



March 22, 2010

Mr. William F. Broglie
Chief Administrative Officer
United States Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1305 East West Highway, Room 8431
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Broglie:

As a follow-up to your request of February 1, 2010 and the submission of "Analysis of a Practicable Alternative to the Port of Newport (Newport, OR) for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Operations Center – Pacific Lease Award" document on March 2, 2010, be advised that my staff has reviewed your submission and we concur that you are following GSA generally accepted standards in conducting the analysis required for determination of practicable alternatives.

The General Services Administration Floodplain Management Desk Guide sets forth eight steps for floodplain compliance, as follows:

1. Determine whether the action will occur in, or stimulate development in, a floodplain.
2. Identify and evaluate practicable alternatives to locating in or affecting the floodplain.
3. Public review/input of the proposed action.
4. Identify the impacts of the proposed action if it were to occur in a floodplain.
5. Minimize threats to life, property and to natural and beneficial floodplain values, and restore and preserve natural and beneficial floodplain values.
6. Reevaluate alternatives in light of any new information that may have become available.
7. Decision record is signed and then issue findings and a public explanation.
8. Implement the action.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's submission conforms to the process established by the GSA Flood Plain Desk Guide and adequately documents the issues and rationale used as the basis for the conclusions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samuel J. Morris III", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Samuel J. Morris III
Assistant Commissioner
Office of Real Estate Acquisition