U.S. Department of Commerce

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Privacy Threshold Analysis for the
NOAA8884
NWS Southern Region

U.S. Department of Commerce Privacy Threshold Analysis

NOAA/NWS/Southern Region

Unique Project Identifier: NOAA8884

Introduction: This Privacy Threshold Analysis (PTA) is a questionnaire to assist with determining if a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) is necessary for this IT system. This PTA is primarily based from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) privacy guidance and the Department of Commerce (DOC) IT security/privacy policy. If questions arise or further guidance is needed in order to complete this PTA, please contact your Bureau Chief Privacy Officer (BCPO).

Description of the information system and its purpose: *Provide a general description (in a way that a non-technical person can understand) of the information system that addresses the following elements:*

The E-Government Act of 2002 defines "information system" by reference to the definition section of Title 44 of the United States Code. The following is a summary of the definition: "Information system" means a discrete set of information resources organized for the collection, processing, maintenance, use, sharing, dissemination, or disposition of information. See: 44. U.S.C. § 3502(8).

a) Whether it is a general support system, major application, or other type of system

NOAA8884 is a general support system.
The National Weather Service (NWS) Southern Region provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas, for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. NWS data and products form a national information database and infrastructure, which can be used by our partners, the public, and the global community. Issuance of products including forecasts and warning is dependent on a complex interaction of many information resources and systems. This system is designed and used to support the collection, processing, and dissemination of data that supports the mission of the organization. It also supports the administrative functions and the scientific & technical research and innovations activities of employees within the organization.

Although there are a variety of hardware and operating systems, all the activities are interconnected. The system provides direct or indirect mission support for the NWS as a Government agency. Mission Support infrastructure encompasses Wide Area Networks (WAN), Local Area Networks (LAN), host computer systems; client-server and web- based server systems. The system supports a variety of users, functions, and applications; including word processing, financial data, spreadsheets, presentation graphics, database development and management, electronic mail, image processing, electronic commerce, project management, training, research and development and collaboration.

b) System location

The System is located in Fort Worth TX, but the WAN extends across 11 states which support 32 Weather Forecast Offices, 4 River Forecast Center's, 7 Center Weather Service Unit's, and 4 Port Marine Office's.

c) Whether it is a standalone system or interconnects with other systems (identifying and describing any other systems to which it interconnects)

The SR GSS is a system with interconnections only to trusted NWS-NOAA internal systems with no direct interconnections to the outside. Although there are a variety of hardware and operating systems, all the operational activities are interconnected. The system provides direct or indirect mission support for the NWS as a Government agency. Mission Support infrastructure encompasses Wide Area Networks (WAN), Local Area Networks (LAN), host computer systems, and client-server systems. The system supports a variety of users, functions, and applications, including word processing, employee data, financial data, spreadsheets, presentation graphics, database development and management, electronic mail, image processing, electronic commerce, project management, training, research and development, and collaboration.
The following systems interconnect internally with NOAA8884:

NOAA0201 - Web Operation Center (H)
NOAA0900 – Consolidated Cloud Application
NOAA1101 - Information Technology Center (M)
NOAA8106 - Upper Air Observing System (UAOS)
NOAA8107 - Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System
NOAA8850 - NWS Enterprise Mission Enabling System

d) The purpose that the system is designed to serve

The system is designed to serve weather forecasts, products and raw data to the public. It also serves to accommodate the work of the Administration staff to support the financial and logistical functions of the Southern Region facilities and personnel.

e) The way the system operates to achieve the purpose

The National Weather Service (NWS) Southern Region provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas, for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. NWS data and products form a national information database and infrastructure, which can be used by our partners, the public, and the global community. Issuance of products including forecasts and warning is dependent on a complex interaction of many information resources and systems. The NOAA8884 General Support System (GSS) is designed and used to support the collection, processing, and dissemination of data that supports the mission of the organization. It also supports the administrative functions alongside the scientific and technical research and innovation activities of employees within the organization.

f) A general description of the type of information collected, maintained, use, or disseminated by the system

As a course of operations, contact information is collected on local Federal employees to support emergency contact rosters. In addition, various amounts of work related information as well as basic personal information is collected on employees to support day-to-day administrative efforts such as travel documents, performance plans, in- and out-processing of new and current employees, system user accounts, procurement records, etc., and are stored by the employees themselves and as well as various support staff such as supervisors or administrative assistants, in addition to automatic collection by IT staff and system logs as part of day-to-day operation and maintenance such as usernames, addresses, system and network activity logging, etc.

