



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SEP 14 2011

The Honorable Ralph M. Hall
Chairman
Committee on Science, Space and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hall:

As part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) ongoing response to your questions about NOAA's proposal to establish a Climate Service Line Office, we respectfully submit the fourth set of responsive documents, consisting of approximately 2,700 pages of material. As requested by your staff in a July 7, 2011, email, we have made Mr. Tom Karl's and Dr. Chet Koblinsky's emails a priority for this production. The enclosed documents reflect NOAA's efforts to develop a proposal to establish a Climate Service Line Office, as well as NOAA's ongoing efforts to more efficiently coordinate its activities to deliver information such as long range flood, drought and other climate services, absent creation of a new line office. A further description of the documents we have produced is contained in previous communications with the Committee that are enclosed.

We are also in receipt of your most recent letter, dated September 6, 2011, requesting additional information to help you understand the nature and context of these productions. In order to efficiently respond to your multiple requests, we will also address those questions in this letter. Your request for documents remains a high priority for NOAA, and we continue to be committed to providing a rolling production of these documents to the Committee as agreed to in the May 26, 2011, meeting between NOAA and your Committee staff, and confirmed in an email from your staff dated June 2, 2011. The first set of responsive documents was submitted on May 6, 2011, and included more than 400 pages; the second set was submitted on June 14, 2011, and contained 6,422 pages; and the third set containing approximately 3,400 pages was submitted on July 19, 2011.

With today's production, NOAA has now provided you with approximately 12,922 pages of material. We continue to work steadily to provide you and your staff with regular productions. It is our aim to continue to provide these on approximately a monthly basis; however, we respectfully ask for your patience as our staff is stretched thin in light of a heavy workload, including this year's series of extreme weather events and other contingencies. Despite these other demands, please be assured that your request remains a top priority for NOAA.

As with other significant Congressional document requests, NOAA is conducting its response in keeping with recommendations issued by the Department of Commerce's Office of General Counsel and Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, through NOAA's Office of General Counsel. In addition, staff from NOAA's Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of Policy, Office of the Deputy Undersecretary, and Office of the Chief Information Officer are assisting with the response. NOAA's response to date has included publicly-releasable documents, as well as deliberative and pre-decisional documents.



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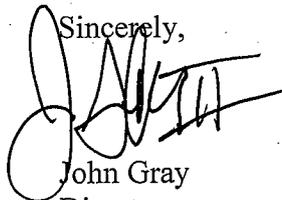


As requested by your staff in our May 26, 2011, meeting, our search to date has focused on the eight individuals specifically named in the NOAA Administrator's March 5, 2010, memorandum regarding staff assignments. Accordingly, the vast majority of records submitted June 13, 2011, July 15, 2011, and today is from email searches for those eight individuals. These searches, conducted by NOAA IT staff, generated a tremendous volume of emails that we are continuing to process. Additional queries of other types of records for these eight individuals and of records of other employees are yet to be completed. At this point, NOAA has not withheld any documents based on a claim of privilege or statutory exemption, or redacted any information other than limited personal information and conference call passcodes.

NOAA's short term weather forecasts of conditions have been critical to saving lives and property in the days leading up to and during the extreme events we have witnessed this spring and summer. NOAA's forecasts for 2 weeks and beyond, for decades known as "climate forecasts," have been critical to making the advance planning decision for weeks to months ahead of time, that allow for a rapid response to these weather events, including Hurricane Irene, which is now 2011's record-breaking tenth billion dollar disaster. The reorganization proposed in the President's FY2012 budget to Congress would enable NOAA to improve our climate science and the delivery of products and services to those who need them most – American families, communities, and businesses. However, we understand that Congressional approval is needed for the proposed reorganization to occur.

As we have previously noted, at times some NOAA staff engaged in climate services activities referring to themselves or their existing teams in shorthand, using terms such as "NCS" or "Climate Service;" however, NOAA has not changed its organizational structure to establish or implement a Climate Service Line Office.

Included in this production are deliberative and pre-decisional documents, which we are producing as a discretionary matter. Therefore, we respectfully request that you notify us prior to any release of the enclosed materials. In addition to the fourth set of responsive documents, attached you will also find information in response to your September 6, 2011, question regarding NOAA's regional climate service director positions. If you have additional questions or would like to meet to further discuss any of these issues, please contact me at (202) 482-4981.

Sincerely,

John Gray
Director

Enclosure

Question: Please provide the following information related to NOAA's six Regional Climate Service Officers:

a) The date and official announcements associated with the positions.

Answer: NOAA first announced its intention to hire six Regional Climate Services Directors (RCSD) in a press release on February 8, 2010, (http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100208_climate.html). The press release also announced the launch of the Climate Portal (www.climate.gov) and the Department of Commerce's intent to establish a Climate Service in NOAA. The RCSDs and Climate Portal were highlighted as much needed new assets being put in place by NOAA to improve coordination with our partners, decision-maker engagement, and public communication. Both efforts could also eventually be leveraged by the proposed Climate Service, if approved by Congress. As described in their position description, the RCSDs are responsible for facilitating integration across a spectrum of long standing climate activities at NOAA. NOAA uses the term "climate services" to characterize the breadth of its climate activities in much the same way that "weather services" describes activities including observations, predictions, forecasting and education. NOAA's weather forecasts and other services cover the short-term (less than 2 weeks); while our climate forecasts and other services cover anything beyond two weeks.

