

of about eleven years from the date of importation.

It is noted that the same sentence discussed above on page 19705 also contains a typographical error by repeating the same clause that is being corrected in this document twice at the end of the sentence.

An additional error occurred in the "Other Sections Affected" portion of the background discussion. In the third column of page 19706, in the second full paragraph, the document refers to the definition of records in "§ 111.1(f)". The listing of definitions in § 111.1 has been alphabetized and the reference to paragraph (f) was inadvertently retained. It should be removed. This oversight was also repeated in the text of the proposed amendment itself. In the center column of page 19708, in the proposed amendment of § 111.23(a), the reference to § 111.1(f) should read simply § 111.1.

Corrections of Publication

Accordingly, the document (FR Doc. 97-10130) published in the **Federal Register** on April 23, 1997 (62 FR 19704) is corrected as set forth below:

Corrections of the Background Section

1. On page 19705, in the center column in the first full paragraph, the second sentence should be removed and in its place, the following should be inserted: "It is noted that with this retention period for drawback records, it is possible that the total retention requirement for drawback records could extend to about eleven years from the date of importation. (A drawback claimant has the ability to file a claim up to almost eight years from the date of importation: the export on which the claim is made may occur up to five years from the date of importation and the claim can be filed within three years from the date of exportation. The recordkeeping requirement runs from the date of payment, including a payment made under the accelerated payment program. If the claimant takes advantage of the full eight-year period and Customs pays the claim under the accelerated payment program, the supporting records must be kept three years from that payment date: a period of about eleven years from the date of importation.)"

2. On page 19706, in the third column, in the second full paragraph, in the fourth line, the reference to "records in § 111.1(f)" is corrected to read "records in § 111.1".

Correction to Proposed Regulation

1. On page 19708, in the center column, in § 111.23(a)(1), in the second

and third lines, the phrase "defined in § 111.1(f)" is corrected to read "defined in § 111.1".

Dated: April 29, 1997.

Stuart P. Seidel,

Assistant Commissioner, Office of Regulations and Rulings.

[FR Doc. 97-11545 Filed 5-2-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4820-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

30 CFR Part 253

RIN 1010-AC33

Oil Spill Financial Responsibility for Offshore Facilities

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Extension of comment period for proposed rule, and announcement of a public workshop.

SUMMARY: This notice extends to August 22, 1997, the deadline for submitting comments on the proposed rule on Oil Spill Financial Responsibility for Offshore Facilities (OSFR). Also, this notice announces that MMS will hold a public workshop on the proposed rule on June 5, 1997, at New Orleans, Louisiana.

DATES: We will consider all comments received by August 22, 1997, and we may not fully consider comments received after August 22, 1997. The public workshop will be held on June 5, 1997, at 9:00 a.m.

ADDRESSES: Mail or hand-carry written comments to the Department of the Interior; Minerals Management Service; 381 Elden Street; Mail Stop 4700; Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817; Attention: Rules Processing Team. We will hold the public workshop at the MMS Gulf of Mexico Region Office, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Room 111, New Orleans, Louisiana.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ray Beittel, Performance and Safety Branch, at (703) 787-1591.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: MMS was asked to extend the deadline for submitting comments on the proposed OSFR rule published on March 25, 1997 (62 FR 15639). The request explains that more time is needed to allow respondents time to prepare detailed and comprehensive comments.

MMS was also asked to sponsor a public workshop on the proposal for the purpose of clarifying certain parts of the proposal and answering technical questions on how it was developed.

Dated: April 29, 1997.

E.P. Danenberger,

Chief, Engineering and Operations Division.

