

Standards and Technology, Industrial Partnerships Program, Building 820, Room 213, Gaithersburg, MD 20899.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ernest Graf, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Industrial Partnerships Program, Building 820, Room 213, Gaithersburg, MD 20899.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The prospective co-exclusive and exclusive licenses will be royalty-bearing and will comply with the terms and conditions of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7. The prospective co-exclusive and exclusive licenses may be granted unless, within sixty days from the date of this published Notice, NIST receives written evidence and argument which establish that the grant of the licenses would not be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

(1) US Patent No. 5,634,718 describes the use of a normal metal absorber in a microcalorimeter, which gives significant advantages in increased detector speed and uniformity. Claims in the patent include use of a normal metal absorber in measuring energy events with particles or photons other than x-rays, construction using a thermally insulating membrane, normal metal superconductor (NS) contacts for thermal isolation, normal metal insulator superconductor (NIS) tunnel junctions, superconducting quantum interference device (SQUID) readout, ridge structures for fast heat diffusion, multiple temperature sensors for position readout and greater uniformity, and electronic heat pulses for calibration.

(2) US Patent Application 08/702,133 describes a reliable and manufacturable method of producing a superconducting film with a transition temperature that is tunable and in the range of interest (from approximately 50 to 300 mK). The superconducting components to the bilayers are Al and Ti. Al-based bilayers are readily manufacturable, produce reproducible transition temperatures, and can be readily incorporated with microfabrication technology.

(3) U.S. Patent Application No. 08/811,939 describes the combined use of polycapillary optics with microcalorimeter detectors. The invention enables present-day microcalorimeter spectrometers with areas under 0.1 mm² to have collection solid angles that are large enough for many practical applications. Although the construction of larger area detectors without capillary optics may be possible in the future, the use of x-ray optics has fundamental advantages because they enable the use of small detectors, which

consequently have faster count rates and higher resolution.

(4) U.S. Patent Application No. 08/900,982 describes a practical implementation of dual Kevlar™ string mechanical supports that are needed in a two pill refrigerator. The invention makes the supports easier to manufacture, assemble, and maintain in the field.

NIST may enter into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement ("CRADA") to perform further research on the inventions for purposes of commercialization. NIST anticipates that such a CRADA will be conducted on a cost recovery basis. NIST may grant the licensee an option to negotiate for royalty-free exclusive licenses to any jointly owned inventions which arise from the CRADA as well as an option to negotiate for exclusive royalty-bearing licenses for NIST employee inventions which arise from the CRADA.

Copies of the patent and patent applications may be obtained from NIST at the foregoing address.

Dated: November 25, 1997.

Elaine Buntin-Mines,

Director, Program Office.

[FR Doc. 97-31781 Filed 12-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Notice of Availability of Draft Proposed Comprehensive, Long Range Preservation Plan for the MONITOR National Marine Sanctuary

AGENCY: Sanctuaries and Reserves Division (SRD), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In section 4 of Public Law 104-238 (The National Marine Sanctuaries Preservation Act (Act); October 11, 1996), Congress directed the Secretary of Commerce to prepare a long-range, comprehensive plan for the management stabilization, preservation, and recovery of artifacts and materials of the USS MONITOR. NOAA, on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce, developed a draft plan, entitled "Charting a New Course for the MONITOR: Comprehensive, Long Range Preservation Plan with Options for Management, Stabilization, Preservation, Recovery, Conservation

and Exhibition of Materials and Artifacts from the MONITOR National Marine Sanctuary." The draft plan presents a range of options including a comprehensive management strategy that should ensure that, insofar as possible, the MONITOR will be preserved and protected for future generations. The draft plan recommends the application of state-of-the-art technology in overcoming the present rapid deterioration of the MONITOR through the combined strategies of stabilization and selective recovery.

DATES: Comments on the draft plan are invited and will be considered if submitted in writing by February 2, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft plan may be obtained from Dana Hill, MONITOR National Marine Sanctuary, The Mariners Museum, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606, tel. (757) 599-3122.

The draft plan is also published on the World Wide Web at <http://www/nos.gov/nmsp/monitor/>

Comments should be submitted to John Broadwater, Manager, MONITOR National Marine Sanctuary, The Mariners Museum, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dana Hill at (757) 599-3122.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The USS MONITOR was a radical departure from traditional warship design. The vessel was built almost entirely of iron; it was fully steam powered with no masts or sails; the engineering spaces, crews and officers quarters, and galley were all below the waterline; the hull was completely armored with a 5-foot-high, 32-inch-thick armor belt encircling the vessel for protection during battle. The most novel feature was the MONITOR's 22-foot-diameter, 9-foot-high iron turret. Positioned amidships, the armored turret could be rotated to train its two 11-inch Dahlgren smoothbore cannon in any direction.

The MONITOR was launched at Greenpoint, New York, on January 30, 1862. In early March, the MONITOR was ordered to Hampton Roads, Virginia, where on March 9 it engaged the CSS VIRGINIA, a Confederate ironclad constructed over the modified hull of the scuttled USS MERRIMACK. In the ensuing four-hour battle, the two vessels frequently bombarded each other at point-blank range with no substantial damage to either vessel. Although the battle ended in a draw, the MONITOR's performance impressed the

U.S. Navy and introduced features including full iron armor, low freeboard and revolving turret that altered naval technology forever.

Shortly after midnight on December 31, 1862, while under tow by the USS RHODE ISLAND to Beaufort, North Carolina, the MONITOR sank in a storm off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, with a loss of sixteen officers and crewmen.

In 1973 the wreck of the USS MONITOR was located by an interdisciplinary scientific team operating from the Duke University Research Vessel EASTWARD. A second expedition in April 1974, partly sponsored by the U.S. Navy and the National Geographic Society, provided detailed photographic documentation from which an assessment of the wreck was made. A photomosaic produced by the Naval Intelligence Division revealed that, with the exception of damage to the stern section and the collapse of the lower hull forward of the midships bulkhead, the wreck was in relatively good condition.

In recognition of the MONITOR's significance in American history and its profound impact on naval technology, the MONITOR was designated by the Secretary of Commerce as the first National Marine Sanctuary on January 30, 1975, pursuant to Title III of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (renamed the National Marine Sanctuaries Act or NMSA), 16 U.S.C. 1431 *et seq.* Regulations implementing the designation are found at 15 CFR part 922, subpart F. NOAA is responsible for the management of the Sanctuary. The Sanctuary encompasses a vertical column of water one nautical mile in diameter 16 miles off the coast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. The wreck of the MONITOR lies upside down in 230 feet of water, with the stern resting on the displaced turret, which is also upside down. Since 1977 NOAA has conducted numerous expeditions to the MONITOR designed to generate information on the condition of the wreck.

Since 1991, a dramatic increase in the deterioration of the MONITOR's hull has been documented, leading NOAA to conclude that the collapse of the MONITOR's hull is imminent. In 1992, responding to the alarming degradation of the MONITOR's hull, NOAA commenced a broad range of initiatives including several expeditions to the Sanctuary, a cooperative effort with the U.S. Navy to help stabilize the MONITOR's hull, and development of a comprehensive plan for management of the Sanctuary and possible recovery of portions of the MONITOR. Because of

the importance of these efforts and the limitations on funding, NOAA developed partnerships with several organizations, including the U.S. Navy, the National Undersea Research Program, The Mariners Museum, private dive groups and organizations, and others.

In 1993 and 1995, NOAA conducted major engineering and archaeological surveys at the Sanctuary in conjunction with further archival research and several small-scale site operations. Private research divers also assisted NOAA during this period in the recovery of additional data on the MONITOR's condition. This research concluded that a concerted, well-planned effort would be required to preserve the remains of the MONITOR. Planning efforts were initiated for the conduct of additional archival, engineering and on-site research aimed at identifying viable options for the preservation of the MONITOR. NOAA also communicated the situation to Congress and the public.

In 1996, Congress directed the Secretary of Commerce to prepare a long-range, comprehensive plan for the management, stabilization, preservation, and recovery of artifacts and materials of the USS MONITOR. Section 4 of Public Law 104-238 (The National Marine Sanctuaries Preservation Act (Act); October 11, 1996. The Secretary was also directed, to the extent feasible, to utilize the resources of other Federal and private entities with expertise and capabilities that are helpful. NOAA, on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce, developed a draft plan, entitled "Charting a New Course for the MONITOR: Comprehensive, Long Range Preservation Plan with Options for Management, Stabilization, Preservation, Recovery, Conservation and Exhibition of Materials and Artifacts from the MONITOR National Marine Sanctuary." The draft plan presents a range of options including a comprehensive management strategy that should ensure that, insofar as possible, the MONITOR will be preserved and protected for future generations. The draft plan recommends the application of state-of-the-art technology in overcoming the crisis at the Sanctuary through the combined strategies of stabilization and selective recovery.

II. Summary of the Draft Plan

The draft plan includes a wide range of options for comprehensive preservation and management of the MONITOR National Marine Sanctuary. In developing these options, NOAA reviewed all previous reports and

proposals for on-site activities, including papers presented at a MONITOR conference in Raleigh, North Carolina, previous engineering and corrosion reports and the Draft Revised Management Plan for the MONITOR National Marine Sanctuary (NOAA 1982), all of which addressed preliminary recommendations. NOAA sought and received assistance from the U.S. Navy, Oceaneering International, Inc., The Mariners Museum, and others. In addition, NOAA held informal discussions with numerous engineers, archaeologists, and other specialists in order to identify new technology that might be applicable for the MONITOR situation. The draft plan presents all options for stabilizing and/or preserving the MONITOR that were identified by NOAA as viable. The plan contains sufficient information to permit the formulation of a comprehensive phased approach to the problem. Once an option (or combination of options) has been selected, it will be necessary to seek expert assistance from appropriate disciplines (ocean engineers, nautical archaeologists, artifact conservators, etc.) to assist with the development of a detailed implementation plan.

The draft plan presents several options along with pertinent information on advantages, disadvantages, required action and estimated costs. Advantages and disadvantages address potential impacts on the MONITOR and its contents. Options are discussed and compared, and recommendations are presented.

Since the MONITOR is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and in addition, is a National Historic Landmark, any plan proposing on-site activities that could disturb the site in any way must be reviewed by state and Federal officials, in compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and other pertinent laws.

In establishing an archaeology plan, consideration must be given to the fact that the MONITOR's hull and contents are threatened with damage or loss due to the rapid deterioration of the hull and loss of structural integrity. NOAA considers the MONITOR to be a threatened site and, therefore, will develop the archaeology plan accordingly. Federal law includes special provisions for threatened sites, with consideration being given to the relative impact to a threatened resource if left undisturbed versus taking positive action to preserve the resource. In the MONITOR's case, an effective argument can be made that if positive steps are not taken to stabilize the hull and/or recover some of the material, the entire

site could be irreparably damaged by continued deterioration in as little as one to five years. The draft plan is in keeping with the National Marine Sanctuaries Program's Strategic Plan for the 21st Century. The Program's primary goal is to protect sanctuary resources, making our sanctuaries world-class models for effective, innovative management of protected areas (Sanctuaries and Reserves Division 1997).

III. Summary of Options

The options in the draft plan are summarized as follows:

A. Non-intervention. With this option, NOAA would continue to manage the Sanctuary in accordance with the current policy but would take no action to prevent continuing deterioration. This option would allow nature to take its course, likely resulting in the ultimate collapse of the MONITOR's hull.

B. In Situ Preservation by Encapsulation. With this option, the MONITOR would be entombed in some acceptable manner (i.e. covering with sand, grass mats, etc.). Possible impacts on the MONITOR and its environment might include additional damage to the wreck due to the weight of the covering material and the loss of access to the wreck.

C. In Situ Preservation by Shoring. This option would be accomplished through the use of approved methods and materials, such as sand bags, grout bags, or jacks, to support portions of the hull that are suspended above the bottom by the position of the turret. Impact to the MONITOR and its environment would be negligible and some portions of the wreck would be given improved support.

