

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Richard A. White, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 825 North Capitol Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-0491.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In addition to publishing the full text of this document in the **Federal Register**, the Commission also provides all interested persons an opportunity to inspect or copy the contents of this document during normal business hours in Room 3104, 941 North Capitol Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

The Commission Issuance Posting System (CIPS), an electronic bulletin board service, provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission. CIPS is available at no charge to the user and may be accessed using a personal computer with a modem by dialing (202) 208-1397. To access CIPS, set your communications software to 19200, 14400, 12000, 9600, 7200, 4800, 2400, 1200, or 300 bps, full duplex, no parity, 8 data bits, and 1 stop bit. The full text of this rule will be available on CIPS for 60 days from the date of issuance in ASCII and WordPerfect 5.1 formats. After 60 days, the rule will be archived, but still accessible. The complete text on diskette in Wordperfect format may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, La Dorn Systems Corporation, also located in Room 3104, 941 North Capitol Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

Take notice that on Tuesday, April 4, 1995 and, if necessary, Wednesday, April 5, 1995, an informal technical conference will be convened to begin designing modifications to the electronic filing requirements necessitated by proposed Rulemaking issued on December 16, 1994, in Docket Nos. RM95-3-000 and RM95-4-000,<sup>1</sup> the Commission directed its Staff to convene a technical conference to obtain the participation of the industry and others for this purpose.

The conference is a preliminary step in the process of modifying the Commission's electronic filing requirements to complement the proposed revisions to the regulations set forth in the December 16, 1994 notices.

Objectives to be achieved by modifying the electronic filing requirements include:

- To employ user-friendly form fill, word processing, or spreadsheet applications as much as possible.
- To minimize the burden of the reporting requirements for regulated entities.

- To eliminate unnecessary processing steps by the Commission and the companies.
- To facilitate access to the information by the public.
- To the greatest extent possible, electronic data should be capable of being linked to related data in other filings.
- To ensure that electronically submitted data contains the same information as the paper copy of the filing.
- To ensure that electronic data can be easily correlated with the data in the paper filing.
- To ensure that all spreadsheets contain the underlying formulae and links.

The specific objectives of this conference are:

- To provide a form within which Staff can gain a better understanding of how the industry stores and processes the data required in the Commission's forms and filings.
- To determine the most efficient electronic means for the preparation and submittal of data.
- To determine the most efficient electronic means for the dissemination of data to the public.
- To determine whether additional conferences are desirable; and, if so, the format, agenda, and dates.

In light of these objectives, Commission Staff anticipates considering the following topics at the conference:

- An appropriate filing format for each type of submittal.
- How companies store data (mainframe, PCs, paper only) that the Commission proposes to be filed electronically.
- How companies prepare Form 2, Form 11, discount rate reports, index of customers, and section 4 rate cases (using commercial software, proprietary software, spreadsheets, databases, wordprocessing software). Whether companies use different hardware and software for different parts of the submittal. What spreadsheet, database, and wordprocessing software is used predominantly.
- Those aspects of the Commission's current electronic filing requirements that should not be changed.
- The use of form fill software for submitting each filing.
- Whether the Commission's form fill software for submitting FERC Form No. 1 would be useful for submitting other filings. (The Commission's form fill software for submitting FERC Form No. 1 is available on the Commission Issuance Posting System (CIPS) under option "FERC Form No. 1 Forum." The bulletin board number is (202) 208-1397.)
- What information from electronic filings should be accessible to the public. In what form would such data be most useful (spreadsheet, database, wordprocessing, ASCII).
- Transmission of electronic data to the Commission through telecommunication.
- Any special concerns of state commissions, small businesses, customers, consumer groups, and nonindustry users of electronically filed data.

- Participants should also be prepared to discuss any other relevant matter.

Commission Staff is currently preparing an agenda for the conference. In order that the conference be as productive as possible, Staff invites comments on the goals, issues, and topics of discussion. Such comments should be addressed to Richard A. White, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 825 North Capitol Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, (202) 208-0491. Comments should be received by March 28, 1995. Commenters are encouraged to submit comments on a 3½ inch diskette in ASCII format.

The conference will begin at 9:00 a.m. on April 4, 1995, in a hearing or conference room of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 810 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. The conference room will be designated in a subsequent notice. All interested persons are invited to attend.

**Lois D. Cashell,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 95-6168 Filed 3-13-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Minerals Management Service

#### 30 CFR Part 254

#### Response Plans for Facilities Seaward of the Coast Line

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of extension of public comment period.

**SUMMARY:** This notice extends, by 62 days, the comment period for a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPR) that the Minerals Management Service published in the **Federal Register** on January 13, 1995. The NPR is concerned with requirements for spill-response plans for oil handling facilities located seaward of the coast line.

**DATES:** The comment period is extended to May 15, 1995. Comments should be received or postmarked by that date.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be mailed or hand delivered to the Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service, Mail Stop 4700; 381 Elden Street; Herndon, Virginia 22070-4817; Attention: Chief, Engineering and Standards Branch.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Mirabella or Lawrence Ake, Engineering and Standards Branch, telephone (703) 787-1600.

<sup>1</sup> Published in the **Federal Register** on January 13, 1995 at 60 FR 3111 and 3141, respectively.