[FR Doc. 97-11558 Filed 5-2-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Fiscal Service

31 CFR Part 356

[Department of the Treasury Circular, Public Debt Series No. 1-93]

Sale and Issue of Marketable Book-Entry Treasury Bills, Notes, and Bonds

AGENCY: Bureau of the Public Debt, Fiscal Service, Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury ("Treasury" or "Department") is proposing for comment an amendment to 31 CFR Part 356 (Uniform Offering Circular for the Sale and Issue of Marketable Book-Entry Treasury Bills, Notes, and Bonds). This proposed amendment makes the necessary changes to accommodate three decimal bidding, in .005 increments, and a reduction in the net long position reporting threshold amount for Treasury bill auctions. The proposed rule also makes certain technical clarifications and conforming changes.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before June 4, 1997.

ADDRESSES: This proposed amendment has also been made available for downloading from the Bureau of the Public Debt home page at the following address: www.publicdebt.treas.gov. Written comments should be sent to: Government Securities Regulations Staff, Bureau of the Public Debt, 999 E Street N.W., Room 515, Washington, D.C. 20249-0001. Comments may also be sent through the Internet to the Government Securities Regulations Staff at commoffc@bpd.treas.gov. When sending comments through the Internet, please use an ASCII file format and provide your full name and mailing address. Comments received will be available for public inspection and downloading from the Internet and for public inspection and copying at the Treasury Department Library, Room 5030, Main Treasury Building, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20220.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ken Papj (Director), Lee Grandy or Kurt Eidemiller (Government Securities Specialists), Bureau of the Public Debt,

Government Securities Regulations Staff, (202) 219-3632.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 31 CFR Part 356, also referred to as the uniform offering circular, sets out the terms and conditions for the sale and issuance by the Department of the Treasury to the public of marketable Treasury bills, notes, and bonds. The uniform offering circular, in conjunction with offering announcements, represents a comprehensive statement of those terms and conditions.¹ The proposed rule, when finalized, would amend sections 356.12 and 356.13 of the uniform offering circular and would provide a technical clarification in Appendix B to Part 356 (i.e., Appendix B, Section IV, Paragraph C).

A. Three Decimal Bidding in .005 Increments

In February 1995, Treasury began requiring competitive bids in note and bond auctions to be expressed as yields using three decimal places, rather than two decimal places, e.g., 7.123.² At that time, Treasury did not extend three decimal bidding to bill auctions because three decimal bidding in .001 percent increments provides a price unique to each discount rate only for bills with maturities of 360 days or more. Price uniqueness occurs when each separate discount rate produces a different (unique) price rounded to three decimal places, i.e., no two discount rates result in the same price. Price uniqueness is a function of the minimum bid increment allowed in auctions, price rounding conventions, and the number of days to maturity. For the reasons explained below, however, Treasury believes that it would now be appropriate to extend three decimal bidding to bill auctions.

Section 356.12(c)(1)(i) reflects the proposed change to three decimal bidding in .005 increments for Treasury bills. The third decimal will be expressed in minimum increments of one-half basis points (e.g., 5.320 or 5.325) in which the final decimal must be either zero or five. The proposed rule provides that three decimal bidding in .005 increments will be a requirement for all Treasury bill auctions—13-, 26-, and 52-week bills as well as all cash management bills (CMBs). The Department specifically requests

comments as to whether three decimal bidding in one-half basis point increments should be extended to CMBs. Conducting all Treasury bill auctions, including CMBs, using the bidding convention as proposed may simplify the rules and result in an easier understanding of the requirements by auction participants.

Under the current two decimal bidding requirement, price uniqueness is maintained for CMBs with maturities of 36 days or more. If three decimal bidding in increments of one-half basis points is extended to CMBs, price uniqueness would be maintained with maturities of 72 days or more. However, Treasury does not consider this to be problematic given auction participants' experience with the non-price uniqueness of short term CMBs under the current bidding process. For all regular Treasury bill auctions, the proposed change would maintain price uniqueness since regular bills have maturities of 90 days or more.

The change from two decimal to three decimal half-basis point bidding for all Treasury bills is being proposed to promote more efficient and aggressive bidding in these auctions and is expected to lead to marginally higher auction revenues for Treasury. The Department believes that market participants would need very little time to begin half-basis point bidding for Treasury bills since it understands that most market participants currently trade these securities in minimum increments of one-half or one-quarter basis points. Treasury welcomes comments on the system changes and the lead time necessary to implement this new bidding process.

