UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
PROGRAM PLANNING AND INTEGRATION
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

SEP 2 9 2011

To all interested government agencies and public groups:

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an environmental review has been performed on the following action.

TITLE:	Lowering the Minimum Scan Angle of the National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Service Radar, 1988 Doppler (WSR-88D) to Serve Coastal Washington
LOCATION:	Grays Harbor County, Washington
SUMMARY:	The lowest scan angle currently used by radars in the Nationwide WSR-88D network is +0.5 degree (deg) above horizontal. NWS proposes to operate the WSR-88D serving Coastal Washington State at scan angles between 0.0 deg (i.e. horizontal) and + 0.5 deg. This action would increase the range of radar coverage over the Pacific Ocean and lower the height of the coverage floor over the ocean, which will benefit weather forecasters and other users of the radar data.
RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:	Richard Vogt, Director NWS Radar Operations Center 1200 Westheimer Drive Norman, OK 73069 (405) 573-8803

The environmental review process led us to conclude that this action will not have a significant impact on the environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement was not prepared. A copy of the finding of no significant impact (FONSI) including the supporting environmental assessment (EA) is enclosed for your information.

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Although NOAA is not soliciting comments on this completed EA/FONSI we will consider any comments submitted that would assist us in preparing future NEPA documents. Please submit any written comments to the Responsible Official named above.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Doremus, Ph.D.
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure