National Science Board Web site ([www.nsf.gov/nsb](http://www.nsf.gov/nsb)) for updated schedule. NSB Office: (703) 292-7000.

**STATUS:** Part of this meeting will be closed to the public. Part of this meeting will be open to the public.

### MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

**Wednesday, September 28, 2005**

#### Open

Committee on Programs and Plans

Subcommittee on Polar Issues (8:15 a.m.–9 a.m.), Room 1235

- Chair's Remarks and Approval of Minutes
- OPP Director's Report
- Update on Icebreaker Issues
- Antarctic Geological Drilling Project
- Collaboration of Researchers with Native Communities: King Island, Alaska

Education and Human Resources

Subcommittee on S&E Indicators (9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.), Room 1235

- Approval of Minutes
- Chairman's Remarks
- Brief Progress Report on Science and Engineering Indicators 2006
- Discussion of Draft Companion Piece
- Contractor Presentation on Indicators

Committee on Programs and Plans Task

Force on Transformative Research (10:30 a.m.–11 a.m.), Room 1235

- Approval of Minutes
- Brief Overview of Workshop I: August 12, 2005

# Workers press for slot machine bill, but measure seen as long shot

By Raphael Lewis  
GLOBE STAFF

Hundreds of employees from the state's four racetracks packed a State House hearing yesterday to urge the passage of a bill that would allow slot machine gambling at those struggling facilities, but top lawmakers on both sides of the issue said sleep opposition in the House of Representatives and the governor's office make the chances for such a bill to become law extremely slim.

Dorcen Carolan of Revere, a Wonderland Greyhound Park valet, and her niece Katie DeBenedetto showed up to the hearing dressed in one-armed bandit costumes to show support, but Carolan said the issue was hardly a laughing matter. "My family has dedicated its life to the track, and it's diminishing rapidly," Carolan said. "We're only hanging on."

In the next two weeks the state Senate is expected to debate a bill on allowing slot machine gambling at the racetracks, said Mi-

chael W. Morrissey, a Quincy Democrat who chaired yesterday's hearing. Backers say the slot measure would not only pump \$550 million in new revenue into the state in its first full year, but would save the tracks from financial ruin.

But opponents question promises of vast new revenues, and internal polling suggests that neither the House nor the Senate has established enough support to overcome a veto. Those familiar with the polling yesterday said 23, and perhaps 24, of the 30 senators would vote in favor of the bill, but it would take 27 votes to overcome a veto by Governor Mitt Romney in the Senate.

Top aides to Senate President Robert E. Travolta, whose district includes Suffolk Downs and Wonderland, are engaging reluctant lawmakers in a bid to win broader support for the measure, political and industry sources familiar with the planning said.

The House has 69 to 98 supporters of expanded gaming, according to several lawmakers who



Katie DeBenedetto and her aunt Dorcen Carolan were dressed as slot machines at the State House hearing yesterday. Hundreds of workers urged lawmakers to pass the slot machine bill.

back the concept, but that's not enough to overcome a promised veto by Romney.

Hoping to impress upon law-

makers that all four tracks are facing massive job cuts or bankruptcy, the tracks' labor unions and owners combed up an armada of

workers to show up yesterday. The crowd, many wearing red T-shirts that depicted a slot machine and the slogan, "Why Not Mass?,"

cheered wildly as sympathetic lawmakers, horse trainers, and others made their case before the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

"How can you turn your backs on us and allow thousands of good jobs to vanish?" testified Louis Carlone, president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 123, which represents 200 Suffolk Downs workers.

Such arguments are apparently failing to persuade Representative Daniel E. Rostenko of North Attleboro, the House chairman of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies, which deals with all gambling legislation. Asked whether he intends to allow any bills that seek to expand gaming to emerge on the House floor for a vote, he said "No." "What's the economic benefit?" he said. "It's really not there if you run the numbers."

Rostenko made his comments after testifying at a separate hearing held yesterday by lawmakers opposed to expanded gaming.

## Proposal urges more tax relief for seniors

Auditor envisions state-run system

By Stephanie Ebbert  
GLOBE STAFF

State Auditor Joseph DeNucci yesterday called for doing away with a hodgepodge of municipal senior tax-relief programs and replacing them with a uniform, state system that would save homeowners \$4 and an average of \$1,446 a year on their property taxes.

In a report by his Division of Local Municipalities, DeNucci said the programs have not kept pace with the original legislative intent to offset half of the state's median tax bill, which computed to \$1,446 last year. Instead, the average local tax exemption is now worth only about \$140, and property values continue to soar.

Tax relief is also not consistent among localities, ranging from \$175 to \$1,900. A senior eligible for exemptions in one community can get shut out after moving to another, according to the report.

DeNucci recommended that the patchwork of local programs be scrapped in favor of a state-run tax exemption that would equal an existing program under the state Department of Revenue that currently allows seniors 65 and

older to claim a state income tax credit of up to \$829 for the taxes they pay on their homes. Seniors are eligible for this "circuit breaker" program if they earn less than \$44,000 annually (or \$66,000 as a couple) and their properties, after abatement, are valued at less than \$441,000.

Expanding the program — and allowing the full \$1,446 exemption — would cost the state about \$16 million a year, the report estimates. DeNucci called for a "hold-harmless" clause that would protect any homeowners who might otherwise wind up paying more under his proposal.

Tina Connolly, a spokeswoman for the Department of Revenue, said his agency would examine the report and weigh the proposal to expand the circuit breaker program, which more than 26,000 people took advantage of last year.

As housing values skyrocketed in recent years, advocacy groups have championed efforts to help seniors find the resources to pay off their growing tax bills. DeNucci's report gives testimony to the issue's longevity. He issued a simi-

lar report in 1998 and, even then, found that the value of the local tax exemptions was slipping and fewer seniors were able to qualify.

"This is long overdue," said Laura Henze Russell, director of the Elder Economic Security Standard Project at the Gerontology Institute of the University of Massachusetts, Boston. "Everyone talks about low high heating costs

are rising, but property taxes have been rising at incredible amounts over the past five years."

The Legislature is considering numerous bills that would let cities and towns increase their local exemptions or loosen income and asset restrictions for seniors. The Department of Revenue is evaluating the cost of various provisions, and a bill is expected to emerge from the Joint Committee on Revenue in the coming weeks.

Over time, cities and towns have offered more and more local exemptions for which they do not receive state reimbursement. That creates inequities for both individuals and communities, DeNucci

found. Most Massachusetts communities receive less from the state than they spend on exemptions. And a senior who does not qualify for tax relief in one town could move to a neighboring community and save 60 percent on taxes, the report found.

Local government representatives say a broader state-run system would alleviate some difficult budgetary decisions local governments now must make. "Right now, communities are offering property tax exemptions for senior citizens and trying to do their best to offer property tax relief. But under state law, they're forced to fund that by cutting other services," said Geoff Beekwith, executive director of the Massachusetts Municipal Association.