NOAA officially announced the selection of the six RCSDs in a September 14, 2010, press release (http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100914_climatedirectors.html). Stating that it had hired the RCSDs to "more effectively meet the rising public and private demand for climate products and services," the press release describes their role in integrating the activities of various NOAA partners who are engaged in the delivery of climate services at the regional level.

b) The date and official announcement of the posting for the positions, along with the official title, responsibilities, and duties for the positions.

Answer: The attached vacancy announcement for the six RCSDs was posted on February 9, 2010, and closed on March 9, 2010. The RCSDs were hired through an open and competitive process under the Physical Scientist, ZP-1301-5 job series and report to the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) under NOAA's National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service. The RCSDs are physically located at the Regional Headquarters of the National Weather Service to promote integration between NOAA's climate and weather mission areas. The Duties section of the Announcement reads as follows:

"As the Regional Climate Services Director reporting to the Chief, Climate Services Division of the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC), you are one of 6 regional directors for NOAA responsible for providing leadership in the development of an integrated NOAA program of climate services on a regional scale that responds to the needs of stakeholders and draws upon agency-wide assets and capabilities. You will manage the development and execution of a Regional Climate Services Strategic Plan that combines the unique assets and special capabilities of NOAA programs working with regional partners in other Federal agencies, state, local and tribal governments, universities, the private sector and NGOs."

“Your expertise in multi-disciplinary science, climate impacts and applications and interagency collaboration will make you a central player in NOAA's regional climate assessment activities in support of the U.S. Global Change Research Program's National Assessment requirements. You will work closely with scientists, researchers, policymakers, private and public business sectors of the economy, and the general public. You will also oversee the development and provision of regionally-specific content for the NOAA Climate Services Portal and other interfaces.”

“In this position, you will also be responsible for identifying new or emerging issues or opportunities and aid in developing strategic directions, programs and projects or financial assistance to address those needs across the region and advise the NOAA climate services leadership. You will collaborate and lead teams, work groups and committees through briefings and presentations at workshops, meetings and conference and outreach activities.”

c) The funding line that the positions were originally funded from.

d) The funding line that the positions are now funded from.

Answers c and d: In FY 2010 and FY 2011, the RCSDs were funded out of the NOAA Climate Program Office's (CPO) Competitive Research Program line under NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR). RCSD salaries were paid with the funds of existing projects that had come to a close. Since the RCSDs are employees of NOAA's NCDC, OAR transferred the funds to NCDC to pay their salaries, benefits, and expenses.

e) Please detail the authority NOAA used to originally create these positions, as well as the authority NOAA now uses to retain the positions.

Answer: NOAA has broad legal authority to provide climate related products and services to the Nation which it carries out, in part, through the RCSDs. The statues that authorize such activities include 15 USC §313, 15 USC §2901-§2908 and 15 USC §2931-§2961.

← [Back to Search Results](#)

OVERVIEW

DUTIES

QUALIFICATIONS & EVALUATIONS

BENEFITS & OTHER INFO

National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration

Job Title: Physical Scientist, ZP-1301-5 (MAP)

Department: Department Of Commerce

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Job Announcement Number: NSDIS-NCDC-2010-0007

SALARY RANGE: 104,330.00 - 155,500.00 USD /year
OPEN PERIOD: Tuesday, February 09, 2010 to Tuesday, March 09, 2010
SERIES & GRADE: ZP-1301-5/5
POSITION INFORMATION: Full TimePermanent
PROMOTION POTENTIAL: 5
DUTY LOCATIONS: 6 vacancy(s) in one of the following locations: **Multiple duty locations - [click here for more info](#)**
WHO MAY BE CONSIDERED: Public Status Positions (MAP):

- Open to current or former Federal employees with Federal competitive employment status obtained through a current or former permanent competitive service appointment with the Federal government;

- Individuals with eligibility for non-competitive special appointing authority;

- Veterans eligible under the Veterans Employment Opportunity Act of 1998.

If you are not eligible to apply for this vacancy, apply to the PUBLIC announcement NSDIS-NCDC-2010-0009.

JOB SUMMARY:

For more information about the National Climatic Data Center, [Click Here](#)

This position will be filled under the DOC Alternative Personnel System (CAPS). This system replaced the Federal GS pay plan and structure. Under CAPS, positions are classified by career, pay plan, and pay band. The ZP-5 is equivalent to the GS-15.

Relocation expenses are authorized.

SALARIES FOR EACH GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION ARE:

Anchorage, AK	\$104,330.00	\$135,630.00
Honolulu, HI	\$104,330.00	\$135,630.00
Kansas City, MO	\$113,735.00	\$147,857.00
Bohemia, NY	\$128,241.00	\$155,500.00
Fort Worth, TX	\$120,221.00	\$155,500.00
Salt Lake City, UT	\$113,735.00	\$147,857.00

NESDIS is looking for great people to manage our world-class operations. Our satellites monitor US and global weather conditions and we also have three world-class data centers. The data from NESDIS satellites help save lives and resources. Come be a part of NESDIS!

