

comparisons between competing services. In the fall of 2015, the California Division of Measurement Standards submitted a proposal through multiple regional weights and measures associations to establish a separate NIST Handbook 44 code to address "Transportation Network Services." The S&T Committee will examine these proposals and the result of recent discussions from a November 2015 USNWG meeting to assess how to best address these systems.

L&R Committee

The following items are proposals to amend NIST Handbook 130 or NIST Handbook 133:

NIST Handbook 130—Section on Uniform Regulation for the Method of Sale of Commodities:

Item 232–7 Section 2.23. Animal Bedding

The L&R Committee will consider a proposal to recommend adoption of a uniform method of sale for animal bedding that will enhance the ability of consumers to make value comparisons and will ensure fair competition. Animal Bedding is generally defined as any material, except for baled straw, that is kept, offered or exposed for sale or sold to retail consumers for primary use as a medium for any pet or companion or livestock animal to nest or eliminate waste. If adopted, the proposal will require packers to advertise and sell packages of animal bedding on the basis of the expanded volume of the bedding. Most packages of animal bedding are compressed during packaging and the expanded volume is the amount of product that consumers will recover through unwrapping and decompressing the bedding according to the instructions provided by the packer. See also Item 260–5, Section 3.15. Test Procedure for Verifying the Usable Volume Declaration on Packages of Animal Bedding.

NIST Handbook 133—Chapter 3

Items 260–3 and 260–4 Section 3.14. Firewood—(Volumetric Test Procedures for Packaged Firewood with a Labeled Volume of 113 L [4 ft³] or Less)

The current test procedure in NIST Handbook 133, Section 3.14., Firewood—(Volumetric Test Procedure for Packaged Firewood with a Labeled Volume of 113 L [4 ft³] or Less) has provided different test results when applied in various state inspections. If adopted, this proposal would clarify the test procedure and improve the accuracy of length determinations when

determining the volume of wood in bags, bundles and boxes. Improving the test procedures will help ensure that consumers can make value comparisons and reduce unfair competition. Also Item 232–4, NIST Handbook 130, Method of Sale of Sale of Commodities Regulation, Section 2.4. Fireplace and Stove Wood, is being considered for revision to recognize traditional industry labeling practice and eliminate language that appears to conflict with the requirements of the Uniform Packaging and Labeling Regulation.

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 272(b).

Richard Cavanagh,

Acting Associate Director for Laboratory Programs.

[FR Doc. 2015–33128 Filed 1–4–16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Genome in a Bottle Consortium—Progress and Planning Workshop

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public workshop.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) announces the Genome in a Bottle Consortium—Progress and Planning Workshop to be held on Thursday, January 28, 2016, and Friday, January 29, 2016. The Genome in a Bottle Consortium is developing the reference materials, reference methods, and reference data needed to assess confidence in human whole genome variant calls. A principal motivation for this consortium is to enable performance assessment of sequencing and science-based regulatory oversight of clinical sequencing. The purpose of this workshop is to update participants about progress of the consortium work, continue to get broad input from individual stakeholders to update or refine the consortium work plan, continue to broadly solicit consortium membership from interested stakeholders, and invite members to participate in work plan implementation.

Topics of discussion at this workshop will include progress and planning of the Analysis Group, which is analyzing and integrating the large variety of sequencing data for four candidate NIST Reference Materials (RMs), with a particular focus on challenging types of variants and challenging regions of the genome. Other potential NIST RMs that

might be developed by the consortium will also be discussed.

DATES: The Genome in a Bottle Consortium workshop will be held on Thursday, January 28, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Pacific Time, and Friday, January 29, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Pacific Time. Attendees must register by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time on Thursday, January 21, 2016.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held on the second floor of the Li Ka Shing Conference Center, Stanford University, 291 Campus Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94305. Please note admittance instructions under the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information contact Justin Zook by email at jzook@nist.gov or by phone at (301) 975–4133 or Marc Salit by email at salit@nist.gov or by phone at (650) 350–2338. To register, go to: <http://web.stanford.edu/~saracl/GLAB2016.fb>

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Clinical application of ultra high throughput sequencing (UHTS) for hereditary genetic diseases and oncology is rapidly growing. At present, there are no widely accepted genomic standards or quantitative performance metrics for confidence in variant calling. These standards and quantitative performance metrics are needed to achieve the confidence in measurement results expected for sound, reproducible research and regulated applications in the clinic. On April 13, 2012, NIST convened the workshop "Genome in a Bottle" to initiate a consortium to develop the reference materials, reference methods, and reference data needed to assess confidence in human whole genome variant calls (www.genomeinabottle.org). On August 16–17, 2012, NIST hosted the first large public meeting of the Genome in a Bottle Consortium, with about 100 participants from government, academic institutions, and industry. This meeting was announced in the **Federal Register** (77 FR 43237) on July 24, 2012. A principal motivation for this consortium was to enable science-based regulatory oversight of clinical sequencing.

