Section 515 Pre-dissemination Review and OMB Peer Review Bulletin Certification for an Information Product Categorized as an Interpreted Product

I. Name/Title of information product: Fifth United States National Climate Assessment, (the Report).

II. NOAA Line Office/Division disseminating information product: NESDIS

III. Contact person: David R. Easterling (David.Easterling@noaa.gov).

IV. Explain how the following standards for utility are met by the information product:

A. The content of the information is helpful, beneficial, or serviceable to its intended users, or that information supports the usefulness of other disseminated information by making it more accessible or easier to read, see, understand, obtain, or use. This Report synthesizes data and information that have not been previously assembled and interpreted. The Report provides a semi-technical tutorial to the climate analysis and decision-making communities on current best practices in describing and analyzing uncertainty in climate-related problems. The Report includes an extensive list of references that cover all aspects of the subject matter addressed in the text. The Report has been structured to be understandable to readers at different levels of technical sophistication. The services of a professional editor have been used to make the report more accessible and understandable.

B. The information product is disseminated in a manner that allows it to be accessible and understandable to a broad range of users. The Report will be accessible to the general public as a website that also has downloadable portable document format (pdf) files via the Internet (i.e., published on the web site of the U.S. Global Change Research Program, nca2023.globalchange.gov).

V. Explain how the following standards for integrity are met by the information product.

A. All electronic information disseminated by NOAA adheres to the standards set out in Appendix III, "Security of Automated Information Resources," OMB Circular A-130; the Computer Security Act; and the Government Information Security Reform Act.

   All information is disseminated via systems that are certified and accredited in accordance with FISMA and OMB A-130 standards.

B. Confidentiality of data (i.e., census, business, or financial data) collected by NOAA is safeguarded under legislation such as the Privacy Act and Titles 13, 15, and 22 of the U.S. Code.

   Not applicable - the Report does not contain census, business, or financial data collected by NOAA.

C. Additional protections (for fisheries statistics) are provided as appropriate by 50 CFR Part 600, Subpart E, Confidentiality of Statistics of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery

Conservation and Management Act, NOAA Administrative Order 216-100 - Protection of Confidential Fisheries Statistics.

The Report does not cite any NOAA fisheries statistics.

VI. Explain how the following standards for objectivity are met by the information product:

A. Data and information sources are properly referenced or identified upon request.

The Report includes reference lists of scientific publications at the end of each chapter and appendix to enable readers to locate referenced scientific articles.

B. The information product was produced using methods that are documented in accessible formats by the disseminating office or generally accepted by the relevant scientific and technical communities.

The methods used to produce the U.S. National Climate Assessment are discussed in detail in the Appendices of the Report, and were evaluated in the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) peer review. The Appendices of the Report provide further information on the models used and evaluated in the report.

C. The information product is presented in the proper context.

The propriety of the product's context was evaluated and confirmed through the NASEM peer review. The NASEM Review Committee found the Report to be responsive to the requirements set forth in the Prospectus.

D. Review of the information product- ranging from internal review by staff who were not involved in the development of the product to formal, independent, external peer review - was conducted at a level commensurate with the importance of the information product to ensure that the product is valid, complete, unbiased, objective, and relevant.

In accordance with the review plan presented in the Prospectus, the product has been reviewed by the NASEM, and underwent a formal 2 month public comment period that was publicized through a Federal Register Notice as well as review by the Agencies of the U.S. Global Change Research Program.

E. The methods by which the information product was created are included in the information product or are available upon request.

As stated in the response to VI B., the methods used to produce the National Climate Assessment are discussed in detail in the Appendices of the Report.

VII. Explain how the requirements of the OMB Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review were satisfied for this information product.

The requirements of the OMB bulletin for peer review were satisfied by the

commissioning of the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASAEM) to conduct a peer review of the draft information contained in this information product. See Bulletin for Peer Review, Section IV.

I certify that the NOAA standards for information quality and the OMB requirements for peer review have been met for this information product.

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Signature of Director, NOAA Technical Support Unit
Date

David R. Easterling, Ph.D. is the Chief of the Assessments Section and Director of the NOAA Technical Support Unit (TSU) for the Fifth National Climate Assessment at the NOAA/National Centers for Environmental Information. As Director of the TSU he oversees all major functions of the TSU including science, editorial and graphics, data and metadata documentation, and web development. As Director of the TSU he has been designated as the NOAA official in charge of conducting the Information Quality Act review of the Fifth National Climate Assessment.