

Requirements of the Statutory Provision

Section 9414 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (“William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021”) (Pub. L. 116–283) requires NIST to enter into an agreement with an appropriate entity to study the effect of the policies of the People’s Republic of China and coordination among industrial entities within the People’s Republic of China on international bodies engaged in developing and setting international standards for emerging technologies.

“Made in China 2025” is a strategic plan that was initiated in 2015 to reduce China’s dependence on foreign technology and promote Chinese technological manufacturers in the global marketplace. The goal was to reach this objective by the year 2025, a decade from the year when the plan first took root. More information on the “Made in China 2025” policy can be found at http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latest_releases/2015/05/19/content_281475110703534.htm.

The “China Standards 2035” project will most likely build upon Made in China 2025. The “China Standards 2035” plan will lay out a blueprint for China’s government and leading technology companies to set global standards for emerging technologies in areas such as artificial intelligence and advanced communications technology.

International standards need to be relevant and to effectively respond to regulatory and market needs, as well as scientific and technological developments in various countries. They should not distort the global market, have adverse effects on fair competition, or stifle innovation and technological development. In addition, they should not give preference to the characteristics or requirements of specific countries or regions when different needs or interests exist in other countries or regions. Whenever possible, international standards should be performance based rather than based on design or descriptive characteristics.

Request for Information

To ensure that the broad perspective of the standards community informs the development of and aligns with government’s future plans and approaches, this RFI invites stakeholders throughout the scientific research, advocacy, industry, and non-scientific communities, including the general public, to comment. The enumerated list of topics below covers the major areas about which NIST seeks comment and is not intended to limit

the topics that may be addressed. Commenters may provide responses to other relevant issues, such as the extent to which the PRC partners with foreign governments or multinational corporations to promote technical standards that may advantage PRC companies, entities, or state objectives; the aims of the PRC in international standards setting organizations, including an analysis of Chinese-language sources; the standardization strategy of the PRC, as identified in the stated intentions of the “China Standards 2035” plan, including how and to what extent that strategy has been implemented and has influenced PRC industry and academic sectors, including in the development of indigenous standards with international implications. Commenters may also offer comments on whether international standards for select emerging technologies (e.g., electronics, artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain and financial technologies, clean energy technologies, and quantum information technologies) are being designed to promote or favor interests of the PRC, as expressed in the “Made in China 2025” plan, to the exclusion or disadvantage of other participants or in a way that may not result in the best technological solution. Responses may include any topic believed to have implications for the study.

1. The participation of the People’s Republic of China in international standards setting organizations over the previous 10 years, including leadership roles in standards drafting technical committees, and the quality or value of that participation;

2. The effect of the standardization strategy of the People’s Republic of China, as identified in the “China Standards 2035” plan on international bodies engaged in developing and setting standards for select emerging technologies, such as advanced communication technologies, or cloud computing and cloud services;

3. Whether international standards for select emerging technologies are being designed to promote interests of the People’s Republic of China as expressed in the “Made in China 2025” plan to the exclusion of other participants;

4. How previous practices used by the People’s Republic of China while participating in international standards setting organizations may foretell how the People’s Republic of China is likely to engage in international standardization activities of critical technologies like artificial intelligence and quantum information science, and what may be the consequences;

5. Recommendations on how the United States can take steps to mitigate the influence of the People’s Republic of China and bolster United States public and private sector participation in international standards-setting bodies.

Alicia Chambers,

NIST Executive Secretariat.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Final Management Plans for the Lake Superior and Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserves

AGENCY: Office for Coastal Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of approval of the revised management plan for the Lake Superior and Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserves.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Office for Coastal Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce approves the revised management plans for the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve in Wisconsin and the Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve in Texas. In accordance with applicable Federal regulations, the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension revised the Lake Superior Reserve’s management plan, which replaces the plan previously approved in 2010, and the University of Texas at Austin revised the Mission-Aransas Reserve’s management plan, which replaces the plan previously approved in 2015.