The requirement for competitive bids for Treasury note and bond auctions to be expressed in three decimals in .001 increments remains unchanged. Further, the restriction against using fractions still applies to all marketable security auctions.

A technical change to the note at the end of Appendix B, Section IV, Paragraph C is also being proposed. The proposed revision identifies the changes that have been made over the years in the bidding conventions for Treasury bill auctions. Treasury is not revising any of the examples of Appendix B since the proposed change to three decimal bidding will not require any changes in the applicable formulas for bills.

B. Decrease in Net Long Position Reporting Threshold

Section 356.13(a) reflects the proposed reduction in the net long position reporting threshold amount for

all Treasury bill auctions (i.e., 13-, 26-, 52-week bills and CMBs) from \$2 billion to \$1 billion, while maintaining the \$2 billion threshold amount for Treasury note and bond auctions. The net long position reporting threshold amount for bills, notes, and bonds will continue to be provided in the offering announcement for the particular security. As currently stated in section 356.10 of the uniform offering circular, the offering announcement takes precedence whenever any provision of the announcement is consistent with any provision of the circular. The Department specifically requests comments as to whether operationally this proposed \$1 billion net long position reporting threshold amount should be established and maintained for all bill auctions or whether auction participants would prefer that the net long position reporting threshold amount be changed from time to time. Regardless, section 356.10 would continue to give Treasury the flexibility to change the net long position reporting threshold amount by providing the amount in the offering announcement. This reduction in the threshold amount is being proposed to more effectively achieve a Treasury financing objective of ensuring a broad distribution of a security issue, whereby no single bidder is awarded more than 35% of the public offering less the bidder's net long position as reportable under section 356.13.

Procedural Requirements

This proposed amendment does not meet the criteria for a "significant regulatory action" pursuant to Executive Order 12866.

Although this rule is being issued in proposed form to secure the benefit of public comment, the notice and public procedures requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act are inapplicable, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2).

Since no notice of proposed rulemaking is required, the provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*) do not apply.

There is no new collection of information contained in this proposed rule, and therefore, the Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply. The collections of information of 31 CFR Part 356 have been previously approved by the Office of Management and Budget under section 3507(d) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) under control number 1535-0112. Under this Act, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to,

¹ The uniform offering circular was published as a final rule on January 5, 1993 (58 FR 412). Amendments to the circular were published on June 3, 1994 (59 FR 28773), March 15, 1995 (60 FR 13906), July 16, 1996 (61 FR 37007), August 23, 1996 (61 FR 43626), October 22, 1996 (61 FR 54908), and January 6, 1997 (62 FR 846).

² Treasury Press Release was dated February 15, 1995. An amendment to the uniform offering circular was published on March 15, 1995 (60 FR 13906).

a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

List of Subjects in 31 CFR Part 356

Bonds, Federal Reserve System, Government securities, Securities.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 31 CFR Chapter II, Subchapter B, Part 356, is proposed to be amended as follows:

PART 356—SALE AND ISSUE OF MARKETABLE BOOK-ENTRY TREASURY BILLS, NOTES, AND BONDS (DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY CIRCULAR, PUBLIC DEBT SERIES NO. 1-93)

1. The authority citation for part 356 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 301; 31 U.S.C. 3102, *et seq.*, 12 U.S.C. 391

2. Section 356.12 is amended by revising paragraph (c)(1)(i) to read as follows:

§ 356.12 Noncompetitive and competitive bidding.

* * * * *

(c) * * *

(1) * * *

(i) *Treasury bills.* A competitive bid must show the discount rate bid, expressed with three decimals in .005 minimum increments. The third decimal must be either a zero or a five, e.g., 5.320 or 5.325. Fractions may not be used.

* * * * *

3. Section 356.13 is amended by revising paragraph (a) to read as follows:

§ 356.13 Net long position.

