

switching stations, telecommunications switching or multiplexing centers, buildings, or small structures requiring new physical disturbance or fencing of less than one acre (0.4 hectare).

Potential application to NTIA activities:

- Financial assistance for modifications to structures and sites supporting telecommunications service necessary to connect unserved or underserved locations.

- Modifications to NTIA facilities supporting telecommunications service necessary to connect NTIA facilities.

4. [B.12.] Rebuilding of power lines or telecommunications cables where road or highway reconstruction requires the Applicant to relocate the lines either within or adjacent to the new road or highway easement or right-of-way.

Potential application to NTIA activities:

- Financial assistance for construction or modification of aerial or buried fiber optic telecommunications equipment in or adjacent to transportation rights of way, including reconstruction of power or telecommunications lines to provide broadband service.

5. [B.13.] Phase or voltage conversions, reconductoring, or upgrading of existing electric distribution lines or telecommunications facilities.

Potential application to NTIA activities:

- Financial assistance for construction or modification of aerial or buried fiber optic cable to rural and underserved locations, including retrofitting, upgrading, or modernization of existing infrastructure when necessary to provide broadband service.

6. [B.15.] Deployment of Cells on Wheels, Systems on Wheels, or another deployable architecture intended for temporary placement (no more than two years) on an impervious surface.

Potential application to NTIA activities:

- Financial assistance for deployment and maintenance of mobile communication systems, including ground-based and aerial deployable technologies, to provide temporary broadband service in areas where such service is not available, including areas where infrastructure has been damaged by natural disaster.

- Deployment and maintenance of mobile communication systems at NTIA facilities, for testing purposes at temporary locations, or as needed in areas where infrastructure has been damaged by natural disaster, including ground-based and aerial deployable

technologies, to provide temporary broadband service.

III. Consideration of Extraordinary Circumstances

If an agency determines that a CE covers a proposed action, the agency must evaluate the proposed action for extraordinary circumstances in which a normally excluded action may have a significant effect. 40 CFR 1501.4(b). In a separate **Federal Register** notice concurrent with this notice, NTIA is publishing interim NEPA implementing procedures and establishes 30 categorical exclusions and a list of the extraordinary circumstances it considers in determining whether to apply a categorical exclusion. The CEs adopted from the FirstNet Authority will supplement NTIA's newly established CEs and the CEs that NTIA currently applies to its actions. NTIA will consider its newly established extraordinary circumstances, as well as the extraordinary circumstances established in the FirstNet Authority's procedures, in assessing whether a proposed action has the potential to result in significant effects, and if so, whether there are circumstances that lessen the impacts or other conditions sufficient to avoid significant effects, consistent with 40 CFR 1501.4(b). If NTIA cannot apply a CE to a particular proposed action due to extraordinary circumstances, NTIA will prepare an EA or EIS, consistent with 40 CFR 1501.4(b)(2), or determine if the action is covered under an existing NEPA document.

IV. Consultation With FirstNet Authority and Determination of Appropriateness

The FirstNet Authority is an independent authority within NTIA, established by the Middle-Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 to deploy and operate a nationwide public safety broadband network.³ Similar to NTIA's grant programs, the FirstNet Authority's mandate includes planning and constructing telecommunication and broadband infrastructure across the United States and its territories. The specific activities that NTIA now anticipates funding are comparable to the FirstNet Authority project implementation activities in both scope and geographic span.

Over the past year, NTIA consulted with the FirstNet Authority on the applicability of the FirstNet Authority's NEPA implementing procedures to NTIA's proposed actions and took public comment on a proposal to follow

³ 47 U.S.C. 1401.

the FirstNet Authority's procedures on an interim basis.⁴ In recent months, NTIA and the FirstNet Authority have consulted on the appropriateness of NTIA adopting certain FirstNet Authority CEs in response to public comments NTIA received noting the applicability of certain FirstNet Authority CEs to NTIA's proposed actions. That recent consultation has included a review of the FirstNet Authority's experience developing and applying its CEs. The agencies determined that NTIA's proposed actions are similar to the projects that the FirstNet Authority funds (*i.e.*, communications infrastructure) and that the impacts of NTIA's proposed actions will be similar to the impacts of FirstNet Authority projects, which are not significant absent extraordinary circumstances. Therefore, NTIA has determined that its proposed use of the CEs as described in this notice would be appropriate because the categories of actions for which NTIA plans to use the FirstNet Authority CEs are similar to FirstNet Authority's use of the CEs.

V. Conclusion

This notice documents adoption of the FirstNet Authority CEs listed above in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 4336c(4), and they are available for use by NTIA, effective immediately.

Dated: March 26, 2024.

Sean Conway,

Acting Chief Counsel, National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

[FR Doc. 2024-06748 Filed 4-1-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-60-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Docket ID: DoD-2024-OS-0029]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (OUSD (P&R)), Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: 60-Day information collection notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995*, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness announces a proposed public information collection

⁴ 88 FR 19089 (<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/03/30/2023-06575/national-environmental-policy-act-procedures-and-categorical-exclusions>).