D. In Situ Preservation by Cathodic Protection. This option would involve the installation of a passive (sacrificial anode) or active (impressed current) cathodic protection system to reduce the corrosive action from the marine environment. Impact to the MONITOR and its environment is uncertain, and would not prevent inevitable collapse.

E. Selective Recovery. This option includes a selective approach to recovering hull components and artifacts that are of significant historic value. Objects being considered for selective recovery include the propeller, turret, cannons, engine and small artifacts. Possible impact to the MONITOR and its environment might include unavoidable damage to other portions of the wreck and contents during recovery operations.

F. Full Recovery. In this option, the entire hull, turret, cannons and all

contents would be recovered, conserved, and, eventually displayed. This could include recovery of the entire hull as a single unit or a series of smaller recoveries. Possible impact to the MONITOR might include damage during recovery of portions of the hull and contents; however, if raised, the MONITOR could be conserved and reconstructed for display.

G. Selective Recovery Followed by Encapsulation. This option combines selective recovery with in situ preservation by encapsulation. Following recovery of all selected hull components and artifacts, the site would be encapsulated for protection of the remaining cultural material. Possible impact to the MONITOR might include unavoidable damage to other portions of the wreck and contents during recovery operations and additional damage to the wreck due to the weight of the covering material and the loss of access to the wreck.

H. Selective Recovery Combined with Shoring. This option combines selective recovery with in situ preservation by shoring of the remaining material, which would provide improved support. Possible impact to the MONITOR and its environment might include unavoidable damage to other portions of the wreck and contents during recovery operations.

I. Expanded Enforcement of Sanctuary Regulations. This option addresses evidence of increased illegal encroachment on the Sanctuary by increasing enforcement activities at the site to prevent further damage from illegal activities. Unless combined with one or more of the other options, the only impact might be a reduction of damage from human causes.

Because of the MONITOR's significance in American history and its status as a National Historic Landmark, NOAA is making this draft plan available to the public and invites comments and other pertinent information.

Dated: November 28, 1997.

Captain Evelyn J. Fields,
Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for
Ocean Services and Coastal Zone
Management.

[FR Doc. 97-31748 Filed 12-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

National Assessment Governing Board; Meeting

AGENCY: National Assessment Governing Board; Education.

ACTION: Notice of closed meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the National Assessment Governing Board's Special Committee to Review the Voluntary National Tests Development Contract. This notice also describes the functions of the Board. Notice of this meeting is required under Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Date: December 16, 1997.

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: St. Louis Airport Marriott; I-70 at Lambert International Airport; St. Louis, Missouri, 63134.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Ann Wilmer, Operations Officer, National Assessment Governing Board, Suite 825, 800 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20002-4233, Telephone: (202) 357-6938.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Assessment Governing Board is established under section 412 of the National Education Statistics Act of 1994 (Title IV of the Improving Americas Schools Act of 1994) (Pub. L. 103-382).

The Board is established to formulate policy guidelines for the National Assessment of Educational Progress. The Board is responsible for selecting subject areas to be assessed, developing assessment objectives, identifying appropriate achievement goals for each grade and subject tested, and establishing standards and procedures for interstate and national comparisons. Under Public Law 105-78, the National Assessment Governing Board is granted exclusive authority over developing Voluntary National Tests pursuant to contract number RJ97153001 and is required to review within 90 days (i.e., by February 11, 1998) and modify the contract to the extent the Board determines necessary; if the contract cannot be modified to the extent the Board determines necessary, the contract shall be terminated, and a new contract negotiated.

On December 16, 1997 the National Assessment Governing Board's Special Committee to Review the Voluntary National Tests Development Contract will hold a closed meeting. The purpose of the meeting is for the NAGB Special Committee to review the Test Development Contract, to formulate its recommendations to the NAGB for modification or termination and recompensation of the Development Contract for the Voluntary National Tests. This information relates to the source selection criteria by which government contracts may be modified