ADDRESSES: The approved Lake Superior Reserve management plan can be downloaded or viewed at <https://lakesuperiorreserve.org/files/2020/03/lakessuperiorreserve-management-plan.pdf>. The approved Mission-Aransas Reserve management plan can be downloaded or viewed at <https://sites.cns.utexas.edu/manerr/about/management-plan>. These documents are also available by sending a written request to the point of contact identified below (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For the Lake Superior revised management plan—Bridget Faust-Accola of NOAA’s Office for Coastal Management, by email

at bridget.faust@noaa.gov, phone at (651) 983-0235, or mail at: 1735 Lake Drive West, Chanhassen, MN 55317-8582. For the Mission-Aransas revised management plan—Matt Chasse of NOAA's Office for Coastal Management, by email at matt.chasse@noaa.gov, phone at 410-570-1020.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to 15 CFR 921.33(c), a state must revise the management plan for a research reserve at least every five years. Changes to a reserve's management plan may be made only after receiving written approval from NOAA. NOAA approves changes to management plans via notice in the **Federal Register**. On November 02, 2020, NOAA issued a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing a thirty-day public comment period for the proposed revision of the management plan for the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve (81 FR 69320). On July 1, 2021, NOAA issued a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing a thirty-day public comment period for the proposed revision of the management plan for the Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve (86 FR 35072). Responses to written and oral comments received, and an explanation of how comments were incorporated into the final versions of the revised management plans, are available in appendix B of the Lake Superior plan and appendix 8 of the Mission-Aransas plan.

The revised management plans outline each reserve's: Strategic goals and objectives; administrative structure; programs for conducting research and monitoring, education, and training; resource protection, restoration, and manipulation plans; public access and visitor use plans; consideration for future land acquisition; and facility development to support reserve operations.

The Lake Superior revised management plan focuses on changes to facilities through acquiring permanent housing for visiting students and researchers; growing the sectors by structurally supporting additional staff; advancing geographic information systems (GIS) and data management priorities; and developing a formal advisory board and strategic relationships with the private sector in the region. Since September 2010, the reserve has acquired permanent facilities for the reserve's operations; hired core sector leads and support staff; opened a public interpretive center and classroom; and expanded formal partnerships in research and education across the region. The revised

management plan will serve as the guiding document for the 16,697-acre research reserve for the next five years.

The Mission-Aransas revised management plan builds upon past successes and accomplishments and is designed to address specific priority coastal management issues. The priority issues for research and monitoring include marine debris, industrial growth impacts, eDNA, freshwater inflow, biological monitoring, and sea level rise and coastal subsidence. For education and training, priorities to be addressed include connecting children and nature; outdoor education programming, climate change and its effects on coastal environments; coastal ecology and habitat diversity; marine debris and its impacts on the coastal environment; and stewardship of estuarine and coastal resources.

Since its inception, this reserve has engaged in strategic partnerships with its land managing partners and others based on mutual interests. These partnerships are expected to be maintained or expanded through the revised management plan including reserve administration of the Amos Rehabilitation Keep (ARK), providing animal rehabilitation services for species endemic to the estuary. The reserve is also planning to maintain and improve reserve facilities including Fennessey Ranch, the Bay Education Center, the ARK, and the Patton Marine Science Education Center.

Neither the Lake Superior or Mission-Aransas revised management plans change the total acreage of either reserve.

NOAA reviewed the environmental impacts of the Lake Superior and Mission-Aransas revised management plans and determined that these actions are categorically-excluded from further analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act, consistent with NOAA Administrative Order 216-6.]

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1451 *et seq.*; 15 CFR 921.33.

Keelin S. Kuipers,

Deputy Director, Office for Coastal Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

[Docket ID USA-2021-HQ-0023]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of the Army, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Information collection notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995*, the Program Executive Officer, Enterprise Information Systems (PEO EIS) announces a proposed public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by January 3, 2022.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by docket number and title, by any of the following methods:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

Mail: DoD cannot receive written comments at this time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Comments should be sent electronically to the docket listed above.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name, docket number and title for this **Federal Register** document. The general policy for comments and other submissions from members of the public is to make these submissions available for public viewing on the internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> as they are received without change, including any personal identifiers or contact information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instruments, please write to PEO EIS, Project Manager (PM) Army Data and Analytics Platforms (ARDAP), 9351 Hall Drive, Bldg 1456, ATTN: Linda O. Jones, or call 571-595-9291.