(a) *Reporting net long positions.* When bidding competitively, a bidder must report the amount of its net long position when the total of all of its bids in an auction plus the bidder's net long position in the security being auctioned equals or exceeds the net long position reporting threshold amount. The net long position reporting threshold amount for any particular security will be as stated in the offering announcement for that security. (See § 356.10.) That amount will be \$1 billion for bills, and \$2 billion for notes and bonds, unless otherwise stated in the offering announcement. If the bidder either has no position or has a net short position and the total of all of its bids equals or exceeds the net long position reporting threshold amount, e.g., \$1 billion for bills and \$2 billion for notes and bonds, a net long position of zero must be reported. In cases where a bidder that is required to report the amount of its net long position has more than one bid, the bidder's total net long

position should be reported in connection with only one bid. A bidder that is a customer must report its reportable net long position through only one depository institution or dealer. (See § 356.14(c).)

* * * * *

4. Appendix B, Section IV, Paragraph C is amended by revising the note at the end of the paragraph to read as follows:

IV. Computation of Purchase Price, Discount Rate, and Investment Rate (Coupon-Equivalent Yield) for Treasury Bills

* * * * *

C. Conversion of prices to discount rates for Treasury bills of all maturities: * * *

Note: Prior to April 18, 1983, bills were sold in price-basis auctions, in which discount rates calculated from prices were rounded to three places, using normal rounding procedures. Since that time, bills have been sold only on a discount rate basis. Discount rates bid were submitted with two decimals, e.g., 5.32, until 1997, when Treasury instituted a change to three decimal bidding in minimum increments of .005 percent, e.g., 5.320 or 5.325.

* * * * *

Dated: April 29, 1997.

Gerald Murphy,

Fiscal Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-11582 Filed 5-2-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-39-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 100

[CGD07-97-016]

RIN 2115-AE46

Special Local Regulations; North Charleston Fireworks, North Charleston, SC

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard proposes to establish temporary special local regulations for the City of North Charleston's 25th Anniversary Fireworks. The event will occur on Friday, June 13, 1997, between the hours of 9:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on the North Charleston Reach of the Cooper River. The nature of the event and the closure of a portion of the Cooper River creates an extra or unusual hazard on the navigable waters of the Cooper River at North Charleston, SC. These regulations are necessary for the safety of life on the navigable waters during the event.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before June 4, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to Commander, U.S. Coast Guard Group Charleston, 196 Tradd Street, Charleston, SC 29401, or may be delivered to the Operations Office at the same address between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. The telephone number is (803) 724-7621.

The Group Commander maintains the public docket for this rulemaking. Comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: ENS M.J. DaPonte, Project Manager, Coast Guard Group Charleston, SC at (803) 724-7621.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background and Purpose

The proposed regulations are needed to provide for the safety of life during the City of North Charleston's 25th Anniversary Fireworks demonstration. These proposed regulations are intended to promote safe navigation on the Cooper River immediately before, during, and immediately after the fireworks demonstration by controlling the traffic entering, existing, and traveling within the regulated area. The anticipated concentration of commercial traffic and spectator vessels poses a safety concern which is addressed in these proposed special local regulations.

The proposed regulations would not permit the entry or movement of spectator vessels and other non-participating vessel traffic between two lines drawn directly across the Cooper River at latitudes 32-52.2N and 32-53N, on Friday, June 13, 1997 from 9 to 11 p.m. EDT. The proposed regulation would permit the movement of spectator vessels and other non-participants within the regulated area before the start of the fireworks at the discretion of the Coast Guard Patrol Commander.

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553, the comment period for this proposed rulemaking is limited to 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**, as following normal rulemaking procedures would have been impractical. The information necessary to hold the event was not received until April 1, 1997, and there was not sufficient time remaining to publish a 60 day notice of proposed rulemaking or to provide for a delayed effective date.

Request for Comments

The Coast Guard encourages interested persons to participate in this rulemaking by submitting written data,