management reforms to the field structure of the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. As a result of the reforms, the field structure will no longer be comprised of FHEO Fair Housing Enforcement Centers (FHECs) and FHEO Program Operations and Compliance Centers (POCCs). Instead, the field will be divided into 10 geographic areas served by FHEO HUBs, and each HUB area will be subdivided by Program Center(s) and smaller Local FHEO Site(s). The reorganized FHEO field components will perform all core functions at the lowest organizational levels, thereby empowering field managers to choose from a range of civil rights actions in order to be most responsive to local client needs.

Accordingly, the Assistant Secretary for FHEO revokes and redelegates authority, as follows:

Section A. Authority Revoked

The authority delegated from the Assistant Secretary for FHEO to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Investigations and to the FHEO Fair Housing Enforcement Center Directors, published at 59 FR 53553 (October 24, 1994), is revoked.

Section B. Authority Redelegated

All of the power and authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary for FHEO pursuant to the regulations at 24 CFR 103.400 and 103.405 of 24 CFR part 103 is retained by the Assistant Secretary for FHEO, and redelegated to the General Deputy Assistant Secretary and to each of the FHEO HUB Directors in the field. This redelegation includes, but is not limited to, carrying out the following responsibilities:

(1.) Making a determination that no reasonable cause exists to believe that a discriminatory housing practice has occurred or is about to occur, and issuing a short written statement of the facts upon which the decision is based. See, 24 CFR 103.400(a)(1).

(2.) With the concurrence of the General Counsel, determining that reasonable cause exists to believe that a discriminatory housing practice has occurred or is about to occur, except in matters involving the legality of local zoning or land use laws or ordinances. Matters involving local zoning or land use laws or ordinances shall be referred to the Attorney General, in lieu of the Assistant Secretary making a determination regarding reasonable cause. See, 24 CFR 103.400(a)(2).

(3.) Upon receipt of concurrence by the General Counsel, directing the issuance of charges under 24 CFR 103.405.

The authority redelegated under 24 CFR Part 8 includes, but is not limited to, the authority to act as the ''responsible civil rights official'' in requesting and receiving documents pursuant to 24 CFR 8.51(b); obtaining compliance reports from recipients pursuant to 24 CFR 8.55(b); being permitted access to sources of information by recipients pursuant to 24 CFR 8.55(c); performing periodic compliance reviews, including on-site reviews, pursuant to 24 CFR 8.56(a); and conducting investigations pursuant to 24 CFR 8.56(b).

Authority: Sec. 7(d), Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3535(d).

Dated: February 26, 1998.

Eva M. Plaza,

Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

[FR Doc. 98–6189 Filed 3–10–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210–28–M

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR–4345–D–02]

Revocation and Redelegation of Authority

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO), HUD.

ACTION: Notice of revocation and redelegation of authority.

SUMMARY: In this notice, the Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity redelegates to the General Deputy Assistant Secretary and to FHEO HUB Directors in the field the authority to act as the ''responsible Department official'' and/or the ''responsible civil rights official,'' for the geographic area for which the official is responsible, in making determinations of compliance and of non-compliance under the following statutes and regulations: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d–1, and its implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 8; and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794, and its implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 1; Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, 42 U.S.C. 5309, and its implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 8. In this document, the Assistant Secretary also revokes the redelegation of authority published at 61 FR 26199 on May 24, 1996, which pertains to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 26, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dianne Taylor, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Room 5100, Washington, DC 20410–2000; telephone (202) 708–4252, ext. 140, [This is not a toll-free number.] A telecommunications device for hearing impaired persons (TTY) is available at 1–800–877–8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This redelegation is prompted by management reforms to the field structure of the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. As a result of the reforms, the field structure will no longer be comprised of FHEO Fair Housing Enforcement Centers (FHECs) and FHEO Program Operations and Compliance Centers (POCCs). Instead, the field will be divided into 10 geographic areas served by FHEO HUBs, and each HUB area will be subdivided by Program Center(s) and smaller Local FHEO Site(s). The FHEO field components will perform all core functions at the lowest organizational levels, thereby empowering field managers to choose from a range of civil rights actions in order to be most responsive to local client needs.

Accordingly, the Assistant Secretary f0r FHEO revokes and redelegates authority, as follows:

Section A. Authority Revoked

The redelegation of authority published in the **Federal Register** at 61 FR 26199 (May 24, 1996), which pertained to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, is revoked.

Section B. Authority Redelegated

The Assistant Secretary for EHEO retains and redelegates, to the General Deputy Assistant Secretary and to each FHEO HUB Director in the field, all authority necessary to act as the ''responsible civil rights official'' and/or the ''responsible Department official,'' for the geographic area for which the official is responsible, in making determinations of compliance and of non-compliance under the following statutes and regulations: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d–1, and its implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 1; Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, 42 U.S.C. 5309, and its implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 8; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794, and its implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 8.

The authority redelegated under 24 CFR part 1 includes, but is not limited to the authority to act as the ''responsible Department official'' in

obtaining compliance reports from recipients under 24 CFR 1.6(b); being permitted access to sources of information by recipients pursuant to 24 CFR 1.6(c); conducting periodic compliance reviews pursuant to 24 CFR 1.7(a); and conducting investigations pursuant to 24 CFR 1.7(c).

Authority: Sec. 7(d), Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3535(d)).

Dated: February 26, 1998.

Eva M. Plaza,

Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

[FR Doc. 98–6190 Filed 3–10–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210–28–M

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR–4345–D–03]

Redelegation of Authority; Waiver of Directives

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, HUD.

ACTION: Notice of redelegation of authority.

SUMMARY: In this notice, the Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity redelegates to the General Deputy Assistant Secretary for FHEO and to FHEO HUB Directors in the field the authority to waive directives and handbook provisions pertaining to fair housing and equal opportunity in Department programs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 26, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dianne Taylor, Office of FHEO, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Room 5100, 451 7th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20410, telephone numbers (202) 708–4252, ext. 140. (This is not a toll-free number.) This number may be accessed via TTY by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at 1–800–877–8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this redelegation is to provide the General Deputy Assistant Secretary for FHEO and FHEO HUB Directors in the field the authority to waive directives, including handbook provisions, pertaining to fair housing and equal opportunity in Department programs, in the geographic area for which the official is responsible. This redelegation does not supersede the Department's Statement of Policy published on April 22, 1991, at 56 FR 16337, entitled ''Waiver of Regulations and Directive Issued by HUD.''

Department directives mandated by statute, executive order, or regulation, and those related to civil rights compliance and enforcement are not within this redelegation. The Secretary is the ultimate repository of the authority both to issue and to waive the regulations of the Department. Typically the authority to issue regulations is delegated to an Assistant Secretary or official of equivalent rank. Under Section 7(q) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act, 42 U.S.C. 3535(q), the Secretary may not delegate the authority to waive a regulation below the Assistant Secretary rank. This prohibition even includes individuals who have been delegated authority concurrent with the Assistant Secretary. Under circumstances prescribed in the policy statement, the General Counsel must concur on proposed waivers of regulations subject to Section 7(q) of the HUD Act.

Under HUD's policy statement on waiver of regulations and directives, Directive means a Handbook (including a change or supplement), notice, interim notice, special directive, and any other issuance that the Department may classify as a directive. Handbook means a directive that communicates information of a permanent nature (including clarification of policies, instructions, guidance, procedures, forms, and reports) for HUD staff or program participants. Its permanent nature distinguishes a Handbook from other temporary HUD directives such as notices.

Accordingly, the Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity redelegates as follows:

Section A. Authority Redelegated

The Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity retains and redelegates, to the General Deputy Assistant Secretary for FHEO and to each FHEO HUB Director in the field, the authority to waive Department directives, including handbook provisions, concerning fair housing and equal opportunity in Department programs, for the geographic area for which the official is responsible. Each waiver granted shall be in writing, specify the grounds for the waiver, and shall be transmitted in writing to the Assistant Secretary for FHEO.

Authority: Sec. 7(d) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (42 U.S.C. 3535(d)).

Dated: February 26, 1998.

Eva M. Plaza,

Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

[FR Doc. 98–6191 Filed 3–10–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210–18–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Receipt of Application for Endangered Species Permit

The following applicants have applied for permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*):

Applicant: Christopher Niles Kernan, Fairchild Research Center, Miami, Florida PRT–839840.

The applicant requests authorization to remove and reduce to possession seeds and tissue samples of the endangered tiny polygala, *Polygala smallii,* from Federal properties in Miami for the purpose of enhancement of survival of the species.

Applicant: Gregory T. Hagan, Tallahassee, Florida PRT–839491.

The applicant requests authorization to take (capture, band, translocate, and harass during surveys and installation of cavity restrictors) the red-cockaded woodpecker, *Picoides borealis,* throughout the species range in Georgia and Florida, for the purpose of enhancement of survival of the species.

Applicant: Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Region, Atlanta, Georgia PRT–697819.

The applicant requests renewal of existing authorization to take, or remove and reduce to possession, wildlife and plant species listed as threatened or endangered in 50 CFR Parts 17.11 and 17.12, from throughout these species' ranges in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Louisiana, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Activities authorized under this permit are for the purpose of enhancement of survival of the species.

Written data or comments on these applications should be submitted to: Regional Permit Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30345. All data and comments must be received by April 10, 1998.

Documents and other information submitted with this application are