## 2 adults, toddler hurt in Route 3 crash

Racing is probed as possible cause

By John Ellement  
GLOBE STAFF

Three people, including a 2-year-old girl and her mother, survived a wild crash yesterday when the car they were riding in slammed into a guardrail and rolled over several times before coming to rest on Route 3 in Braintree. Authorities said they are investigating whether the crash stemmed from drag racing.

State Police identified the driver of the 2000 Chevrolet Impala as Rachel Thibodeau, 19, of Weymouth and her passenger as Katherine Joslyn, 20, also of Weymouth. Citing privacy laws, State Police would not say which of the women is the child's mother, but another state official familiar with the facts of the crash said Jos-

lyn is the mother. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because the second agency was not directly involved in the case.

Both women and the child were taken to Boston Medical Center following the 3:30 p.m. crash. Late yesterday afternoon, a hospital spokeswoman said Joslyn's condition had been upgraded to fair, while Thibodeau remained in serious condition.

The child was not listed as a patient in the hospital, a spokesman said. State Police said she was only slightly injured.

State Police Sergeant Scott Range said that at the time of the crash, the toddler was properly secured in a child safety seat and that troopers are trying to determine whether both Joslyn and Thibodeau were also wearing safety restraints.

Range said Joslyn was not thrown from the Impala, but

Thibodeau was partially thrown from the car after it crashed on Route 3 north, south of Exit 17 in Braintree.

Range said troopers are trying to determine whether drag racing was a contributing factor in the crash.

"Whether or not racing and whether or not a second vehicle was involved in the crash is still being investigated," Range said.

The trooper said that after Thibodeau lost control of the car, it smashed into the center guardrail, rolled over several times, and then came to rest in the right-hand and breakdown lanes, forcing the shutdown of those two lanes for about an hour.

Thibodeau has a clean driving history, according to the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

Advocates of the woman did not return telephone calls yesterday seeking comment.

## Boston Reads Metro

Metro is the largest and fastest growing international newspaper in the world, with 57 editions published in 17 countries and 17 languages across North and South America, Europe and Asia.

Young, Urban, Affluent, Active

70% of our readers worldwide are age 19 to 44.

Visit [www.metroprint.com](http://www.metroprint.com) to read Metro editions from all over the world. For more information, contact us at the following:

adinfo@metro.boston.com  
phone 617.552.2100

metro



Client Name: Tec Inc  
Advertiser: Tec Inc  
Section/Page/Zone: METRO/005/NZ  
Description: Tec Inc  
Ad Number: 9RCL02200  
Insertion Number: 9RCL02200  
Size: 2X4  
Color Type: B&W

The Boston Globe

Publication Date: 09/29/2005

This E-Sheet is provided as conclusive evidence that the ad appeared in the Boston Globe on the date and page indicated. You may not create derivative works, or in any way exploit or repurpose any content.

# Affidavit of Publication

TEC, INC.

3879 PEBBLE BROOKE CIRCLE

ORANGE PARK, FL 32065

ATTN: KATHY ROSE

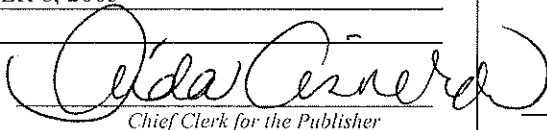
STATE OF CALIFORNIA} ss.  
County of San Diego}

The Undersigned, declares under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California: That....She is a resident of the County of San Diego. THAT....She is and at all times herein mentioned was a citizen of the United States, over the age of twenty-one years, and that .....She is not a party to, nor interested in the above entitled matter; that ....She is..... Chief Clerk for the publisher of .....

## The San Diego Union-Tribune

a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published daily in the City of San Diego, County of San Diego, and which newspaper is published for the dissemination of local news and intelligence of a general character, and which newspaper at all the times herein mentioned had and still has a bona fide subscription list of paying subscribers, and which newspaper has been established, printed and published at regular intervals in the said City of San Diego, County of San Diego, for a period exceeding one year next preceding the date of publication of the notice hereinafter referred to, and which newspaper is not devoted to nor published for the interests, entertainment or instruction of a particular class, profession, trade, calling, race, or denomination, or any number of same; that the notice of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following date, to-wit:

OCTOBER 8, 2005

  
Chief Clerk for the Publisher

## Affidavit of Publication of

Legal Classified Advertisement

Ad # 99900

Ordered by: KATHY ROSE

**The National Science Foundation (NSF)** announces its intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is being invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

**NSF is holding a public scoping meeting** in La Jolla, CA, Monday, October 17, 5-9 PM. This meeting will be an open house format at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way. If you are unable to attend this open house meeting, you may submit written comments to:

Dr. Alexander Shor  
National Science Foundation  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725, Arlington, VA 22230  
or via email at [OCE-EIS@nsf.gov](mailto:OCE-EIS@nsf.gov)

Although we will accept comments throughout the preparation of the EIS/OEIS, we recommend that your scoping comments be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005, to ensure equitable consideration in the Draft EIS.

The San Diego  
**Union-Tribune.**



contributing to the delinquency of a minor after he allegedly touched the girl inappropriately while she was at home about 2:30 a.m. Sunday. The girl told her parents about the alleged incident when she got home, and they called police. Raskin is being held without bond.

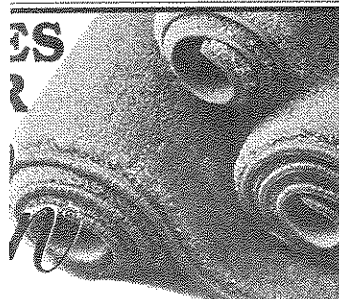
Compiled from reports by staff writers.

Day/Pick-3: 5-9-5  
Pick-4: 4-8-6-0  
Night/Pick-3: 3-3-7  
Pick-4: 7-2-8-3  
Match 5: 1-2-23-26-35 \*39  
Lotto: 1-4-7-8-11-18

All winning lottery numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office.

Lotto South: 5-6-10-14-20-48  
**MULTI-STATE GAMES**  
Mega Millions: 14-17-26-27-28 \*\*5  
Powerball: 7-22-27-48-50 \*\*\*17  
Power Play: 2  
Hot Lotto: 2-22-23-24-29 †16

\*Bonus Ball \*\*Mega Ball \*\*\*Powerball †Hot Ball  
Because of late Tuesday drawings, the Mega Millions and Virginia's Cash-5 numbers did not appear in all Wednesday editions. For late lottery results, check [www.washingtonpost.com/lottery](http://www.washingtonpost.com/lottery).



## ASTAN MONTH CARPET

and Excellence  
922"

TOWN CENTER 703-444-9906  
GLEBE 703-524-7275

WOOD  
RING

excess stock  
an Up!

Specials:  
(last)

ork Flooring  
ts per sq. ft.

g w/30 Year Warranty  
incredible \$2.89 per s

tions Prefinished Guns  
\$1.99 per sq. ft.

ts off per sq. ft.

