

Washington Update 4-10-09

NOAA has released its proposal for the use of the \$830 million provided to the agency in the stimulus bill. Please see this web site for details:

http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20090407_recovery.html

It appears that no competitive funding is included in the plan. Of particular note:

Accelerate Satellite Observations (\$74 million): \$74 million to accelerate development of the National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS) and climate sensors for these satellites. Funding will allow critical development activities and mitigate both cost and schedule risk for this joint Department of Commerce/Department of Defense program. Funding will also be spent on developing instruments that monitor the sun's energy incident on the Earth and the Earth's radiation budget, both crucial measurements for monitoring factors that affect climate change.

NOAA Climate Computing and Modeling (\$170 million): \$170 million to accelerate and enhance NOAA's High Performance Computing capabilities to directly improve capabilities for weather and climate modeling and climate change research. NOAA will start two computing systems in separate locations that will improve the accuracy of seasonal climate and global climate change assessments. The two HPC sites will be selected by a competitive process and create jobs in manufacturing, construction, and software engineering.

NEXRAD Dual Polarization Radar (\$7.4 million): \$7.4 million to accelerate the Dual Polarization effort of the next generation (NEXRAD) Doppler weather radar system that will allow signals to be transmitted and received in two dimensions, resulting in a significant improvement in precipitation estimation; improved ability to discriminate rain, snow, and hail; and a general improvement in data quality. The new system will improve flash flood warnings, improve precipitation estimates and severe weather detection, including snow storms and icing conditions for air and ground transportation.