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 June 3, 2024.

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: Department of Defense, Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Privacy, Civil Liberties, and Transparency, Regulatory Directorate, 4800 Mark Center Drive, Mailbox #24, Suite 08D09, Alexandria, VA 22350-1700.

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 Under Secretary of Defense for OUSD(P&R), Office of the Executive Director, 4000 Defense Pentagon, Suite 4B849, Washington, DC 20301, Jessica Levin, (703) 693-9087.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title; Associated Form; and OMB Number: Military OneSource Records Request; DD Forms 3126 and 3127; OMB Control Number 0704-MTPR.

Needs and Uses: This collection is needed to standardize the collection of data by the OUSD(P&R) for Military OneSource records access requests, in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a) and Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552). The OUSD(P&R) utilizes the information provided via this collection to confirm

the identity of the requestor, facilitate the timely and accurate identification of the requested records, and ensure written consent for the release of these records is received from all participants.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Annual Burden Hours: 87.5.

Number of Respondents: 350.

Responses per Respondent: 1.

Annual Responses: 350.

Average Burden per Response: 15 minutes.

Frequency: As required.

Dated: March 26, 2024.

Aaron T. Siegel,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 2024-06927 Filed 4-1-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6001-FR-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Notice of Availability of Designation of Chinese Military Companies

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of Chinese military companies.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Defense has determined that the entities listed in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice qualify as "Chinese military companies" in accordance with the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Nicoletta S. Giordani, Director (GIES), (703) 693-6613.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 1260H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry NDAA for FY21 (Pub. L. 116-283) requires the Secretary of Defense to continue to list "Chinese military companies" (CMCs) annually until December 31, 2030. Paragraph (b)(2) of this section requires the Secretary of Defense to publish the unclassified portion of such list in the **Federal Register**.

The Secretary of Defense has determined that the following entities qualify as "Chinese military companies" in accordance with Section 1260H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry NDAA for FY21 (Pub. L. 116-283):

360 Security Technology Inc. (Qihoo 360)
Advanced Micro-Fabrication Equipment Inc. China (AMEC)
Aerospace CH UAV Co., Ltd (S-SEA)
Aerosun Corporation (Aerosun)
Aviation Industry Corporation of China Ltd. (AVIC)

AVIC Aviation High-Technology Company Limited (AVIC Aviation Hi-Tech)
AVIC Heavy Machinery Company Limited (AVIC Heavy Machinery)
AVIC Jonhon Optron Technology Co., Ltd. (AVIC Jonhon)
AVIC Shenyang Aircraft Company Limited (AVIC Shenyang)
AVIC Xi'an Aircraft Industry Group Company Ltd. (AVIC Xi'an)
Beijing Megvii Technology Co., Ltd. (Megvii)
Beijing Zhidao Chuangyu Information Technology Co., Ltd. (Knownsec)
BGI Genomics Co., Ltd. (BGI)9
Chengdu JOUAV Automation Tech Co., Ltd. (JOUAV)
Chengdu M&S Electronics Technology Co., Ltd. (M&S Electronics)
China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation Limited (CASIC)
China Communications Construction Company Limited (CCCC)
China Communications Construction Group (Limited) (CCCCG)
China Construction Technology Co., Ltd. (CCTC)
China Electronics Corporation (CEC)
China Electronics Technology Group Corporation (CETC)
China General Nuclear Power Corporation (CGN)
China Marine Information Electronics Company Limited (China Marine Info Elec)
China Mobile Communications Group Co., Ltd. (China Mobile Comm)
China Mobile Limited (China Mobile)
China National Chemical Corporation Ltd. (ChemChina)
China National Chemical Engineering Group Corporation (CNCEC)
China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC)
China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC)
China North Industries Group Corporation Limited (Norinco Group)
China Railway Construction Corporation Limited (CRCC)
China South Industries Group Corporation (CSGC)
China SpaceSat Co., Ltd. (China SpaceSat)
China State Construction Engineering Corporation Limited (CSCEC)
China State Construction Group Co.
China State Shipbuilding Corporation Limited (CSSC)
China Telecom Corporation Limited
China Telecom Group Co., Ltd. (China Telecom)
China Telecommunications Corporation
China Three Gorges Corporation (CTG)
China Unicom (Hong Kong) Limited (China Unicom HK)
China United Network Communications Group Co., Ltd. (China Unicom)
CloudWalk Technology Co., Ltd (CloudWalk)
CNOOC Limited
Costar Group Co., Ltd. (Costar)
CRRC Corporation Limited (CRRC)
Dawning Information Industry Co., Ltd. (Sugon)
Global Tone Communication Technology Co Ltd. (GTCOM)
Guizhou Aviation Technical Development Co., Ltd. (Guizhou Aviation Tech)
Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Co., Ltd. (Hikvision)