OFFER!

rting at 50 cents per sq

is stuff - so you save

OM • BELLAWOOD.

OFFER ENDS 10/5/05

The National Science Foundation (NSF) announces its intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is being invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

NSF is holding a public scoping meeting in Silver Spring, MD, Wednesday, October 5, 1-5 PM. This meeting will be an open house format at the Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, 1301 East-West Highway. If you are unable to attend this open house meeting, you may submit written comments to:

Dr. Alexander Shor  
National Science Foundation  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725, Arlington, VA 22230  
or via email at [OCE-EIS@nsf.gov](mailto:OCE-EIS@nsf.gov)

Although we will accept comments throughout the preparation of the EIS/OEIS, we recommend that your scoping comments be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005, to ensure equitable consideration in the Draft EIS/OEIS.

# End of Year Blowouts Save \$575 to \$875

NordicTrack



NordicTrack  
Viewpoint TV

Life-time Motor Warranty

eg. \$2599.99  
Sale \$1799.99

1724"

Save  
\$875

with \$75 OFF

es a 10.2"  
Active Flat  
sen TV

BEST DEAL!



DMILLS STARTING AT \$799

# NordicTrack®

FACTORY DIRECT STORES

\*We are purchase of \$500 or more. Subject to credit approval. No accrued finance charges due during the 0% period. Monthly payments may be possible. Finance charge will accrue during the deferred period. If original purchase amount is paid in full by the deferred date on your statement, then finance charges will not be required. Finance charge will accrue from the date of delivery. Finance charges will accrue at 21.9% APR. Regular credit terms apply after 0% period. Offer expires 10/27/2005. See store for details. Not valid on any prior purchase. Prices do not include delivery.

Come see our new location on the top floor of  
TYSON'S GALLERIA near Sak's 5th Avenue 703-448-0015  
WESTFIELD SHOPPINGTOWN MONTGOMERY 301-365-4471  
CALL 1-800-TO-BE-FIT FOR OUR STORE NEAREST YOU!

Grand Forks, N.D., she lived in the Angus, Minn., area until she was 4 and graduated from Warroad High School in 2002. That summer she invited

recruiter to their home. She signed up, Steve LaDuke

h Felicia LaDuke was a driver with the division Transportation Company Combat Support Battalion. In March, she returned to employment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, her dad said. Lasted several months. While in Iraq she drove convoys between Tikrit and Baghdad, sometimes working as a door gunner.

The family isn't sure where Felicia's body will be buried but her father said it will be in Warroad, Minn., where Felicia was baptized.

Advertiser staff writer Mike Gordon and Grand Forks (N.D.) Herald reporter Stephen J. Lee contributed to this report.

Honolulu Advertiser

October 12, 2005

## Matchmaking

is our Business!

WHICH DO YOU PREFER...

inish.  
ARS.

ion

rai

333 www.matchmakinghawaii.com



Reiko Morita  
PRESIDENT



featuring **Pride**  
Mobility Products

www.DandMSales.com

### MOBILITY SPECIALISTS

Call For Free In-Home Consultation

735-2557

Since 1973

SERVING ALL ISLANDS TOLL FREE: 888-722-2200

## Diamond Gallery

WEDDING ENGAGEMENT CENTER

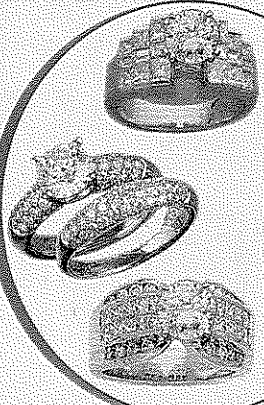
## DIAMOND SALE

ct.  
ss  
IA  
O

ct.  
Illiant  
IA  
O

ct.  
Illiant  
rity  
OO

ct.  
nond  
or  
al



## Diamond Rings

GIA, EGL Diamonds

u Blvd. Suite 638 Phone 944-8360  
nondgalleryhawaii.com Validated Parking

The National Science Foundation (NSF) announces its intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is being invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

NSF is holding a public scoping meeting in Honolulu, HI, Wednesday, October 19, 5-9 PM. This meeting will be an open house format at the Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive. If you are unable to attend this open house meeting, you may submit written comments to:

Dr. Alexander Shor

National Science Foundation

4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725, Arlington, VA 22230

or via email at OCE-EIS@nsf.gov

Although we will accept comments throughout the preparation of the EIS/OEIS, we recommend that your scoping comments be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005, to ensure equitable consideration in the Draft EIS.

TA-266 **oahu maui hilo/kona kauai lanai molokai**  
**593-4481 270-8888 930-8888 240-8888 568-8888 660-8888**

s Discount Airfare Specialist!

FOR GROUP TRAVEL CALL 792-2818

NATIONAL CITIES

BOOK YOUR PACKAGE ONLINE AT [WWW.KINGSTRAVEL.COM](http://WWW.KINGSTRAVEL.COM)

\$580	AMSTERDAM	\$670
430	ATHENS	815
978	BERLIN	680
439	BRUSSELS	670
499	FRANKFURT	680

**VACATION PACKAGES**  
starting from ...

Disneyland Park \$399

Bangkok \$599

5 nts, air, Mandarin Hotel, Daily breakfast buffet.

Sydney \$839

earing  
se

property tax  
ate raised  
h was used  
enance and

proposing a  
t rate would  
23,446 more

to consider  
aring will be  
M. at City of  
901 Bagby,  
ond hearing  
A.M. at City  
901 B

earings  
ourage  
ou wis  
rd at  
to spe  
Secreta  
el, City  
on, Texas,

Houston  
Chronicle

October 5, 2005

**HIP**  
**Fracture?**  
You may have Rights  
**713-830-7687**  
**THE DIETRICH LAW FIRM**  
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Visit Our Showroom  
and See For Yourself  
**SKYLIGHT SOLUTIONS**  
6650 W. Sam Houston Pkwy. N.  
Houston, TX  
**713-466-1551**  
[www.solatubehouston.com](http://www.solatubehouston.com)

*Carolyn Thompson's*  
**ANTIQU**  
**CENTER OF TEXAS**  
**TEXAS' LARGEST**  
713-688-4211 • 1001 West Loop North @ Old Katy Rd

*The National Science Foundation (NSF) announces its intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is being invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.*

*NSF is holding a public scoping meeting in College Station, TX on Wednesday, October 12, 5-9 PM. This meeting will be an open house format at Texas A&M University, 1000 Discovery Drive, Room C126. If you are unable to attend this open house meeting, you may submit written comments to:*

Dr. Alexander Shor  
National Science Foundation  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725, Arlington, VA 22230  
or via email at [OCE-EIS@nsf.gov](mailto:OCE-EIS@nsf.gov)

Although we will accept comments throughout the preparation of the EIS/OEIS, we recommend that your scoping comments be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005, to ensure equitable consideration in the Draft EIS.