A. **Volunteer Weather Observers: who** provide daily weather observations. Observer information is stored on electronic media located within each of the 32 Weather Forecast Office data centers within the NOAA8884 accreditation boundary.
B. **MARS Employee Information:** includes, but not limited to: name of the employee, the email address of the employee, CBS employee number, job title, employee grade, step, series, org code, project-task, employee salary, employee benefits, FLSA code, and BUS code. This information is accessed via NOAA1101 but does not reside on NOAA8884.

g) Identify individuals who have access to information on the system

Federal civil servants and private contractors under contract with the NWS working on behalf of the Southern Region access parts of the system in support of its mission have access to the system. Select PII is shared with the Department of Commerce Security Office and various National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration administrative offices such as Human Resources or Finance as applicable.

h) How information in the system is retrieved by the user

MARS Data:

Authorized users log into MARS via interconnection with NOAA1101. This data does not reside within 8884.

Volunteer Observer Data:
Access to the data is done manually and resides within each of the 32 Weather Forecast Offices on workstation hard drives or centralized network attached storage devices.

i) How information is transmitted to and from the system.

All data is transmitted and received via NWSOneNet cloud. All internal NWS data is on the Internal cloud network and all Internet connectivity is supplied through the NOAA TIC sites.

MARS Data:
All access to the MARS reports is done via web browser, all data transmission is one way, from MARS to the SR Portal and then the users pull their set of data for restricted internal use.

Volunteer Observer Data:
There is no PII information transmitted to and from the system.

Questionnaire:

1. What is the status of this information system?

____ This is a new information system. *Continue to answer questions and complete certification.*

_X__ This is an existing information system with changes that create new privacy risks. *Complete chart below, continue to answer questions, and complete certification.*

Changes That Create New Privacy Risks (CTCNPR)					
a. Conversions		d. Significant Merging		g. New Interagency Uses	
b. Anonymous to Non-Anonymous		e. New Public Access		h. Internal Flow or Collection	X
c. Significant System Management Changes		f. Commercial Sources		i. Alteration in Character of Data	
j. Other changes that create new privacy risks (specify): Trusted Agent data is removed from the system.					

____ This is an existing information system in which changes do not create new privacy risks, and there is not a SAOP approved Privacy Impact Assessment. *Continue to answer questions and complete certification.*

____ This is an existing information system in which changes do not create new privacy risks, and there is a SAOP approved Privacy Impact Assessment (version 01-2015). *Continue to answer questions and complete certification.*

____ This is an existing information system in which changes do not create new privacy risks, and there is a SAOP approved Privacy Impact Assessment (version 01-2017 or later). *Skip questions and complete certification.*

2. Is the IT system or its information used to support any activity which may raise privacy concerns?

NIST Special Publication 800-53 Revision 4, Appendix J, states "Organizations may also engage in activities that do not involve the collection and use of PII, but may nevertheless raise privacy concerns and associated risk. The privacy controls are equally applicable to those activities and can be used to analyze the privacy risk and mitigate such risk when necessary." Examples include, but are not limited to, audio recordings, video surveillance, building entry readers, and electronic purchase transactions.

____ Yes. *(Check all that apply.)*

Activities			
Audio recordings		Building entry readers	
Video surveillance		Electronic purchase transactions	
Other (specify):			

_X__ No.