KEY REQUIREMENTS:

- Background Investigation

Duties

[Back to top](#) ▲

Additional Duty Location Info:

Anchorage, AK; Bohemia, NY; Fort Worth, TX; Honolulu, HI; Salt Lake City, UT; Kansas City Metro Area, MO

As the Regional Climate Services Director reporting to the Chief, Climate Services Division of the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC), you are one of 6 regional directors for NOAA responsible for providing leadership in the development of an integrated NOAA program of climate services on a regional scale that responds to the needs of stakeholders and draws upon agency-wide assets and capabilities. You will manage the development and execution of a Regional Climate Services Strategic Plan that combines the unique assets and special capabilities of NOAA programs working with regional partners in other Federal agencies, state, local and tribal governments, universities, the private sector and NGOs.

Your expertise in multi-disciplinary science, climate impacts and applications and interagency collaboration will make you a central player in NOAA's regional climate assessment activities in support of the U.S. Global Change Research Program's National Assessment requirements. You will work closely with scientists, researchers, policymakers, private and public business sectors of the economy, and the general public. You will also oversee the development and provision of regionally-specific content for the NOAA Climate Services Portal and other interfaces.

In this position, you will also be responsible for identifying new or emerging issues or opportunities and aid in developing strategic directions, programs, projects or financial assistance to address those needs across the region and advise the NOAA climate services leadership. You will collaborate and lead teams, work groups and committees through briefings and presentations at workshops, meetings and conferences, and outreach activities.

Qualifications and Evaluations

[Back to top](#) ▲

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

In addition to the education requirements you must have one year of specialized experience equivalent to the ZP-4 (GS-14).

Specialized experience for this position is defined as:

-Experience in climate data, products and services, including customer access to a wide array of climatic data products and services.

-Experience in outreach activities for regional programs and partnerships in climate education and literacy, including interpreting data products to the customers and stakeholders through briefings and presentations at workshops, meetings and conferences.

-Experience in project/program management related to climate sciences or services particularly at the regional level.

NOTE: Your resume must document specialized experience and support your responses to the vacancy questions.

For more information about the qualifications requirements for this position:

[Professional and Scientific Positions](#) and

[Physical Science Series](#)

You must have:

A Degree in physical science, engineering, or mathematics that included 24 semester hours in physical science and/or related engineering science such as mechanics, dynamics, properties of materials, and electronics; OR a

Combination of education and experience--education equivalent to one of the majors shown above that included at least 24 semester hours in physical science and/or related engineering science, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

You must submit transcripts verifying your education. See section.

Applicants must meet all qualification requirements by the closing date of this announcement.

In addition, current Federal employees must meet all time-in-grade requirements (i.e. have served 52 weeks at the next lower grade level or pay band in the normal line of progression for this occupation.)

HOW YOU WILL BE EVALUATED:

Several parts of the application process affect the overall evaluation of your application:

1. Your resume
2. Your responses to the core questions
3. Your responses to the self-assessment questions
4. Your supporting documents.

Your answers to the questions in the on-line application process serve as the basis for your initial rating score. The level of experience, education and/or training you claim must be clearly identified and supported by the information you provide in your resume, question responses and essays, and supplemental documents (i.e. transcripts). The Job Specific questions relate to the knowledge, skills and abilities required to do the work of this position.

- Knowledge of physical sciences related to regionally-focused climate-related challenges and issues.
- Skill in outreach activities.
- Skill in project management.

Do not respond to these KSAs separately from the vacancy questions.

High self-assessment in the vacancy questions that is not readily verified or supported in your application may eliminate you from best-qualified status or result in a lowered score.

You will not be considered for the position if any part of the application is incomplete.

To preview questions please [click here](#).

Benefits and Other Info

[Back to top](#) ▲

BENEFITS:

Federal employees are eligible for benefits such as:

- A selection of cost-shared health insurance plans
- Life insurance coverage options
- A tax deferred Thrift Savings Plan (401 K)
- Federal Pension Plan (FERS)
- Annual and Sick Leave
- 10 paid holidays
- Participation in a flexible workplace

For more information about benefits

[Click Here](#)

OTHER INFORMATION:

Privacy Act Notice (PL 93-579): The information requested here is used to determine qualifications for employment and is authorized under Title 5 U.S.C. 3302 and 3361.

The Department of Commerce is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer. The Department of Commerce does not condone or tolerate discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, or sexual orientation.

The Department of Commerce provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the

Human Resources Office. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.

How To Apply

[Back to top](#) ▲

HOW TO APPLY:

This is an on-line application. Click the 'Apply' button at the end of the USAJOBS announcement) and follow instructions to register, enter your resume, and apply on-line to answer vacancy questions.

All required supporting documents will be collected electronically via the USA Jobs document portfolio feature.

To upload a document in USAJOBS:

Log-in at MY USAJOBS. Click on the Portfolio link found under the tabs near the top. Click browse and select a file stored on your computer to include in your portfolio. Files must be less than 2mb and can either be jpg, doc, or PDF format. Once you have selected your file, enter a name for the attachment, making sure to be as accurate in your description as possible. For example, Undergraduate Transcripts versus Graduate Transcripts. Once selected and named, click Upload.

After you have successfully uploaded a document, you can click to View or Delete your document(s) at any time. You may also use the direct upload feature through the NOAA Enterprise systems Supporting Documents page (instructions are listed on that page) or you may fax documentation using the instructions provided in the Required Documents step of this job posting.

It is recommended that you use Internet Explorer as your browser.

WE DO NOT ACCEPT MAILED, FAXED OR E-MAILED APPLICATIONS OR RESUMES. APPLICATIONS AND RESUMES ARE COMPLETED ON-LINE VIA USA JOBS.

IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS COMPLETING YOUR ON-LINE APPLICATION:

Contact the MGS Help Desk at 1-866-656-6831 or by e-mail at mgshelp@monster.com. The Help Desk is available Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. You may call and leave a voicemail message at all other times.

If you do not have access to a computer or the Internet to complete the on-line application, or have a disability requiring a reasonable accommodation for this application process, please contact the Human Resources Specialist listed on the vacancy.

CTAP/ICTAP eligibles: If you are an eligible Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) or Interagency Career Transition Assistance Program (ICTAP) applicant, you may apply for special selection over other applicants for this position. Individuals who have special selection priority rights under the CTAP or the ICTAP must be well qualified for the position. Well-qualified includes candidates who have been determined to exceed minimum qualifications for the position by attaining at least a rating of 85, but otherwise may or may not be among the highly- or best-qualified candidates.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

IMPORTANT: You must submit your documents for this vacancy since we have moved to a new Enterprise system and the documents did not transition to this system. Once your documents are received in the Enterprise system, you will not have to do this again.

(1) COLLEGE TRANSCRIPTS:

You **MUST** fax in copies of your college transcripts (undergraduate AND graduate). Unofficial copies are acceptable for application purposes.

It is your responsibility to provide adequate proof that you meet any educational requirements listed in the qualifications section of this announcement. Transcripts alone may not provide enough

information to make a substantiated qualification decision. If course titles do not clearly indicate which element of the overall educational requirements to which they apply, you should submit additional documentation such as course descriptions from the school catalogue or a letter from school officials. Reasonable efforts will be made to clarify questionable documentation but inadequate information could result in non-qualification and loss of consideration.

FOREIGN EDUCATION: Foreign education is acceptable provided that the applicant submits documentation confirming accreditation by a Dept. of Education recognized accrediting body, or evaluation by a credential evaluation service which has deemed it to be equivalent to that gained in a conventional U.S. education program.

For information about the evaluation services for foreign education, [Click Here](#)

(2) CURRENT OR FORMER FEDERAL EMPLOYEES -- SF-50:
You must FAX a copy of a recent SF-50, Notification of Personnel Action, showing position title, occupational series, grade level, salary, your tenure group, and position occupied, etc. The purpose of this document is to verify your time-in-grade and competitive status.

(3) VETERANS -- DD214, SF-15, VA Letter:
If you are a veteran, please FAX a copy of your DD214 (the Part 4 copy which shows characterization of service). If you are a Disabled Veteran, you must FAX a copy of your DD214, SF-15, AND a copy of your VA letter in order to verify your service-connected disability rating. If you do not have a copy of your VA Letter, please contact your Regional VA Office to request one: 1-800-827-1000. The SF-15 (Application for 10 Point Preference) is available online at: [SF-15](#)

For more information about veterans preference [Click Here](#) and [Here](#)

(4) ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY -- DD214 Equivalent:
If you are currently on active duty and your discharge/retirement is imminent and you do not yet have a DD214, please obtain a letter from your commander or military personnel office confirming your discharge date, that your discharge will be honorable, your dates of service, rank, military occupation, etc. Please fax this letter in lieu of the DD214, but be prepared to submit the DD214 prior to entry on duty.

(5) SCHEDULE A DISABLED INDIVIDUALS:
If you are applying under this Schedule A authority, you MUST fax proof of your disability.

This proof may be in the form of documentation obtained from licensed medical professionals, state or private vocational rehabilitation specialists, or any Government agency that issues or provides disability benefits.

(6) CTAP/ICTAP - SF-50, RIF Notice/Cert. of Expected Separation:
If you are a surplus/displaced federal employee applying under CTAP or ICTAP, you must FAX a copy of (a) recent SF-50 showing current position, grade level, promotion potential and duty location and (b) RIF Notice/Certificate of Expected Separation, or other proof of eligibility for priority selection, and a current performance appraisal.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FAXING DOCUMENTS:

If you are unable to upload your documents via the USA Jobs document portfolio feature, you may fax your documents.

When you apply for Department of Commerce positions, you will be directed to the Department of Commerce website to update User information if you have not already done so. After the system tells

you that your registration information has been saved, you are prompted to click the "Next" button to begin the application process. Generate Fax Cover Sheets page appears. There are instructions for printing the Fax Cover Sheets.

Choose and print cover sheets that you need. It is recommended that you fax SF50's, DD-214 or transcripts at this time.

The Hiring Management FAX Cover Sheet includes an identification number which ensures your document is properly scanned and associated with your on-line application.

If you experience technical difficulties with this process, please contact the toll-free number for the Monster Hiring Management Customer Support Help Desk at 1-866-656-6831. They are available Mon - Friday 7 am - 7 pm, Eastern Time.

Within 24 hours of faxing in your documents, MGS will send you an email confirming receipt of your document(s).

RETAIN THIS CONFIRMATION AS PROOF.

If you do NOT receive this email within 24 hours, contact the MGS Help Desk at 1-866-656-6831 to confirm receipt of your documents.

In addition, it is recommended that you keep a personal copy of your FAX machine's fax receipt with a date and time stamp.

You must submit your faxes on or before the closing date of the vacancy announcement in order for you to receive consideration for this vacancy.

AGENCY CONTACT INFO:

Julie Meyer
Phone: 303-497-4861
Fax: 000-000-0000
Email: Julie.L.Meyer@noaa.gov

Or write:
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration
WFMO/Oceans Client Services Div
325 Broadway
Boulder, CO 80305
Fax: 000-000-0000

WHAT TO EXPECT NEXT:

Applicants will receive email notifications that their on-line applications have been received.

Applicants can check the status of their applications through their USAJOBS accounts.

[Back to top](#) ▲

← [Back to Search Results](#)

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USAJOBS is the Federal Government's official one-stop source for Federal jobs and employ

Hiring Management monster



Vacancy Questions Preview

Vacancy Questions Preview

Grade: All Grades

* 1. I meet the Individual Occupational Requirements for the 1301, Physical Science series because I have:

1. A degree in: Degree: physical science, engineering, or mathematics that included 24 semester hours in physical science and/or related engineering science such as mechanics, dynamics, properties of materials, and electronics -OR-
2. A combination of education and experience - education equivalent to one of the majors shown in response #1 above that included at least 24 semester hours in physical science and/or related engineering science, plus appropriate experience or additional education.
3. I do not meet the Individual Occupational Requirement for the 1301, Physical Science series.

* 2.ZP-3: In addition to the meeting the Individual Occupational Requirement, do you have at least one year of specialized experience equivalent to at least the next lower pay band (ZP-4) or GS-14 grade level in the federal service? This may be federal OR non-federal experience (i.e. private industry). (See the "Qualifications" section of this announcement for the definition of specialized experience.)

1. Yes
2. No

* 3. Select the statement that best describes your experience in scientific studies, programs or projects related to regionally-focused climate related challenges and issues.

1. I lead scientific programs/projects that focused on improving understanding of the impacts and socio-economic or ecological consequences of climate variability and change in this region and/or assessing the climate information needs of diverse users and the subsequent development, production or evaluation of products and services in area of climatology, meteorology, oceanography, or biological sciences.
2. I am responsible for an assigned segment of scientific programs/projects explicitly focused on improving understanding of the impacts and socio-economic or ecological consequences of climate variability and change in this region and/or assessing the climate information needs of diverse users.
3. I was assigned one or more research projects that focused on improving understanding of the impacts and socio-economic or ecological consequences of climate variability and change in this region and/or assessing the climate information needs of diverse users. I worked independently, and was responsible for documenting my findings. My input may or may not have been published.
4. I was assigned tasks to complete in support of scientific programs/projects that focused on improving understanding of the impacts and socio-economic or ecological consequences of climate variability and change in this region and/or assessing the climate information needs of diverse users. My work was reviewed for accuracy and completeness by a senior scientist or my supervisor.
5. I do not have the experience described above.

* 4. I have climate service experience in the following regions:

1. Eastern.

5. Pacific.
6. Alaska.
7. None of the above.

* 5. For each of the regions you have selected above, describe your experience in scientific studies, programs or projects focused on the socio-economic or ecological consequences of climate variability and changes; assessing climate information needs of diverse user groups and development, production or evaluation of products and services in the area of climatology, meteorology, oceanography, or biological sciences. If you do not have this experience, please enter "N/A" in the response block.
Maximum length of 8000 characters.

* 6. Select the statement that best describes your experience in climate services development, delivery and applications.

1. I manage scientific programs/projects that explicitly focused on the delivery of climate information for decision making and/or sectoral applications at the regional level. I was responsible for establishing milestones, budget, and overseeing the entire research, reviewing and approving the final analysis before releasing any products or publications.
2. I am responsible for an assigned segment of scientific programs/projects that involved climate services delivery, ensuring milestones were met and expenditures were within the approved budget. I prepared status reports and briefings as required.
3. I am assigned one or more research projects that involved climate services delivery. I worked independently, and was responsible for documenting my findings. My input may or may not have been published.
4. I am assigned tasks to complete in support of scientific programs/projects that involved climate services delivery. My work was reviewed for accuracy and completeness by a senior scientist or my supervisor.
5. I do not have the experience described above.

* 7. Describe your experience in climate services development, delivery and applications including web page development and climate services websites. Identify the types of user groups, scientists and data managers with whom you work; climate impacts or assessment studies, or climate product development and applications work to which you have contributed. Provide specific examples. If you do not have this experience, please enter "N/A" in the response block.
Maximum length of 8000 characters.

* 8. Select the statement that best describes your experience using automated systems to process and analyze data to prepare assessments of the state of the climate.

1. I have authored or co-authored part of a national or global assessment of the climate's state, its change or its variability AND my research and/or operational products have contributed to a recurring or occasional assessment of at least one component of the state of global, national or regional climate.
2. I have authored or co-authored part of a national or global assessment of climate's state, its change, or its variability OR my research and/or operational products have contributed to a recurring or occasional assessment of at least one component of the state of global, national or regional climate.
3. I have participated in projects that study or evaluate the process and general results of national or international assessments of climate change and variability, and have provided input for the project conclusions, or papers.
4. I have received education in this function, but have not yet applied it on the job.
5. I do not have the experience or education described above.

* 9. Select the statement that best describes your experience with dynamic, database-driven web sites to display and deliver climate data, products and reports.

1. I write computer programs using higher level programming languages (perl, java, php, servlets, etc.) to create and maintain dynamic, database driven web sites that display and deliver climate data, products and reports.
2. I modify and use computer programs written by others in higher level programming languages (perl, java, php, servlets, etc.) to create and maintain dynamic, database driven web sites that display and deliver climate data, products and reports.
3. I assist senior staff in creating and maintaining dynamic, database driven web sites that display and deliver climate data, products and reports.
4. I have received education or training in this function, but have not yet applied it on the job.
5. I have do not have the experience or education described above.

* 10. Select the statement that best describes your experience in communicating and coordinating with scientists, data managers and decision makers about climate data products, educational materials and climate literacy.

1. I am responsible for the outreach program for scientific issues that requires that I regularly interact verbally and in writing with scientists, data managers and decision makers for external groups about the promotion of climate literacy through education and outreach. I determine which subjects should be emphasized and review staff implementation plans.
2. I implement outreach plans. My duties include determining the materials and presentations that would be most effective for the audience to which they are directed. I coordinate with scientists to ensure the information reflects the latest available data. For example, my approach and terminology used is more technical than if I am speaking to the general public. I initiate contacts to arrange speaking engagements. Otherwise, I respond to requests.
3. I assist senior staff with outreach activities and complete assignments to prepare materials for presentation or provide input for briefings.
4. I do not have the experience described above.

* 11. Select the statement that best describes your experience leading or contributing to interdisciplinary research efforts, improving the economic/social relevance of climate science; climate assessments, research/services and societal impacts, in areas of atmosphere, climate, oceanography, and hydrology.

1. I have experience in leading or contributing to a technical effort directed towards research and application of each of the areas listed.
2. I have experience in leading or contributing to a technical effort in two of the areas listed.
3. I have experience in leading or contributing to a technical effort in one of the areas listed.
4. I have no experience in this area.

* 12. Select the statement that best describes your experience in project management for scientific projects and programs dealing with climate or environmental data, products and information services.

1. I have managed or led two or more scientific projects or programs dealing with environmental data and climatology and the management of these data. I have had overall responsibility for program/project development, planning, coordination and review to include Budget Preparation and Execution; Staffing and Supervision; Resource Allocation; Contract Administration to include Development of Statements of Work and Task Orders; Tracking Tasks and Costs, and Reporting Progress; and Quality Management.

Progress; and Quality Management.

3. I have managed or led one or more scientific projects or programs that were not related to environmental data or climatology. I have had overall responsibility for program/project development, planning, coordination and review to include Budget Preparation and Execution; Staffing and Supervision; Resource Allocation; Contract Administration to include Development of Statements of Work and Task Orders; Tracking Tasks and Costs, and Reporting Progress; and Quality Management.
4. I have had some experience with project management to include planning, staffing, contract coordination, or tracking tasks and costs as a member of a project team where I have performed tasks under review or guidance from a senior employee or project or team leader.
5. I have had project management training but have not yet performed project management tasks on the job.
6. I have not had project management training or experience as described above.

* 13. Provide examples and identify the project management tasks you performed in your capacity as program or project leader, manager or team member. If you do not have experience in this area, please indicate so in the response block or enter "N/A".
Maximum length of 8000 characters.

* 14. Identify the following documents you prepare for upper management, government officials, scientists, contractors, or data managers internal or external to your organization. Only select those which you have written or produced as a regular part of your job (on a recurring basis), independently or as an equal member of a work or task group, and with little or no review from a senior employee.

1. Strategic Plans or Strategic Analysis Reports
2. Statements of Work
3. Task Orders for Contractors
4. Budget Projections or Proposals
5. Staffing/Hiring Plans
6. Cost-Benefit Analyses
7. Project Management Plans and Progress Reports
8. White Papers/Position Papers
9. Policy Documents
10. Technical Letters or Reports
11. None of the Above

* 15. Briefly describe your experience in planning, developing or leading national or regional climate science, assessment and/or service activities related to providing or enhancing access to climate information for a wide spectrum of customers. Include the region for which you plan these assessments and activities. If you do not have experience in this area, please indicate so in the response block or enter "N/A".
Maximum length of 8000 characters.

* 16. Describe your experience in planning, developing or leading multidisciplinary, multi-partner climate or environmental science and/or service programs related to the nature and consequences of climate variability and change in the region you have selected. Include examples of your experience engaging multiple government agencies, university and private sector partners. If you do not have experience in this area, please indicate so in the response block or enter "N/A".
Maximum length of 8000 characters.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

JUL 19 2011

The Honorable Ralph M. Hall
Chairman
Committee on Science, Space and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hall:

As part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) ongoing response to your questions about NOAA's fiscal year (FY) 2012 proposal to establish a Climate Service Line Office, we respectfully submit the third set of responsive documents, consisting of approximately 3,400 pages of material. As requested by your staff in a July 7, 2011 email, we have made emails of Tom Karl and Chet Koblinsky a priority for this production. The enclosed documents reflect NOAA's efforts to develop a reorganization proposal to Congress to establish a Climate Service Line Office, as well as NOAA's ongoing efforts to more efficiently organize its activities to deliver information such as long range flood, drought and other climate services, absent creation of a new line office. A further description of the documents we have produced to date is contained in previous communications with the Committee, which are enclosed.

Your request is a high priority for NOAA, and we remain committed to provide a rolling production of these documents to the Committee as agreed to in the May 26, 2011 meeting between NOAA and your Committee staff. The first set of documents was submitted on May 6 (including more than 400 pages of text); the second set was submitted on June 13, and contained approximately 6,422 pages of material. With today's set of documents, NOAA has now provided you with approximately 12,222 pages of material in response to your request. We continue to work steadily to provide you and your staff with regular installments of documents.