5th Annual  
**Accolades 2005**  
Fall luncheon event benefitting **CHILDREN AT RISK**

Honoring Mark & Shannon Wallace  
being of all children through  
lity health care.

Doctors Ralph & Judith Feigin  
hairs: Tom & Laura Bellows

en 2005 Award:  
e Janek  
Whitmire

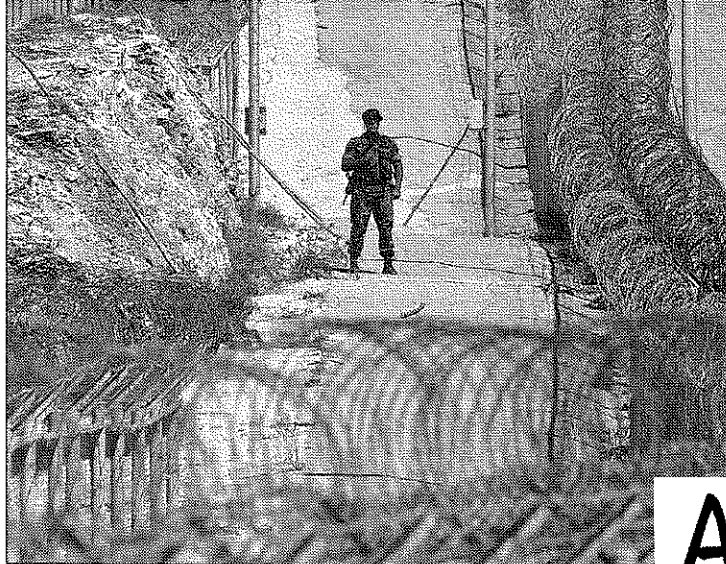
on's Children:  
M.D.  
Court Services  
es & More

30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
2 West Loop South  
ease call (713) 869-7740.

**HOUSTON**★**CHRONICLE**  
Supporting our Community

**children**  
*at Risk*  
[www.childrenatrisk.org](http://www.childrenatrisk.org)





ALVARO BARRIENTOS / The Associ

Spanish soldiers patrol the border between Morocco and Spain's enclave of Melilla on Thursday. Both countries are finalizing a return Africans who illegally entered Spain from Morocco.

nine miles from Melilla. Morocco's communications minister, Nabil Benabdellah, said illegal immigration "is a delicate question that needs wise and rigorous treatment." Morocco is a "victim" in the matter, he said, referring to the use of Moroccan soil by African immigrants hoping to make their way to Spain. He underscored the need for an approach that involves Morocco's neighbors as well as the European Union but did not specify a solution his North African nation would find acceptable.

On Sept. 29, five people

the past week and hundreds of men scaling razor wire to reach the small outpost of Europe.

Spain announced plans to expel the Africans as it struggles to cope with an overflowing holding facility housing immigrants in Melilla and a seemingly nonstop drive of migrants bound to reach the country.

Spain says it is acting under a never-enforced 1992 agreement with Morocco that lets it push back immigrants arriving in that country even if they are Moroccan.

Under current Spanish law, the government lets Africans stay if they are not a threat that do not have a deportation agreement with Spain to send them home. Most of the immigrants come from de

# Anchorage Daily News

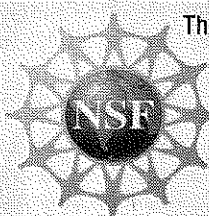
October 7, 2005

Is It Wood  
or is it  
Laminate

Can You Tell The Difference

*J&D Interiors*

8300 Briarwood • 349-9685 • 800-770-9685 • jdinteriors.com



The National Science Foundation (NSF) announces its intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service

(NMFS) is being invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

NSF is holding a public scoping meeting in Anchorage, Friday, October 14, 5-9 p.m. This meeting will be an open house format at the Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Avenue. If you are unable to attend this open house meeting, you may submit written comments to:

**Dr. Alexander Shor**  
National Science Foundation  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725, Arlington, VA 22230

or via e-mail at [OCE-EIS@nsf.gov](mailto:OCE-EIS@nsf.gov)

Although we will accept comments throughout the preparation of the EIS/OEIS, we recommend that your scoping comments be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005, to ensure equitable consideration in the Draft EIS.

**RV SALES • 561-198**

5550 Old Seward Hwy

**OPEN HOUSE**  
Oct. 8 & 9  
Sat & Sun

**H/A**  
COST



**SPIN THE WHEEL FOR DISCOUNTS**

Refreshments

**38**

September 29, 2005

USFWS Headquarters  
1849 C St. NW  
Washington, DC 20242

Dear Sir or Madam,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Shor", written in a cursive style.

for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov

September 29, 2005

Marvin Moriarty  
Field Supervisor (Regional Director)  
USFWS  
300 Westgate Center Dr  
Hadley, MA 1035

Dear Mr. Moriarty,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov

September 29, 2005

Sue Hamilton  
Field Supervisor (Regional Director)  
USFWS  
1875 Century Blvd  
Atlanta, GA 30345

Dear Ms. Hamilton,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: [ashor@nsf.gov](mailto:ashor@nsf.gov)

September 29, 2005

William Seawell  
Field Supervisor (Regional Director)  
USFWS  
10711 Burnet Road, Ste. 200  
Austin, TX 78758

Dear Mr. Seawell,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov



September 29, 2005

Steve Thompson  
Field Supervisor (Regional Director)  
USFWS  
2800 Cottage Way Suite W2606  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Mr. Thompson,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov

September 29, 2005

Dave Allen  
Field Supervisor (Regional Director)  
USFWS  
911 NE 11th St  
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Mr. Allen,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov

September 29, 2005

Tauline Davis  
Field Supervisor (Regional Director)  
USFWS  
1011 East Tudor Rd  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Ms. Davis,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov

September 29, 2005

Ted Swem  
Wildlife Biologist  
USFWS  
101 12th Avenue, Box 19  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Dear Mr. Swem,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov

September 29, 2005

Craig Perham  
Wildlife Biologist  
USFWS  
1011 East Tudor Rd  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Mr. Perham,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov

September 29, 2005

Maggie Ahmaogak  
Executive Director  
AEWC  
P.O. Box 570  
Barrow, AK 99723

Dear Ms. Ahmaogak,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov

September 29, 2005

Craig George  
Wildlife Biologist  
DWM

Department of Wildlife Management, North Slope Borough, PO Box 69  
Barrow, AK 99723

Dear Mr. George,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: [ashor@nsf.gov](mailto:ashor@nsf.gov)

September 29, 2005

Charles Brower  
Director  
Department of Wildlife Management  
North Slope Borough, PO Box 69  
Barrow, AK 99723

Dear Mr. Brower,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov



September 29, 2005

NOAA/NMFS Headquarters  
14th St. & Constitution Ave Rm 6217  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Sir or Madam,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov

September 29, 2005

Patricia A. Kurkul  
Regional Administrator  
NOAA/NMFS  
One Blackburn Drive  
Gloucester, MA 1930

Dear Ms. Kurkul,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: [ashor@nsf.gov](mailto:ashor@nsf.gov)

September 29, 2005

Dr. Roy E. Crabtree  
Regional Administrator  
NOAA/NMFS  
236 13th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg , FL 33701

Dear Dr. Crabtree,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: [ashor@nsf.gov](mailto:ashor@nsf.gov)

September 29, 2005

Rodney McInnis  
Regional Administrator  
NOAA/NMFS  
501 W. Ocean Blvd  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Mr. McInnis,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov

September 29, 2005

Bob Lohn  
Regional Administrator  
NOAA/NMFS  
7600 Sand Point Way NE  
Seattle, WA 98115

Dear Mr. Lohn,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: [ashor@nsf.gov](mailto:ashor@nsf.gov)

September 29, 2005

James Balsiger  
Regional Administrator  
NOAA/NMFS  
PO Box 21668  
Juneau, AK 99802

Dear Mr. Balsiger,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov

September 29, 2005

Joseph Montgomery  
Director NEPA Compliance, Off. of Federal Activities  
USEPA  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW (6403J)  
Washington , DC 20460

Dear Mr. Montgomery,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov

September 29, 2005

Robert W. Varney  
Regional Administrator  
USEPA  
1 Congress St  
Boston, MA

Dear Mr. Varney,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov



September 29, 2005

Alan J. Steinburg  
Regional Administrator  
USEPA  
290 Broadway, 26th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Steinburg,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: [ashor@nsf.gov](mailto:ashor@nsf.gov)

September 29, 2005

Donald S. Welsh  
Regional Administrator  
USEPA  
1650 Arch St  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. Welsh,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov

September 29, 2005

J.I. Palmer, Jr  
Regional Administrator  
USEPA  
61 Forsyth Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mr. Palmer,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov

September 29, 2005

Thomas V. Skinner  
Regional Administrator  
USEPA  
77 West Jackson Blvd  
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Skinner,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: [ashor@nsf.gov](mailto:ashor@nsf.gov)

September 29, 2005

Richard Greene  
Regional Administrator  
USEPA  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas , TX 75202

Dear Mr. Greene,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: [ashor@nsf.gov](mailto:ashor@nsf.gov)

September 29, 2005

James B. Gulliford  
Regional Administrator  
USEPA  
901 N. 5th Street  
Kansas City, KS 66101

Dear Mr. Gulliford,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: [ashor@nsf.gov](mailto:ashor@nsf.gov)

September 29, 2005

Robbie Roberts  
Regional Administrator  
USEPA  
999-18th St. Suite 300  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Mr. Roberts,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov

September 29, 2005

Wayne Nastri  
Regional Administrator  
USEPA  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Mr. Nastri,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov



September 29, 2005

Ron Kreizenbeck  
Regional Administrator  
USEPA  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101

Dear Mr. Kreizenbeck,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: [ashor@nsf.gov](mailto:ashor@nsf.gov)

September 29, 2005

Tony MacDonald  
Executive Director  
Coastal States Organization  
444 N. Capitol, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. MacDonald,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov

September 29, 2005

Minerals Management Service  
Environmental Branch  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Sir or Madam,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quisset Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov

September 29, 2005

G. Ed Richardson  
Minerals Management Service  
139 Deerlake Drive  
Asheville, NC 28803

Dear Mr. Richardson,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quisset Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov

September 29, 2005

James Bennett  
Minerals Management Service/Environmental Branch  
381 Elden Street, MS 4023  
Herndon, VA 20170

Dear Mr. Bennett,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quisset Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov

September 29, 2005

Minerals Management Service  
Environmental Branch  
770 Paseo Camarillo  
Camarillo, CA 93010

Dear Sir or Madam,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quisset Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov

September 29, 2005

David Moore  
Minerals Management Service  
381 Elden Street  
Herndon, VA 21071

Dear Mr. Moore,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quisset Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov

September 29, 2005

Alaska Intertribal Council  
431 West 7th Ave Suite 201  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Sir or Madam,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov



September 29, 2005

National Congress of American Indians  
1300 Connecticut Ave Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Sir or Madam,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov

September 29, 2005

Office of Hawaiian Affairs  
711 Kapi`olani Blvd. Suite 500  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Sir or Madam,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov

September 29, 2005

Northwest Indian Fisheries Council  
6730 Martin Way E.  
Olympia, WA 98516

Dear Sir or Madam,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov

September 29, 2005

National Tribal Environmental Council  
2501 Rio Grande Blvd. NW, Suite A  
Albuquerque, NM 87104

Dear Sir or Madam,

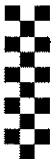
The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced its intention to prepare a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be invited to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS.

To begin the process, NSF is holding a series of public scoping meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following dates, times, and locations: 1. Wednesday, October 5, 2005, 1-5 P.M., Silver Spring Metro Center Building 4, Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD; 2. Thursday, October 6, 2005, 5-9 p.m., J. Erik Jonsson Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Carriage House, 314 Quissett Avenue, Woods Hole, MA; 3. Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Room C126, 1000 Discovery Drive, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 4. Friday, October 14, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Egan Civic and Convention Center, Space 1, 13-14, 555 West Fifth Ave. Anchorage, AK; 5. Monday, October 17, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 100 Vaughn Hall, Discovery Way, La Jolla, CA; and 6. Wednesday, October 19, 2005, 5-9 p.m., Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI.

Written comments will be accepted at these meetings as well as during the scoping period, and can be sent to NSF by October 28, 2005. Information on addressing comments and details on NSF's proposal is available in the September 22, 2005 Federal Register.



for Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Phone: (703) 292-7711 (Direct Line)  
Phone: (703) 292-8583 (Program Assistant)  
Fax: (703) 292-9085; Email: ashor@nsf.gov



PHONE (808) 594-1888

FAX (808) 594-1865



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**  
711 KAPI'OLANI BOULEVARD, SUITE 500  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

HRD05/2064

October 25, 2005

Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230

**RE: Request for public scoping on the preparations of a Programmatic EIS/Overseas EIS about potential impacts on the marine environment by the use of seismic sources in support of National Science Foundation-funded scientific research**

Dear Alexander Shor,

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) is in receipt of your September 29, 2005, request for comments on the above-referenced proposal. While our staff was unable to attend the public scoping meeting at the Ala Moana Hotel on October 19, 2005, we look forward to the opportunity to review and comment upon the forthcoming Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact Heidi Guth at (808) 594-1962 or e-mail her at [heidig@oha.org](mailto:heidig@oha.org).

Sincerely,

Clyde W. Nāmu'o  
Administrator





# United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Reston, VA 20192

In Reply Refer To:  
Mail Stop 423  
ER 05/833

October 28, 2005

Dr. Alexander Shor, Program Director  
National Science Foundation  
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 725  
Arlington, VA 22230

RE: Review of Notice of Intent to Prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact  
Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement for the National Science Foundation  
to Address Potential Impacts on the Marine Environment Related to the Use of Seismic  
Sources in Support of NSF-Funded Research by U.S. Academic Scientists

Dr. Alexander:

The U.S. Geological Survey has reviewed the programmatic/overseas environmental impact  
statements and has no comments.

