Public Notice Document for Skwentna Automated Weather Observing Platform

Notification is hereby given to the public of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service’s intent to execute a new lease in order to install an automated weather observing platform on the Skwentna Roadhouse property.

The ground space lease is for a location within a floodplain. Under the President’s Executive Order 11998, “Floodplain Management”, NOAA is required to review the project for possible alternative solutions to the proposed action. Alternatives considered included taking no action, and relocation. Based on NOAA’s practical alternative analysis, there is no practical alternative. This automated weather observing platform is considered critical to NOAA’s ability to provide weather observations for this area, vital for pilots transiting to interior and western Alaska, and a no action alternative was considered unacceptable. An alternate site within the Skwentna location would require the disturbance of undeveloped land that would include the removal of acres of trees.

The footprint for the automated weather observing platform is approximately 100 square feet (a 10 foot by 10 foot area) on the Skwentna Roadhouse property. The automated weather equipment will be mounted on a 20-foot tower. The new automated system will provide observations of cloud ceiling, temperature, humidity, winds, pressure and present weather 24x7.

Public comment is invited. Send comments to:

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Comments may also be emailed to: SECO@noaa.gov