

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by selecting “Records Open for Public Comment” from the “Features” box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 29014 from the list of available applications. These documents are also available upon written request via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov.

Written comments on this application should be submitted via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. Please include File No. 29014 in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request via email to NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Skidmore or Shasta McClenahan, (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The applicant proposes to import parts from up to 10 individuals annually from the following species: Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin (*Sousa chinensis*), the Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops aduncus*), and the Short-beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*). These samples were collected by collaborators at the Universiti Malaya in Malaysia under other authorizations. Parts would be genetically sequenced to resolve a critical taxonomic uncertainty regarding coastal dolphin populations in the Straits of Malacca. The permit would be valid for 5 years from the date of issuance.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of the application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: April 9, 2026.

Shannon Bettridge,

Chief, Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–07094 Filed 4–10–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act Guidance

AGENCY: Council on Environmental Quality.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: On April 9, 2026, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) issued a memorandum to the heads of Federal departments and agencies (agencies) on establishing, revising, adopting, and applying categorical exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This guidance replaces initial guidance on the same subject issued on December 6, 2010.

DATES: This guidance was issued on April 9, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jomar Maldonado, Director for NEPA, 202–395–5750, Jomar.MaldonadoVazquez@ceq.eop.gov. The guidance is available for viewing online at www.nepa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

On April XX, 2026, CEQ issued a memorandum entitled *Establishing, Revising, Adopting, and Applying Categorical Exclusions Under the National Environmental Policy Act* to provide guidance to Federal agencies regarding categorical exclusions. This guidance replaces guidance issued on December 6, 2010, entitled *Establishing, Applying, and Revising Categorical Exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act*, which CEQ published at www.nepa.gov and reproduced in a **Federal Register** notice (75 FR 75628 (Dec. 6, 2010)). The 2010 Guidance is now rescinded.

Since CEQ issued the 2010 Guidance, Congress revised NEPA to (1) include, for the first time, a definition of “categorical exclusion,” and (2) establish a process by which an agency may adopt and use a categorical exclusion listed in another agency’s NEPA implementing procedures. 42 U.S.C. 4336e(1), 4336c. In addition, the 2010 Guidance was issued pursuant to and based on CEQ’s 1978 NEPA implementing regulations. CEQ has rescinded all iterations of its NEPA implementing regulations effective

April 11, 2025. *See* Removal of National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations, 90 FR 10610 (Feb. 25, 2025) (interim final rule); 91 FR 618 (Jan. 8, 2026) (final rule). Therefore, it is appropriate for CEQ to issue revised guidance at this time.

CEQ has long emphasized the importance of categorical exclusions as a core feature of NEPA practice to facilitate efficient and effective reviews in accordance with Congress’s intent. Congress also recognizes that categorical exclusions are a form of review that agencies use to comply with NEPA for proposed actions that normally do not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. By identifying categorical exclusions as a threshold consideration for whether an EA or EIS is required, Congress has expressly directed agencies to consider which categories of actions they perform “normally” do not have significant effects. For these reasons, agencies should establish categorical exclusions to cover such categories of actions, adopt other agencies’ categorical exclusions where appropriate, and in all instances consider whether a proposed action is excluded pursuant to a categorical exclusion before beginning to develop an EA or EIS for that proposed action. *See* 42 U.S.C. 4336e(1), 4336c, 4336(a)(2), (b)(2).

The contents of the guidance do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to create legal rights or obligations to any public party. The guidance does not establish new policy requirements. The guidance is intended only to provide clarity to the agencies regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies. CEQ developed this guidance to expedite and simplify the permitting process and promote consistency as to NEPA’s implementation consistent with 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(B) and Section 5 of Executive Order 14154, *Unleashing American Energy* (90 FR 8353, Jan. 20, 2025).

The guidance is available at www.nepa.gov.

Katherine R. Scarlett,
Chairman.

[FR Doc. 2026–07115 Filed 4–10–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3325–FC–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Science, Technology and Innovation Board; Notice of Federal Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice of Federal Advisory Committee meeting.

SUMMARY: The Department of War (DoW) is publishing this notice to announce that the following Federal Advisory Committee meeting of the Science, Technology, and Innovation Board (STIB) will take place.

DATES: Closed to the public Tuesday, July 14 through Thursday, July 16, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The address of the closed meeting is Strategic Analysis, Inc., 4075 Wilson Boulevard, Ste. 300, Arlington, VA 22203.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Elizabeth J. Kowalski, Designated Federal Officer (DFO): (703) 571-0082 (Voice), osd.pentagon.ousd-r-e.mbx.stib-office@mail.mil (Email). Mailing address is Science, Technology, and Innovation Board, 4800 Mark Center Dr., Suite 15D08, Alexandria, VA 22311. Website: <https://stib.cto.mil/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This meeting is being held under the provisions of chapter 10 of title 5 United States Code (U.S.C.) (commonly known as the “Federal Advisory Committee Act” or “FACA”); 5 U.S.C. 552b (commonly known as the “Government in the Sunshine Act”); and parts 102-3.140 and 102-3.150 of title 41 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

Purpose of the Meeting: The STIB’s mission is to provide independent advice and recommendations on matters supporting DoW’s scientific, technological, and innovative enterprises. The objective of the meeting is to obtain, review, and evaluate classified information related to the STIB’s mission. The STIB will meet with DoW leadership to discuss classified, current and future national security challenges and priorities within DoW and deliberate and vote on findings and recommendations.

Agenda: The meeting will begin on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. Ms. Elizabeth Kowalski, DFO and Dr. Mitch Nikolich, Chair of the STIB, will provide opening remarks and a classified overview of the objectives of the Fiscal Year (FY) 25 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) section 245, Designation of Certain Facilities on Kwajalein Atoll as a Major Range and Test Facility Base. Next, the STIB members will meet to assess the feasibility and advisability of designating the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile War Test Site and United States Army Garrison Kwajalein Atoll as facilities and resources comprising the Major Range and Test Facility Base, including with respect to the

availability and mission capability of such test site and garrison, with working lunch and periodic breaks. The meeting will adjourn at 6:00 p.m. and will continue Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. The STIB members will meet to assess the feasibility and advisability of designating the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile War Test Site and United States Army Garrison Kwajalein Atoll as facilities and resources comprising the Major Range and Test Facility Base, including with respect to the availability and mission capability of such test site and garrison, with working lunch and periodic breaks. The meeting will adjourn at 6:00 p.m. and will continue Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. The STIB members will meet to assess the feasibility and advisability of designating the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile War Test Site and United States Army Garrison Kwajalein Atoll as facilities and resources comprising the Major Range and Test Facility Base, including with respect to the availability and mission capability of such test site and garrison, with working lunch and periodic breaks. Lastly, the members will deliberate and vote on the finalized product regarding the classified overview of the objectives of the FY 25 NDAA section 245, Designation of Certain Facilities on Kwajalein Atoll as a Major Range and Test Facility Base. The meeting will adjourn at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Accessibility: In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 1009(d) and 41 CFR 102-3.155, DoW has determined that these STIB meetings will be closed to the public. Specifically, the Under Secretary of War for Research and Engineering, in consultation with DoW Office of General Counsel, has determined in writing that the meeting will be closed to the public because discussions fall under the purview of 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1). The determination is based on the consideration that discussions throughout will involve classified matters of national security concern. Such classified material is so intertwined with the unclassified material that it cannot reasonably be segregated into separate discussions without defeating the effectiveness and meaning of the overall meetings. To permit the meeting to be open to the public would preclude discussion of such matters and would greatly diminish the ultimate utility of the STIB’s findings and recommendations to the Secretary of War and to the Under Secretary of War for Research and Engineering.

Written Statements: In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 1009(a) (3) and 41 CFR 102-3.140(c) and 102-3.150(6)

interested persons may submit a written statement for consideration by the STIB at any time, subject to such reasonable rules or regulations as the Administrator may prescribe. Individuals submitting a written statement must submit their statement to the STIB DFO at the email address provided in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. If a written statement for consideration at a meeting is not received at least three-calendar days prior to the meeting, which is the subject of this notice, then it may not be provided to, or considered by, the STIB until a later date. Please note that all submitted comments and statements will be treated as public documents and will be made available for public inspection.

Dated: April 9, 2026.

Stephanie J. Bost,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 2026-07118 Filed 4-10-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6001-FR-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Science, Technology and Innovation Board: Notice of Federal Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice of Federal Advisory committee meeting.

SUMMARY: The Department of War (DoW) is publishing this notice to announce that the following Federal Advisory Committee meeting of the Science, Technology, and Innovation Board (STIB) will take place.

DATES: Closed to the public; Tuesday, June 23 through Thursday, June 25, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The address of the closed meeting is Strategic Analysis, Inc., 4075 Wilson Boulevard, Ste. 300, Arlington, VA 22203.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Elizabeth J. Kowalski, Designated Federal Officer (DFO): (703) 571-0082 (Voice), osd.pentagon.ousd-r-e.mbx.stib-office@mail.mil (Email). Mailing address is Science, Technology, and Innovation Board, 4800 Mark Center Dr, Suite 15D08, Alexandria, VA 22311. Website: <https://stib.cto.mil/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This meeting is being held under the provisions of chapter 10 of title 5 United States Code (U.S.C.) (commonly known as the “Federal Advisory Committee Act” or “FACA”); title 5, U.S.C. 552b (commonly known as the “Government