Sincerely,

*/Signed/*

Lloyd H. Woosley, Jr., P.E.  
Chief, Environmental Affairs Program

Cc: EAP Chron, MS 423  
USGS:WRD:LWOOSLEY:bjjohnso:x6832:10/28/05







NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

**By U.S. Mail and Email**

October 28, 2005

Dr. Alexander Shor  
Program Director  
Oceanographic Instrumentation and Technical Services  
Division of Ocean Sciences  
National Science Foundation  
4201 Wilson Blvd., Suit 725  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Email: OCE-EIS@nsf.gov

Re: *Scoping comments for Programmatic EIS/OEIS for National Science Foundation Funding of Research Using Seismic Sources*

Dear Dr. Shor:

On behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council ("NRDC") and our more than 650,000 members nationwide, I submit these scoping comments on the National Science Foundation's ("NSF") notice of intent to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement and overseas environmental impact statement ("P/OEIS") for its funding of research by U.S. scientists using seismic sources. *See* "Notice of intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement for the National Science Foundation to address potential impacts on the marine environment related to the use of seismic sources in support of NSF-funded research by U.S. academic scientists," 70 Fed. Reg. 55630 (Sept. 22, 2005) ("Scoping Notice").

We appreciate NSF's commitment to prepare an EIS for these activities, as the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA"), 42 U.S.C. §§ 4331 *et seq.*, requires. Moreover, NRDC welcomes the decision to review NSF's funding of seismic research programmatically. As you are aware, maritime acoustic activities such as the seismic surveys at issue here have the potential to kill, injure, and harass marine mammals and other marine life over wide geographic areas. It is imperative, in approaching such activities, that NSF incorporate the rigorous, objective analysis demanded by NEPA into the earliest possible stages of its planning. To this end, we offer the following comments and recommendations.

**A. General Requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act**

Enacted by Congress in 1969, NEPA establishes a national policy to “encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment” and “promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man.” 42 U.S.C. § 4321. In order to achieve its broad goals, NEPA mandates that “to the fullest extent possible” the “policies, regulations, and public laws of the United States shall be interpreted and administered in accordance with [NEPA].” 42 U.S.C. § 4332. As the Supreme Court explained,

NEPA’s instruction that all federal agencies comply with the impact statement requirement – and with all the requirements of § 102 – “to the fullest extent possible” [cit. omit.] is neither accidental nor hyperbolic. Rather the phrase is a deliberate command that the duty NEPA imposes upon the agencies to consider environmental factors not be shunted aside in the bureaucratic shuffle.

*Flint Ridge Development Co. v. Scenic Rivers Ass’n*, 426 U.S. 776, 787 (1976).

Central to NEPA is its requirement that, before any federal action that “*may* significantly degrade some human environmental factor” can be undertaken, agencies must prepare an environmental impact statement. *Steamboaters v. F.E.R.C.*, 759 F.2d 1382, 1392 (9th Cir. 1985) (emphasis in original). The fundamental purpose of an EIS is to force the decision-maker to take a “hard look” at a particular action – at the agency’s need for it, at the environmental consequences it will have, and at more environmentally benign alternatives that may substitute for it – before the decision to proceed is made. 40 C.F.R. §§ 1500.1(b), 1502.1; *Baltimore Gas & Electric v. NRDC*, 462 U.S. 87, 97 (1983). The law is clear that the EIS must be a pre-decisional, objective, rigorous, and neutral document, not a work of advocacy to justify a decision that has already, in essence, been made.

A few of the elements most pertinent to the instant process may briefly be described as follows:

*First*, in order to satisfy NEPA, an EIS must include a “full and fair discussion of significant environmental impacts.” 40 C.F.R. § 1502.1. It is not enough, for the purposes of this discussion, to consider the proposed action in isolation, divorced from other public and private activities that impinge upon the same resource; rather, it is incumbent on NSF to assess cumulative impacts as well, including the “impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future significant actions.” *Id.* § 1508.7.

*Second*, the preparer of an EIS must make every attempt to obtain and disclose data necessary to its analysis. The simple assertion that “no information exists” will not suffice; unless the costs of obtaining the information are exorbitant, NEPA requires that it be obtained. *See id.* § 1502.22(a). If the costs are deemed excessive, then the EIS must explain the relevance of incomplete information, summarize existing credible scientific evidence on the issue, and evaluate impacts using theoretical approaches or research

case-by-case basis, but which may become practicable through application across the entire program. An example of such mitigation measures is source-based modification, especially as many or most of the research projects being funded will be conducted from one boat, the *R/V Marcus G. Langseth*. Doing so would fulfill NEPA's mandate to "inform decisionmakers and the public of the reasonable alternatives which would avoid or minimize adverse impacts." 40 C.F.R. § 1502.1.

#### B. Specific Points Requiring Particular Emphasis

In light of the requirements discussed above, a number of points require further mention:

- (1) *Impacts of Ocean Noise on Marine Biota* – As marine science and the courts have increasingly recognized, intense underwater sound can have a range of deleterious effects on marine mammals and other ocean life. *See, e.g., National Parks & Conservation Ass'n v. Babbitt*, 241 F.3d 722 (9th Cir. 2001); *NRDC v. Evans*, 279 F.Supp.2d 1129 (N.D. Cal. 2003); International Whaling Commission, Report of the Scientific Committee to the International Whaling Commission, at § 12.2.5 and Annex K (2004) (hereinafter "*Report*") (concluding that there is "now compelling evidence implicating anthropogenic sound as a potential threat to marine mammals" at both the "regional and ocean scale levels," and expressing, in particular, "serious concerns over seismic survey impacts on cetaceans").<sup>2</sup>

The P/OEIS must take this important issue into account in a meaningful and comprehensive way, accounting not only for the possibility of direct physical injury to marine life from undersea noise, but also for behavioral effects and for delayed indirect effects that, in some cases, may be lethal or severe. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 1508.8 (requiring analysis of both direct and indirect impacts). In particular, the risk that animals exposed to intense noise will later succumb to ship-strikes or entanglements has been documented in the literature and should be addressed.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> For a review of research on behavioral and auditory impacts of undersea noise, *see, e.g.,* W. John Richardson *et al.*, *Marine Mammals and Noise* (1995); Jonathan Gordon & Anna Moscrop, *Underwater Noise Pollution and Its Significance for Whales and Dolphins*, in *The Conservation of Whales and Dolphins* (M.P. Simmons & J.D. Hutchinson eds., 1996); National Research Council, *Ocean Noise and Marine Mammals* (2003). For two recent papers on strandings of whales associated specifically with seismic exploration, *see* M.H. Engel, M.C.C. Marcondes, C.C.A. Martins, F. O Luna, R.P. Lima, and A. Campos, *Are Seismic Surveys Responsible for Cetacean Strandings? An Unusual Mortality of Adult Humpback Whales in Abrolhos Bank, Northeastern Coast of Brazil*, IWC Doc. SC/56/E28 (2004); J. Hildebrand, *Impacts of Anthropogenic Sound on Cetaceans*, IWC Doc. SC/56/E13 (2004) (includes discussion of a stranding of Cuvier's beaked whales in the Gulf of California in September 2002).