3. Does the IT system collect, maintain, or disseminate business identifiable information (BII)?

As per DOC Privacy Policy: "For the purpose of this policy, business identifiable information consists of (a) information that is defined in the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) as "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person [that is] privileged or confidential." (5 U.S.C.552(b)(4)). This information is exempt from automatic release under the (b)(4) FOIA exemption. "Commercial" is not confined to records that reveal basic commercial operations" but includes any records [or information] in which the submitter has a commercial interest" and can include information submitted by a nonprofit entity, or (b) commercial or other information that, although it may not be exempt from release under FOIA, is exempt from disclosure by law (e.g., 13 U.S.C.)."

____ Yes, the IT system collects, maintains, or disseminates BII.

_X__ No, this IT system does not collect any BII.

4. Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

4a. Does the IT system collect, maintain, or disseminate PII?

As per OMB 17-12: "The term PII refers to information that can be used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity either alone or when combined with other information that is linked or linkable to a specific individual."

X Yes, the IT system collects, maintains, or disseminates PII about: *(Check all that apply.)*

X DOC employees
____ National Institute of Standards and Technology Associates
X Contractors working on behalf of DOC
____ Other Federal Government personnel
X Members of the public

____ No, this IT system does not collect any PII.

If the answer is "yes" to question 4a, please respond to the following questions.

4b. Does the IT system collect, maintain, or disseminate Social Security numbers (SSNs), including truncated form?

____ Yes, the IT system collects, maintains, or disseminates SSNs, including truncated form.

Provide an explanation for the business need requiring the collection of SSNs, including truncated form.

Provide the legal authority which permits the collection of SSNs, including truncated form.

X No, the IT system does not collect, maintain, or disseminate SSNs, including truncated form.

4c. Does the IT system collect, maintain, or disseminate PII other than user ID?

X Yes, the IT system collects, maintains, or disseminates PII other than user ID.

____ No, the user ID is the only PII collected, maintained, or disseminated by the IT system.

4d. Will the purpose for which the PII is collected, stored, used, processed, disclosed, or disseminated (context of use) cause the assignment of a higher PII confidentiality impact level?

Examples of context of use include, but are not limited to, law enforcement investigations, administration of benefits, contagious disease treatments, etc.

____ Yes, the context of use will cause the assignment of a higher PII confidentiality impact level.

_X__ No, the context of use will not cause the assignment of a higher PII confidentiality impact level.

If any of the answers to questions 2, 3, 4b, 4c, and/or 4d are "Yes," a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) must be completed for the IT system. This PTA and the approved PIA must be a part of the IT system's Assessment and Authorization Package.

CERTIFICATION

___X___ I certify the criteria implied by one or more of the questions above **apply** to the NOAA8884 and as a consequence of this applicability, I will perform and document a PIA for this IT system.

______ I certify the criteria implied by the questions above **do not apply** to the NOAA8884 and as a consequence of this non-applicability, a PIA for this IT system is not necessary.

Name of System Owner (SO): John Duxbury

Signature of SO: DUXBURY.JOHN.C.1365877730 Digitally signed by DUXBURY.JOHN.C.1365877730 Date: 2020.10.15 13:39:06 -05'00' Date: ______

Name of Information Technology Security Officer (ITSO): Chris Ortiz

Signature of ITSO: ORTIZ.CHRISTOPHER.J.1154749175 Digitally signed by ORTIZ.CHRISTOPHER.J.1154749175 Date: 2020.10.15 19:56:42 -04'00' Date: ______

Name of Privacy Act Officer (PAO): Adrienne Thomas

Signature of PAO: THOMAS.ADRIENNE.M.1365859600 Digitally signed by THOMAS.ADRIENNE.M.1365859600 Date: 2020.10.19 13:04:57 -04'00' Date: ______

Name of Authorizing Official (AO): Steven Cooper

Signature of AO: COOPER.STEVEN.G.1365850930 Digitally signed by COOPER.STEVEN.G.1365850930 Date: 2020.10.15 15:00:03 -05'00' Date: ______

Name of Bureau Chief Privacy Officer (BCPO): Mark Graff

Signature of BCPO: GRAFF.MARK.HYRUM.1514447892 Digitally signed by GRAFF.MARK.HYRUM.1514447892 Date: 2020.11.04 08:32:01 -05'00' Date: ______