NOAA's short term weather forecasts of conditions out to about two weeks have been critical to saving lives and property in the days leading up to and during the extreme events we have witnessed this spring and summer. NOAA's long range weather and seasonal forecasts, for decades known as "climate forecasts," have been critical to making the advance planning decisions, from weeks to months ahead of time, that allow for a rapid response to the onset of these weather events. We believe that the reorganization proposed in the President's FY2012 budget to Congress would enable NOAA to improve our climate service products and the delivery of these products to those who need them most—American families, communities, and businesses. However, we understand that Congressional approval is needed for the proposed reorganization to occur.

As we have previously noted, at times some NOAA staff engaged in climate services activities referred to themselves or their existing teams in shorthand, using terms such as "NCS" or "Climate Service"; however, NOAA has not changed its organizational structure to establish or implement a Climate Service Line Office.



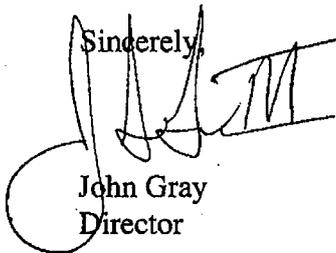
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"Climate Service"; however, NOAA has not changed its organizational structure to establish or implement a Climate Service Line Office.

Included in this production are deliberative and pre-decisional documents, which we are producing as a discretionary matter. Therefore, we respectfully request that you notify us prior to any release of the enclosed materials. If you have further questions, please contact me at (202) 482-2981.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Gray", is written over the typed name. The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke.

John Gray
Director

Enclosures



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

The Honorable Ralph M. Hall
Chairman
Committee on Science, Space and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

JUN 13 2011

Dear Chairman Hall:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) continues to place responding to your questions about NOAA's proposal to establish a Climate Service Line Office as a high priority for NOAA. Following receipt of your March 15, 2011, letter, NOAA began work to assemble a set of documents that represented a good faith effort to respond to your request to better understand NOAA's current organizational structure for climate related activities. Guided further by the May 2, 2011, phone call between you and the NOAA Administrator, NOAA produced and submitted a substantial set of material to the Committee on May 6, 2011 (see attached letter).

As a follow up to NOAA's May 6, 2011, submission, NOAA staff had the opportunity to meet with staff from your Committee on May 26, 2011, to further discuss your interests. Your staff noted that the focus of the Committee's inquiry is the March 5, 2010, memo from the NOAA Administrator, which was included in the set of documents NOAA submitted on May 6, 2011. With that focus in mind we are providing you the enclosed additional material, as the second submission in the rolling production of documents NOAA and Committee staff agreed to in their meeting. This second submission includes an initial set of: 1) emails and documents, produced from climate service related searches of the NOAA senior leadership referenced in the March 5, 2010, NOAA memo, and 2) emails and documents related to the congressionally mandated study by the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) regarding organizational options for a Climate Service in NOAA.

The enclosed documents reflect that NOAA's climate services activities fall into two major categories: 1) developing the proposal for a Climate Service Line Office to be included in NOAA's fiscal year 2012 budget request submitted to Congress for approval; and 2) improving coordination and integration of climate science and services under the existing business operations practices outlined in NOAA's Business Operation Manual¹, including matrix management, in order to continue to provide information, products and services to the Nation and achieve the climate goal and objectives outlined in NOAA's Next Generation Strategic Plan². You will see that, at times, some NOAA individuals who were engaged in these activities referred to themselves or their existing budget planning teams in shorthand, using terms such as "NCS" or "Climate Service." However, we want to reiterate that NOAA has not established or implemented a Climate Service Line Office.

¹ See *NOAA Business Operations Manual Version 6.2*, February 2011.
http://www.ppi.noaa.gov/PPI_Capabilities/Documents/BOM.pdf

² See *NOAA's Next-Generation Strategic Plan*, December 2010. <http://www.ppi.noaa.gov/ngsp.html>



As Dr. Lubchenco described in her May 6, 2011, letter to you, people around the country and the world use information about the climate to inform major decisions in such diverse areas as national defense, agriculture, and energy production. In recent decades, with advancements in our understanding of the climate, people are using information at finer geographic and time scales to make smarter choices at home and in their communities and businesses. This comes at a time when up to one-third of the U.S. gross domestic product is dependent on weather and climate.

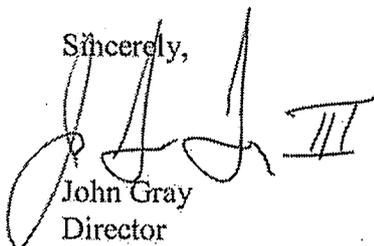
NOAA's climate information – including long-range forecasts of conditions from 2 weeks to seasons or decades out – continues to be at the forefront of this improved decision making. Our climate capabilities have significantly matured and grown in sophistication as a result of the work of the Agency's world-class scientists, managers, and external partners. Recognizing the need to respond to this rising demand, NOAA's proposed reorganization represents the culmination of many years of thought and planning by internal and external scientists and decision makers.

The budget neutral proposal comes at no additional cost to the taxpayer, and it will allow NOAA to more effectively implement the many important climate and research authorities Congress has provided, and to operate more efficiently with the funds we receive. Our proposal also maintains the highest standards of scientific integrity for all NOAA science and strategically renews the Office of Atmospheric Research's (OAR) forward-looking research agenda. In proposing to house much of OAR's climate research in the proposed Climate Service Line Office, a structure strongly endorsed by NAPA, NOAA will both be able to better transition its high quality climate science into usable services and seize upon the opportunity to refocus OAR's efforts to incubate solutions to tomorrow's long-term science challenges, integrate an agency-wide science portfolio, and drive NOAA science and technology innovation.

