

technical conference on issues relating to ISOs and power pools on January 24, 1996, beginning at 9:30 a.m. The speakers for the technical conference are:

Panel One

Hon. William Daniel Fessler, President, California Public Utilities Commission (invited)
 John Rowe, President and CEO, New England Electric System
 Paul Joskow, MITSUI Professor of Economics and Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 Steven J. Kean, Vice President, Enron Power Marketing, Inc.
 J. Leroy Thilly, General Manager & Counsel, Wisconsin Public Power, Inc.

Panel Two

E. Linn Draper, Jr., Chairman, President and CEO, American Electric Power Company
 William W. Hogan, Thorton Bradshaw Professor of Public Policy & Management, Harvard University
 Alan Richardson, Executive Director, American Public Power Association
 Jeanine Hull, Vice President and Assistant General Counsel, LG&E Power Inc.
 Steven Walton, P.E., Manager, Transmission Policy & Pricing, Pacificorp

The conference will be held at the Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

The purpose of the technical conference is threefold. First, the Commission expects the participants to help us define the essential elements and operational characteristics of an ISO.

Second, the Commission wishes to explore the development of principles that should be applied in reforming power pools, including evaluating ISO proposals by power pools, to ensure that they are not unduly discriminatory under the Federal Power Act. The Commission is particularly interested in exploring whether the creation of ISOs is necessary to ensure comparability of transmission service by power pools.

Third, the Commission is aware that public utilities that are not members of power pools also are considering the formation of ISOs. The Commission is interested in exploring the development of criteria for evaluating these types of ISO proposals as well. As is the case with power pools, the Commission is interested in whether ISOs are necessary to ensure comparability for public utilities that are not members of power pools.

Broadcast of Technical Conference

If there is sufficient interest, the Capitol Connection may broadcast the technical conference on January 24, 1996, to interested persons. Persons interested in receiving the broadcast for a fee should contact Shirley Al-Jarani or Julia Morelli at the Capitol Connection (703-993-3100) no later than January 10, 1996.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-340 Filed 1-9-96; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms

27 CFR Part 9

[Notice No. 818]

RIN 1512-AA07

Extension of the Paso Robles Viticultural Area

AGENCY: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: This document proposes the extension of the western border of the Paso Robles viticultural area in San Luis Obispo County, California. The Paso Robles viticultural area was originally approved in Treasury Decision ATF-148, 48 FR 45241, October 4, 1983 (27 CFR 9.84). The petition was initially submitted by Justin C. Baldwin and more recently re-submitted by July Ackerman, Executive Director, Paso Robles Vintners and Growers Association as spokesperson for the seven vineyards and one winery within the proposed new border.

ATF believes the establishment of American viticultural areas and their subsequent use as appellations of origin in wine labeling and advertising allows wineries to better designate the specific grape-growing area where their wines come from and allows consumers to better identify the wines they purchase.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 9, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments must be addressed to: Chief, Wine, Beer, and Spirits Regulations Branch, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, P.O. Box 50221, Washington, DC 20226 (Notice No. 818). Copies of the petition, the proposed regulations, the appropriate maps, and any written comments received will be available for

public inspection during normal business hours at: ATF Reading Room, Office of Public Affairs and Disclosure, Room 6480, 650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Lou Blake, Wine, Beer, and Spirits Regulations Branch, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, 650 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20226 (202-927-8210).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On August 23, 1978, ATF published Treasury Decision ATF-53 (43 FR 37672, 54624) revising regulations in 27 CFR Part 4. These regulations allow the establishment of definitive American viticultural areas. The regulations allow the name of an approved viticultural area to be used as an appellation of origin on wine labels and in wine advertisements. On October 2, 1979, ATF published Treasury Decision ATF-60 (44 FR 56692) which added a new Part 9 to 27 CFR, for the listing of approved American viticultural areas.

Section 4.25a(e)(1), Title 27 CFR, defines an American viticultural area as a delimited grape-growing region distinguishable by geographical features, the boundaries of which have been delineated in Subpart C of Part 9.

Section 4.25a(e)(2) outlines the procedure for proposing an American viticultural area. Any interested person may petition ATF to establish a grape-growing region as a viticultural area. The petition should include:

(a) Evidence that the name of the proposed viticultural area is locally and/or nationally known as referring to the area specified in the petition;

(b) Historical or current evidence that the boundaries of the viticultural area are as specified in the petition;

(c) Evidence relating to the geographical features (climate, soil, elevation, physical features, etc.) which distinguish the viticultural features of the proposed area from surrounding areas;

(d) A description of the specific boundaries of the viticultural area, based on the features which can be found on United States Geological Survey (U.S.G.S.) maps of the largest applicable scale; and

(e) A copy of the appropriate U.S.G.S. map with the boundaries prominently marked.