<sup>3</sup> S. Todd *et al.*, *Behavioral Effects of Exposure to Underwater Explosions in Humpback Whales* (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), 74 *Can. J. Zoology* 1661 (1996); *see also* M. André *et al.*, *Are Low-Frequency Sounds a Marine Hearing Hazard?: A Case Study in the Canary Islands*, 19 *Proc. Inst. Acoustics* 82 (1997).

(2) *Conflicts with Preservation Values* – The areas affected by seismic surveying to be conducted under this P/OEIS may include marine protected areas and preserves. Where this is the case, it can reasonably be anticipated that NSF's activities may have direct or indirect effects on their resources and values. NSF must consider these effects. See 40 C.F.R. § 1508.8. Potential conflicts with any other federal, state, or local policies governing use of the area must also be discussed.

(3) *Alternatives Analysis*– The analysis of alternatives must be objective, unbiased and searching. In addition to the “no action” alternative (which, in this case, would mean denying NSF funding for seismic surveys), the EIS should consider alternative levels of restrictions on funded research, as well as alternative mitigation and monitoring measures. For example, the alternatives considered must take into account the possibility of restricting surveys geographically or temporally—restricting them from certain areas, or from certain areas at particular times of the year, or allowing them to proceed only in certain weather states and visual conditions—in order to lessen impacts on natural resources. They should also consider capping the total number of takes of protected species permissible under the funded projects. No alternative can be disregarded merely because it does not offer a complete solution to the problem. *Natural Resources Defense Council v. Morton*, 458 F.2d 827, 836 (D.C. Cir. 1972).

(4) *Monitoring and Additional Mitigation* – A thorough and well-planned monitoring program is essential, not only to keep such vulnerable species as marine mammals and sea turtles away from planned activities, but also to assess activities' indirect impacts and behavioral effects and to make appropriate changes in management if unforeseen impacts are observed. To begin with, any reliable program must provide independent observation and monitoring of acoustic activities, a well-funded response and reporting system for marine mammal strandings, and a means of investigating unusual mortality events, such as fish kills. Details of the monitoring program, including funding and identification of independent individuals, organizations, or agencies conducting the program, should be considered in the P/OEIS.

Furthermore, per 40 C.F.R. § 1502.14(f), NSF must consider ways to mitigate activities' impacts, in addition to modifying the source to reduce output to the lowest practicable levels and avoiding areas with high marine mammal and endangered species abundance. The importance of considering a wide variety of mitigation measures at the programmatic level is discussed *supra* at 3-4.

Measures should include, for example and without limitation, safety zones,<sup>4</sup> other

---

<sup>4</sup> Larger safety zones than those currently imposed by U.S. Minerals Management Service on industry seismic survey operations are supported by recent literature on the propagation of airgun noise. See, e.g., S.L. Nieukirk, K.M. Stafford, D.K. Mellinger, R.P. Dziak, and C.G. Fox, *Low-Frequency Whale and Seismic Airgun Sounds Recorded in the Mid-Atlantic Ocean*, 115 J. Acoust. Soc. Am. 1832 (2004)

operational restrictions, modifications to acoustic and other technologies, site remediation, reductions in activities, and the establishment of an independent, publicly inclusive committee to review relevant environmental management practices.<sup>5</sup>

(5) *Cumulative and Synergistic Impacts* – As mentioned above, in order to satisfy NEPA, an EIS must include a “full and fair discussion of significant environmental impacts.” 40 C.F.R. § 1502.1. This discussion must take account of the “impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future significant actions.” *Id.* § 1508.7.

A thorough cumulative impacts analysis is especially important to understanding the harm that may be caused by undersea noise generated by seismic surveys. In reporting that there is “now compelling evidence implicating anthropogenic sound as a potential threat to marine mammals” at both the “regional and ocean scale levels,” the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission has stressed the significance of cumulative effects from acoustic activities. International Whaling Commission, Report of the Scientific Committee to the International Whaling Commission, at Annex K § 6.4 (2004). The Committee found that evidence of increased sound from several different sources, including military sonar, ships and seismic activities, was “cause for serious concern.” *Id.* at § 12.2.5.1. The Committee also noted “the potential for cumulative or synergistic effects of sounds . . . with non-acoustic anthropogenic stressors.” *Id.*

These concerns highlight the importance of considering both the cumulative effects of various sources of noise on the natural resources of the area and the synergistic effects of such acoustic impacts together with other environmental stressors, such as chemical and biological pollution, habitat degradation, fishing bycatch, and ship strikes.

Here, the P/OEIS must consider at least the cumulative impacts of (1) all the research projects proposed to be funded by NSF, taken together; (2) all military activities in the region of these projects; (3) recreational watercraft activities in the region; and (4) industrial and commercial activities such as fishing and shipping that may impact the same populations of animals. These impacts must

---

(documenting significant propagation over N. Atlantic); International Whaling Commission, *Report* at Annex K (reporting data from C. Clark on nearly continuous sound produced by seismic surveys); M. Tolstoy, J.B. Diebold, S.C. Webb, D.R. Bohnenstiehl, E. Chapp, R.C. Holmes, and M. Rawson, *Broadband calibration of R/V Ewing seismic sources*, 31 Geophysical Res. Letters L14310 (2004) (measuring or estimating isopleths in various shallow and deep water scenarios).

<sup>5</sup> In choosing mitigation and monitoring measures to analyze, NSF should consider measures proposed for use in other jurisdictions. *See, e.g.*, URS Australia, Draft Review of DEH Guidelines on the Application of the EPBC Act to Interactions between Offshore Seismic Operations and Larger Cetaceans, Task Two: Review of Management Practices at App. B (May 12, 2004) (summary of proposed mitigations for various jurisdictions).

be considered in light of current and reasonably foreseeable future environmental stressors. Only by analyzing these impacts together – by considering, for example, how they may cumulatively compromise biologically important activities by elevating stress, masking relevant sounds, and altering behavior – can NSF reach a full understanding of the environmental consequences of its proposed funding.

Similarly, NSF's analysis cannot be limited only to the activities' direct effects, *i.e.*, effects that occur at the same time and place as the proposed activities themselves. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 1508.8(a). It must also take into account their indirect effects, which, though reasonably foreseeable, may occur later in time or at a farther remove. *See id.* § 1508.8(b). This requirement is particularly critical in the present case given the potential of underwater noise to cause indirect harms not clearly observable in the short or immediate term. For example, any analysis of the effects of acoustic activities must discuss indirect effects such as shifts in abundance or distribution of prey species and secondary effects of hearing loss.