We are continuing to work to determine the scope of responsive documents from among the large volume of potentially responsive documents associated with all individuals listed on the March 5, 2010, memo, as requested by your staff. We are committed to providing the Committee with the rolling production of documents as agreed upon in the May 26, 2011, meeting between NOAA and Committee staff.

Included in this production are deliberative and pre-decisional documents, which we are producing as a discretionary matter. Therefore, we respectfully request that you notify us prior to further release of the enclosed materials. If you have further questions, please contact me at (202) 482-2981.

Sincerely,



John Gray
Director

Enclosures



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere
Washington, D.C. 20230

MAY -6 2011

The Honorable Ralph M. Hall
Chairman
Committee on Science, Space and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter dated March 15, 2011, regarding your interest in understanding the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) current organizational structure for climate activities. I appreciate our recent discussions on NOAA's climate capabilities and proposal for a Climate Service Line Office during our December 2010 meeting and my fiscal year (FY) 2012 budget testimony before your committee.

While I realize that many people think of the very long term – centuries or more – when they hear the word 'climate,' the term refers to any time in the future beyond two weeks. NOAA's weather forecasts cover the short-term (less than two weeks); and our climate information covers anything beyond two weeks. NOAA has been providing information about both weather and climate for more than a century.

Hence, 'climate services' are not new. People around the country and the world use information about the climate to inform major decisions in such diverse areas as national defense, agriculture, and energy production. In recent decades, with advancements in our understanding of the climate, people are using information at finer geographic and time scales to make smarter choices at home and in their communities and businesses. This comes at a time when up to one-third of the U.S. gross domestic product is dependent on weather and climate.

NOAA's climate information – including long-range forecasts of conditions from two weeks to seasons or decades out – continues to be at the forefront of this improved decision making. Our climate capabilities have significantly matured and grown in sophistication as a result of the work of the agency's world-class scientists, managers, and external partners. For example, NOAA's climate forecasts, from seasonal precipitation and drought outlooks to weekly on-the-ground U.S. Drought Monitor assessments, are helping firefighters in Texas to prepare for and respond to a record wildfire season. NOAA's information is also being used by the U.S. home building industry, which estimates savings of over \$300 million per year in construction costs alone from using just one of NOAA's climate services.



Americans who have come to depend on this long-range information are now demanding more data and increasingly complex products that, in turn, require advanced scientific study. In order to better organize NOAA to respond to these needs, experts have proposed creating a formal "climate service" within the agency. This concept first surfaced in the early 1970s and later gained prominence in the George W. Bush Administration. NOAA and external groups have been engaged in efforts ever since to further develop this idea and improve climate science and services.

Before advancing this proposal, NOAA staff worked for nearly a decade, and continue to work, in a cross-Line Office "goal team" to better coordinate the climate capabilities distributed across the agency's five Line Offices and achieve the long-term climate science and service goals of NOAA's strategic plan. At the same time, NOAA's expert scientists and managers from across the agency, as well as external experts, analyzed our current organizational structure and evaluated options for further improvement. Chief among these external advisers was a National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) expert panel that, at Congress' request, completed a study of options for a Climate Service in NOAA. The unanimous conclusion of internal and external scientists and decision makers was that establishing a single management structure for the agency's core climate capabilities is required if the agency is to rise to meet the Nation's growing need for increasingly sophisticated information.

I believe strongly that our proposed reorganization, reflecting this management structure and submitted as part of NOAA's FY 2012 budget request to Congress, is the right solution. It is budget neutral and comes at no additional cost to the taxpayer. In fact, by consolidating NOAA's climate activities in one Line Office we will be able to operate more efficiently with the funds we receive, provide the public with a single point of access to NOAA's climate data and tools, and better support the growth of the emerging private sector climate services industry. Together, this will allow NOAA to more effectively respond to the Nation's increasing demands for climate information.

Our proposal also maintains the highest standards of scientific integrity for all NOAA science and strategically renews the Office of Atmospheric Research's (OAR) forward-looking research agenda. In proposing to house much of OAR's climate research in the proposed Climate Service Line Office, a structure strongly endorsed by NAPA, NOAA will both be able to better transition its high quality climate science into usable services and seize upon the opportunity to refocus OAR's efforts to incubate solutions to tomorrow's long-term science challenges, integrate an agency-wide science portfolio, and drive NOAA science and technology innovation. Of critical importance is the fact that none of NOAA's climate or other research capabilities are diminished by this proposed reorganization, and we do not anticipate any marked change to the balance of internal vs. extramural funding, pending appropriations.

Enclosed you will find a set of documents compiled by my staff to assist your understanding of: 1) NOAA's current organizational structure for climate-related activities, and 2) the planning we have undertaken to develop our reorganization proposal. NOAA has not made changes to its organizational structure to establish or implement a Climate Service Line Office in the absence of Congressional approval.

I appreciate your ongoing interest and support of NOAA, and would be happy to meet with you at your convenience to further discuss these issues. If you have any questions or would like to meet, please contact John Gray, Director of NOAA's Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 482-4981.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jane Lubchenco".

Jane Lubchenco, PhD.
Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere

Enclosures