Petition

The original petition to extend the western border of the Paso Robles viticultural area was filed in July 1993,

by Justin C. Baldwin as spokesperson for his own vineyard and winery and for five other wineries in the area. All of the vineyards and the winery, which are located outside the western border of the current Paso Robles viticultural area, were established after the original Paso Robles viticultural area was approved. At the time Mr. Baldwin submitted his petition additional information was still needed to complete the petition. Until the additional information could be obtained, the original petition was returned to Mr. Baldwin.

July Ackerman, Executive Director of the Paso Robles Vintners and Growers Association, later resubmitted the petition in December 1994. Ms. Ackerman, in her official role as Executive Director, along with members of the Paso Robles Vintners and Growers Association, support the proposed extension. The petition also includes the names of 71 people in the grape and wine industries who support the proposed expansion area.

Ms. Ackerman states the proposed expansion area has always been considered a part of the Paso Robles Wine Country. In fact, the petition notes that the proposed expansion area was included in the original petition but was removed due to a petition involving a contiguous area. The proposed expansion area is between the boundaries set forth in these two petitions. In 1989 the Paso Robles Chamber of Commerce published "A History and Tour Guide of the Paso Robles Wine Country." Included in this publication was one of the vineyards and wineries located in the proposed expansion area. As noted, the proposed expansion area was also originally included in the petition for the current Paso Robles viticultural area. However, a concurrent petition was being considered for the York Mountain viticultural area and to prevent any intrusion into York Mountain the petitioner for Paso Robles amended the southwestern border. At the same time, the western boundary was amended to begin at the next most eastern range line. At the time of this amendment, no vineyards had been established in the area beyond the amended western boundary.

The area under petition will expand the western border of the current Paso Robles viticultural area while continuing to maintain a southwestern border adjacent to York Mountain's northern border. This expansion would add approximately 52,618 acres to the existing viticultural area. Since the final rule for the Paso Robles viticultural area was published in 1983, seven vineyards

have been planted in the proposed expansion area.

Historical and Current Evidence

The name of the area comes from the Spanish name "El Paso de Robles" (meaning "the Pass of the Oaks"), which was given to the area by travelers between the missions of San Miguel and San Luis Obispo. A land grant, in this name, was conveyed by Governor Micheltorena to Pedro Narvaez on May 12, 1844. This land grant included the present area of Paso Robles, Templeton, and Adelaida.

Historically, the Santa Lucia Mountain range has been known as the western border of the Paso Robles area. All seven of the vineyards planted since 1983 are located east of the Santa Lucia Mountain Range, just beyond the western border of the current Paso Robles Viticultural area and north of the York Mountain viticultural area.

In addition, the proposed expansion area contains the same telephone number prefixes and post office zip codes as the existing viticultural area. Further, the proposed expansion area utilizes the same government services (*i.e.* schools, fire departments, etc.) as the existing viticultural area.

Geographical Evidence

The petitioner provided geographical evidence derived from the "Soil Survey of San Luis Obispo County, California"—Paso Robles Area. This survey was a cooperative effort of the Soil Conservation Service and the University of California Agriculture Experiment Station. Petitioner's data also reflects information collected from airports, forestry stations, city and county historical records and individual agriculturalists.

The proposed expansion area is characterized by rolling hills, 750 feet to 1800 feet, similar to the current Paso Robles appellation and unlike the more mountainous area of York Mountain. Soils generally consist of Nacimiento Ayar, Nacimiento Los Osos Balcom Series and Linne-Calodo Series, three of the four soil types found in the current appellation.

Temperatures in the proposed expansion area are the same as the current appellation, ranging between 20–110 degrees Fahrenheit. Rainfall in the current appellation is between 10 and 25 inches per year. The proposed expansion area averages 25 inches per year maintaining a similarity with the current appellation and less than the 45 inches per year within the York Mountain Viticultural Area. Degree days of 2500–3500 are also the same for both

the current appellation and the proposed expansion area.

Proposed Boundaries

The proposed boundaries for the expansion of the Paso Robles viticultural area use range and township lines, the county line and other points of reference. These same features are used as boundaries for the existing Paso Robles viticultural area.

The points of reference for the boundaries of the current viticultural area and the proposed expansion area are found on United States Geological Survey (U.S.G.S.) map entitled "San Luis Obispo," scale 1:250,000 (1956, revised 1969).

Paperwork Reduction Act

The provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Pub. L. 96–511, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR Part 1320, do not apply to this notice of proposed rulemaking because no requirement to collect information is proposed.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

It is hereby certified that this proposed regulation will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The establishment of a viticultural area is neither an endorsement nor approval by ATF of the quality of wine produced in the area, but rather an identification of an area that is distinct from surrounding areas. ATF believes that the establishment of viticultural areas merely allows wineries to describe more accurately the origin of their wines to consumers, and helps consumers identify the wines they purchase. Thus, any benefit derived from the use of a viticultural area name is the result of the proprietor's own efforts and consumer acceptance of wines from that region.

Accordingly, a regulatory flexibility analysis is not required because the proposal, if promulgated as a final rule, is not expected (1) to have significant secondary or incidental effects on a substantial number of small entities; or (2) to impose, or otherwise cause a significant increase in the reporting, recordkeeping, or other compliance burdens on a substantial number of small entities.