(6) *Range of Species and Impacts* – The P/OEIS must carefully investigate, describe, and analyze potential impacts to the affected environment and to all species that may be impacted, including, but not limited to, marine mammals, sea turtles, fish, invertebrates, and sea birds. Marine mammals should not be the sole focus of the analysis. Indeed, although marine mammals have been the subject of much research on the effects of underwater noise, other species are also put at risk by such noise—especially by noise generated by seismic survey airguns—including commercial fish stocks, snow crabs, and giant squid.<sup>6</sup> Impacts on these and other species must be considered.

---

<sup>6</sup> For representative studies showing harm to other species from anthropogenic noise, *see* Popper, A., "Effects of anthropogenic sounds on fishes," *Fisheries* 28 (Oct. 2003): pp. 24-31; McCauley, R., J. Fewtrell, and A.N. Popper, "High intensity anthropogenic sound damages fish ears," *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 113 (2003): pp. 638-42; McCauley, R. *et al.*, *Marine seismic surveys: analysis and propagation of air-gun signals; and effects of air-gun exposure on humpback whales, sea turtles, fishes and squid* (Perth: Curtin University Centre for Marine Science and Technology, 2000); Engås, A., S. Løkkeborg, E. Ona, and A.V. Soldal, "Effects of seismic shooting on local abundance and catch rates of cod (*Gadus morhua*) and haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*)," *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* 53 (1996): pp. 2238-2249; Guerra, A., A.F. Gonzalez and F. Rocha, "A review of records of giant squid in the north-eastern Atlantic and severe injuries in *Architeuthis dux* stranded after acoustic exploration," Abstract, presented to the Annual Science Conference of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (2004); D. MacKenzie, *Seismic Surveys May Kill Giant Squid*, New Scientist News Service, Sept. 22, 2004, available at [www.newscientist.com/news/news.jsp?id=ns99996437](http://www.newscientist.com/news/news.jsp?id=ns99996437); M.L. Lenhardt, *Seismic and Very Low Frequency Sound-Induced Behaviors in Captive Loggerhead Marine Turtles* (*Caretta caretta*), in *Proceedings, Fourteenth Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation* (1994) (NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-SEFSC-351); Secretaria de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, *Dirección General de Vida Silvestre, Delegación Federal en Campeche, Relación de tortugas varadas en la costa de Campeche del 20 de Diciembre de 2003 al 12 de Febrero de 2004* (2004); Fisheries and Oceans Canada, "Potential Impacts of Seismic Energy on Snow Crab" (Sept. 2004) (Draft Habitat Status Report).

(7) *Impacts on Endangered Species* – While analyzing potential impacts of the proposed expansion on all species that may be affected, the P/OEIS must pay particular heed to vulnerable species, including especially those listed species, such as whales and sea turtles, that have been shown to be particularly vulnerable to disturbance from intense undersea noise.

(8) *Impacts on Human Divers* – High-intensity seismic survey noise may have adverse impacts on human divers. The effects of this proposed rulemaking on human divers must be incorporated into the P/OEIS.

(9) *Public Disclosure* – Disclosure of the specific activities contemplated by NSF is essential if the P/OEIS process is to be a meaningful one. *See, e.g., LaFlamme v. F.E.R.C.*, 852 F.2d 389, 398 (9th Cir. 1988) (noting that NEPA’s goal is to facilitate “widespread discussion and consideration of the environmental risks and remedies associated with [a proposed action]”). NSF must describe the full extent of noise-producing activities to be funded, as well as source levels, frequency ranges, and other technical parameters relevant to determining their potential impacts. Without this information, the P/OEIS process will be inadequate, with the public guessing at the nature of the activities to take place.

(10) *Tiering concerns* -- Programmatic review is important for allowing comprehensive consideration of related impacts from different aspects of a program, and we applaud NSF’s decision to perform a comprehensive analysis of the impacts of its seismic survey research funding. At the same time, however, we urge NSF to avoid the most common pitfalls of programmatic review, such as the deferral of important analysis to the site-specific stage, which in turn gets short shrift in reliance on the programmatic EIS.<sup>7</sup> Here, NSF should be careful to tackle important questions—such as those concerning source-based mitigation—up front and not defer them until funding commitments have already been made to specific research projects. NSF should also take care to provide notice of proposed decisions, and the right to comment on those proposed decisions, through each stage of review.

(11) *Compliance with Other Federal and State Laws* – A number of federal laws are implicated by the research funding at issue here. Among those that should be disclosed and addressed in the P/OEIS are the following:

*First*, NSF should address fully its proposal to fulfill the requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1361 *et seq.* As you know, any actions adopted through the present process must conform with the incidental take provisions, including the “small numbers” and “negligible impact” standards, of the MMPA. *See, e.g., NRDC v. Evans*, 279 F.Supp.2d 1129, 1141 (N.D. Cal.

---

<sup>7</sup> NEPA Task Force, Report to the Council on Environmental Quality: Modernizing NEPA Implementation (Sept. 2003), p. 39 (NEPA Task Force report).

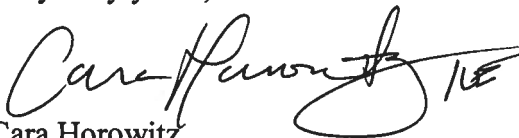
2003). In addition, NSF should address the methods and means of effecting the "least practicable adverse impact" on species and stock and their habitat. *Id.*

*Second*, the federal Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1531 *et seq.*, requires NSF to enter into formal consultation with NMFS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and receive a legally valid Incidental Take Permit prior to its "take" of any endangered or threatened marine mammals or other threatened or endangered species, including fish, sea turtles, or birds, or its "adverse modification" of any designated critical habitat. *See, e.g.,* 16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2); *Romero-Barcelo v. Brown*, 643 F. 2d 835 (1st Cir. 1981), *rev'd on other grounds, Weinberger v. Romero-Barcelo*, 456 U.S. 304, 313 (1982). Under NMFS' regulations, formal consultation *must* be requested by NSF (or by NMFS) where agency action "may affect listed species or critical habitat." 50 C.F.R. § 402.14(a), (c). In addition to an Incidental Take Permit, each of these consultations must result in a Biological Opinion that validly concludes no jeopardy and no adverse modification of critical habitat before the federal action may proceed. Moreover, NSF is prohibited from irretrievably committing resources to the proposed action until these consultations are complete. 16 U.S.C. § 1536(d). NSF should address fully its compliance with these requirements in its funding of seismic survey activities.

*Third*, the federal consistency provisions of the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1456(c)(1)(A), govern the resources off the coast and may also apply.

As you know, we are committed to minimizing the impact of high-energy seismic surveys on the marine environment, including on marine mammals. We remain confident that NSF's scientific mission can be met in ways consistent with the conservation of our natural resources. Thank you for your consideration of our comments on this important matter.

Very truly yours,

  
Cara Horowitz  
Project Attorney

Encl.