ideas as alternatives. The ranking is used to provide guidance to the Trustees, but is not controlling, and can be modified through further review by the Council and the public. Project ideas that fail to meet criterion (a) may be excluded from further consideration though respondents may be provided other opportunities through later Council solicitations.

B. Selection Procedures and Project Funding

After project ideas have been evaluated and ranked, the review team will develop recommendations for preferred projects. Of particular interest will be those project ideas that address emergency restoration that can be done immediately. These recommendations will be submitted to the Council which will review the recommendations, accept or modify the recommendations, and determine the approximate number of project ideas it expects to undertake. The Council will determine the most appropriate means of implementing such ideas, such as through further procurement solicitations.

1. *Public review*: Once a determination is made on the preferred

project ideas, the number of project ideas to be funded, and whether emergency restoration projects exist, the Council will hold public hearings, publish a document in the Federal Register, and initiate a 30-day public comment period to receive public comment on the Council's recommendations. The Council will consider the public comments in making its final recommendations for funding.

- 2. Project solicitation: Upon the Council's final recommendations, and the completion of restoration planning and NEPA documents, the Council will solicit restoration projects for the preferred alternatives. The solicitation will be a formal request following the appropriate contract or grant procedures. The projects ultimately selected could be awarded to private entities, commercial firms, educational institutions or local, state or Federal agencies.
- 3. Emergency restoration: If projects are found that address emergency restoration, the Council may solicit restoration projects prior to the completion of restoration planning and

NEPA documents. The solicitation will be a formal request following the appropriate contract or grant procedures.

Classification

This notice contains a new collectionof-information requirement subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. This collection-of-information requirement has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control Number 0648-0302. No person is required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. The public reporting burden for this collection is 1 hour per response. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Jack Terrill (see ADDRESSES) and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Washington, DC 20503, Attention: NOAA Desk Officer.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq. and 9601 et seq.

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