Executive Order 12866

It has been determined that this proposed regulation is not a significant regulatory action as defined by Executive Order 12866. Accordingly, this proposal is not subject to the analysis required by this Executive Order.

Public Participation

ATF requests comments from all interested parties. Comments received on or before the closing date will be carefully considered. Comments received after that date will be given the same consideration if it is practical to do so, but assurance of consideration cannot be given except as to comments received on or before the closing date.

ATF will not recognize any comment as confidential. Comments may be disclosed to the public. Any material which a commenter considers to be confidential or inappropriate for disclosure to the public should not be included in the comment. The name of the person submitting a comment is not exempt from disclosure. During the comment period, any person may request an opportunity to present oral testimony at a public hearing. However, the Director reserves the right to determine, in light of all circumstances, whether a public hearing will be held.

Drafting Information

The principal author of this document is Mary Lou Blake, Wine, Beer, and Spirits Regulations Branch, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

List of Subject in 27 CFR Part 9

Administrative practices and procedures, Consumer protection, Viticultural areas, and Wine.

Authority and Issuance

Title 27, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 9, American Viticultural Areas, is proposed to be amended as follows:

PART 9—AMERICAN VITICULTURAL AREAS

Paragraph 1. The authority citation for Part 9 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 27 U.S.C. 205.

* * * * *

Subpart C—Approved American Viticultural Areas

Par. 2. Section 9.84(c) is revised to read as follows:

§ 9.84 Paso Robles.

* * * * *

(c) *Boundaries.* The Paso Robles viticultural area is located within San Luis Obispo County, California. From the point of beginning where the county lines of San Luis Obispo, Kings and Kern Counties converge, the county line also being the township line between T.24S. and T.25S., in R.16E.:

(1) Then in a westerly direction along this county line for 42 miles to the range line between R.9E. and R.10E.;

(2) Then in a southerly direction for 12 miles along the range line to the southwest of corner of T.26S. and R.10E.;

(3) Then in a southeasterly direction, approximately 5.5 miles to a point of intersection of the Dover Canyon Jeep Trail and Dover Canyon Road;

(4) Then in an easterly direction along Dover Canyon Road, approximately 1.5 miles, to the western border line of Rancho Paso de Robles;

(5) Then, following the border of the Paso Robles land grant, beginning in an easterly direction, to a point where it intersects the range line between R.11E. and R.12E.;

(6) Then southeasterly for approximately 16.5 miles to the point of intersection of the township line between T.29S. and T.30S. and the range line between R.12E. and R.13E.;

(7) Then in an easterly direction for approximately 6 miles to the range line between R.13E. and R.14E.;

(8) Then in a northerly direction for approximately 6 miles to the township line between T.28S. and T.29S.;

(9) Then in an easterly direction for approximately 18 miles to the range line between R.16E. and R.17E.;

(10) Then in a northerly direction for approximately 24 miles to the point of beginning.

Dated: December 29, 1995.

Daniel R. Black,

Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 96-298 Filed 1-9-96; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 67

[CGD 95-052]

RIN 2115-AF15

Conformance of Lights on Artificial Islands and Fixes Structures, and Other Facilities to IALA Standards

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: In keeping with the National Performance Review, the Coast Guard is reviewing its requirements for lights on artificial islands and fixed structures (such as oil rigs) and other facilities to bring them into conformance with the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) standards. Also, the Coast Guard is reviewing its approval procedures and considering requiring manufacturers to have lighting equipment and fog signal emitters tested

by independent laboratories. Adopting the IALA standards may enhance maritime safety by conforming to lighting standards which are easier for the mariner to understand. After consideration of the comments received, the Coast Guard may initiate a rulemaking project.

DATES: Comments are requested by February 9, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to the Executive Secretary, Marine Safety Council (G-LRA/3406) (CGD 95-052), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street SW., Washington, DC 20593-001, or may be delivered to room 3406 at the same address between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is (202) 267-1477.

The Executive Secretary maintains the public docket for this request for comments. Comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at room 3406, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: LTJG Chad Asplund, Short Range Aids to Navigation Division, Telephone: (202) 267-1386.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Request for Comments

The Coast Guard encourages interested persons to participate in this request for comments by submitting written data, views, or arguments. Persons submitting comments should include their names and addresses, identify this notice (CGD 95-052) and the specific section of this notice to which each comment applies, and give the reason for each comment. Please submit two copies of all comments and attachments in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing. Persons wanting acknowledgment of receipt of comments should enclosed stamped, self-addressed postcards or envelopes.

Background and Purpose

In keeping with the National Performance Review, the Coast Guard is reviewing its standards for lighting equipment presently required on artificial islands, fixed structures, and other facilities. The Coast Guard is considering bringing the lighting standards into conformance with the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) standards. In 1982, the United States, along with most of the world's other maritime nations, became a party to the agreement that established the IALA Maritime Buoyage