Dated: March 7, 1995.

**Thomas Gernhofer,**

*Associate Director for Offshore Minerals  
Management.*

[FR Doc. 95-6184 Filed 3-13-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-M

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Coast Guard

#### 33 CFR Part 117

[CGD13-93-031]

#### Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Columbia River, OR and WA

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DOT.

**ACTION:** Supplemental notice of  
proposed rulemaking.

**SUMMARY:** This notice supplements a notice of proposed rulemaking concerning the drawbridge operation regulations for the twin Interstate 5 drawbridges across the Columbia River, mile 106.5, between Portland, Oregon, and Vancouver, Washington. Previous notices of proposed rulemaking which proposed the extension of the morning and afternoon time periods when the bridge need not open did not contain language needed to distinguish the proposed rule's applicability to commercial and noncommercial vessels. This supplemental notice adds the omitted language and clearly states the proposed rule's applicability by vessel type and river flow conditions.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before May 15, 1995.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be mailed to Commander (oan), Thirteenth Coast Guard District, 915 Second Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98174-1067. The comments and other materials referenced in this notice will be available for inspection and copying at 915 Second Avenue, Room 3410, Seattle, Washington. Normal office hours are between 7:45 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Comments may also be hand-delivered to this address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John E. Mikesell, Chief, Plans and Programs Section, Aids to Navigation and Waterways Management Branch, (Telephone: (206) 220-7272).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Request for Comments

The Coast Guard encourages interested persons to participate in this rulemaking by submitting written data, views, and arguments. Persons submitting comments should include

their names and addresses, identify this notice, specify the section of this notice to which each comment applies, and give the reason for each comment. Two copies of each comment should be provided in an unbound format. All comments should be on paper no larger than 8½ by 11 inches and should be suitable for copying and electronic filing. Persons wanting acknowledgment of receipt of comments should enclose stamped, self-addressed postcards or envelopes.

The proposed regulations may be changed in light of comment received. All comments received before the expiration of the comment period will be considered before final action is taken on this proposal.

The Coast Guard plans no public hearings. Persons may request a public hearing by writing to the above address. The request should include the reasons why a hearing would be beneficial. If the Coast Guard determines that the opportunity for oral presentation will aid this rulemaking, it will hold a public hearing at a time and place announced by a later notice in the **Federal Register**.

**Drafting Information:** The principal persons involved in drafting this document are John E. Mikesell, Chief, Plans and Programs Section, Aids to Navigation and Waterways Management Branch, Thirteenth Coast Guard District, Seattle, WA, and LCDR John Odell, project attorney, Thirteenth Coast Guard District Legal Office, Seattle, WA.

#### Background and Purpose

This notice proposes drawbridge operation regulations for the twin Interstate 5 drawbridges across the Columbia River, mile 106.5, between Portland, Oregon, and Vancouver, Washington. The proposed rule would extend the morning and afternoon time periods when the draws of the bridges need not open for the passage of vessels while delineating clear exceptions based on the river flow conditions and the type of vessel traffic involved.

#### Regulatory History

This notice is the second supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking published for this proposed rule. The original notice of proposed rulemaking, published in the **Federal Register** on November 26, 1993 (58 FR 62302), proposed an extension of the morning and afternoon time periods when the draws need not open for the passage of vessels without regard to vessel type or river flow condition. A supplemental notice, published in the **Federal Register** on October 4, 1994 (59 FR 50531), provided for relatively uninterrupted vehicular flow during peak traffic times while being less

restrictive to vessel traffic by adding provisions which would apply during periods of high river flow conditions. However, that first supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking omitted language distinguishing the rule's applicability to commercial and noncommercial vessels. This second supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking adds the language to clearly state the proposal's applicability to commercial and noncommercial vessel traffic.

#### Discussion of Proposed Regulation

The twin Interstate 5 vertical lift bridges across the Columbia River between Portland, Oregon, and Vancouver, Washington, are currently required to open on signal, except that from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays), the draws need not open. These closed periods are necessary to accommodate peak morning and afternoon vehicular commute traffic across the bridges. Both bridges also provide alternate mid-level fixed spans which provide greater vertical clearance than do the drawspans in the closed position. The alternate fixed spans are routinely used by tug and barge traffic except at higher water surface elevations. Because the number of vehicles crossing the interstate bridges has increased dramatically, particularly during commute times, any opening in close proximity to these commute times, before or after, results in unacceptable vehicular traffic delays. Therefore, Oregon State Department of Transportation (ORDOT) has requested an extension of the weekday closed periods.

Subsequent to publication of a previous supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking on October 4, 1994 (59 FR 50531), the Coast Guard recognized the need for clarification concerning the rule's applicability to commercial and noncommercial vessels. After reevaluation, the Coast Guard determined that the proposed rule's provisions for high water conditions (when the river gauge indicates 6.0 feet or more) were only required in order to meet the reasonable needs of commercial vessel traffic. The needs of noncommercial vessel traffic will be adequately met during high water conditions despite the extended closed periods.

Therefore, based on this reevaluation, this second notice of proposed rulemaking further amends the proposed rule, making the high water provisions applicable only to commercial vessels. During low water