At the August 2012 meeting, the consortium established work plans for four technical working groups with the following responsibilities:

(1) Reference Material (RM) Selection and Design: Select appropriate sources for whole genome RMs and identify or design synthetic DNA constructs that could be spiked-in to samples for measurement assurance.

(2) Measurements for Reference Material Characterization: Design and carry out experiments to characterize

the RMs using multiple sequencing methods, other methods, and validation of selected variants using orthogonal technologies.

(3) Bioinformatics, Data Integration, and Data Representation: Develop methods to analyze and integrate the data for each RM, as well as select appropriate formats to represent the data.

(4) Performance Metrics and Figures of Merit: Develop useful performance metrics and figures of merit that can be obtained through measurement of the RMs.

The products of these technical working groups will be a set of well-characterized whole genome and synthetic DNA RMs along with the methods (documentary standards) and reference data necessary for use of the RMs. These products will be designed to help enable translation of whole genome sequencing to regulated clinical applications. The pilot, NIST “Human DNA for Whole-Genome Variant Assessment (Daughter of Utah/European Ancestry)” RM was released in May 2015 and is available at <http://tinyurl.com/giabpilot>. The consortium is currently analyzing and integrating data from two trios that are candidate NIST RMs. The consortium meets in workshops two times per year, in January at Stanford University in Palo Alto, CA, and in August at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, MD. At these workshops, including the last meetings at Stanford in January 2015 and at NIST in August 2015, participants in the consortium have discussed progress developing well-characterized genomes for NIST Reference Materials and planned future experiments and analysis of these genomes (see <https://federalregister.gov/a/2012-18064>, <https://federalregister.gov/a/2013-18934>, <https://federalregister.gov/a/2014-18841> and <https://federalregister.gov/a/2015-01158> for past workshops at NIST and Stanford). The January 2015 meeting was announced in the **Federal Register** (80 FR 3220) on January 22, 2015, and the meeting is summarized at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/19J6YDg1MH1iD-8Q8mmV9L7wHOfuyUC3aogtZ2Nh87U/edit?usp=sharing>. The August 2015 meeting was announced in the **Federal Register** (80 FR 45194) on July 29, 2015, and the meeting is summarized at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/19-KSn0ydF8rsWRbl6OqhIdbt2gGN10dOMRF6inKmrk4/edit?usp=sharing>.

There is no cost for participating in the consortium. No proprietary information will be shared as part of the

consortium, and all research results will be in the public domain.

All attendees are required to pre-register. Anyone wishing to attend this meeting must pre-register at <http://web.stanford.edu/~saracl/GIAB2016.fb> by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time on Thursday, January 21, 2016, in order to attend.

Richard Cavanagh,

Acting Associate Director of Laboratory Programs.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Quantitative Assessment of Spatially-Explicit Social Values Relative to Wind Energy Areas: Outer Continental Shelf Offshore North Carolina

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 7, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at JJessup@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Theresa L. Goedeke, 240–533–0383 or theresa.goedeke@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Land Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Coastal Zone Management Act, this request is for a new data collection to request the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), and policy-makers on the state

and local level in North Carolina. BOEM has identified three wind energy areas for potential development on the outer continental shelf of North Carolina. The National Ocean Service (NOS) proposes to collect data on the knowledge, beliefs, social values, and attitudes of North Carolina and South Carolina residents relative to marine and coastal landscapes, alternative energy production options, and offshore wind energy development. Respondents will be sampled from households in eight to ten coastal counties.

The required information will be used to objectively assess the level of support and/or opposition for offshore wind energy development in the region, as well as identify the relevant issues and concerns most salient to residents. The information will be used by BOEM, NOAA, and others to improve agency understanding about the beliefs, social values, attitudes, and concerns of people potentially affected by offshore wind energy development. Such information will be used to ascertain the possible sociocultural outcomes of offshore wind energy development in the region, such as an enhancement or reduction in enjoyment of the coastal landscape/seascape. Additionally, information collected will be used to improve communication efforts targeted to residents, enabling agencies to more effectively and efficiently direct outreach and community inclusion activities.

II. Method of Collection

The data collection will take place over a three to four month period and will be comprised of a questionnaire to be completed by the respondent. The data will be collected via a mail-back survey instrument.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648–XXXX.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission (request for a new information collection).

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 4,000.

Estimated Time per Response: 20 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,333.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0 in recordkeeping/reporting costs.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance