DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO

5090
Ser N456/1U595362

MAY 11 2001

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: UPDATE TO OPNAVINST 5090.1B, ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) PROCESS

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5090.1B Change 2 dtd 9 Sep 99

1. OPNAV Instruction 5090.1B (reference (a)) requires that at the commencement of an Environmental Assessment (EA) preparation, the action proponent will notify CNO (N45) and the Regional Environmental Coordinator (REC) via a brief letter that describes the proposed action. Because certain EAs have shown the potential to generate intense public interest, we are updating the notification requirement to include additional information on the proposed action.

2. The following text replaces the entire first paragraph of OPNAV Instruction 5090.1B Section 2-5.3.5.

> "**2-5.3.5 EA Process.** At the commencement of EA preparation, the action proponent will notify CNO (N45) and the REC via a brief letter that includes: a description of the proposed action; a brief description of alternatives; identification of important environmental issues; and identification of public interest issues.
>
> CNO (N45) and the REC must receive this notification before the action proponent undertakes any public or regulatory agency involvement. This letter will afford CNO (N45) and the REC the opportunity to inform the action proponent of any policy issues or regional concerns that will need to be addressed in preparing the EA. CNO (N45) will notify ASN(I&E) when any EAs are proposed that potentially involve any of the criteria set out in subparagraph §2-5.3.5(d) or that involve potentially sensitive public interest issues."

3. This revised notification requirement is effective immediately, and will be incorporated into Change 3 of OPNAV Instruction 5090.1B.

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4. Please contact Agnes Peters at 703-604-5421 if you have further questions.

L. C. BAUCOM
By direction

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