

with a single threshold process. The single threshold will allow Federal funding to be available when the cost of a single declared event exceeds the State's annual floor cost; the State costs greater than the floor cost will be available for funding at not less than 75 percent. Any federal fire declarations for the remainder of that calendar year will receive funding at not less than 75 percent of the costs.

This amendment would not change any provisions (e.g., eligibility, application, administrative planning, payment of claims, or appeals) in the Stafford Act nor in the fire suppression assistance regulations at 44 CFR part 206, subpart L.

#### National Environmental Policy Act

This rule is categorically excluded from the requirements of 44 CFR Part 10, Environmental Consideration. No environmental impact assessment has been prepared.

#### Regulatory Flexibility Act

This rule is not a major rule under Executive Order 12291, Federal Regulation, February 17, 1981. No regulatory impact analysis has been prepared.

#### Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule does not involve any collection of information for the purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

#### Executive Order 12612, Federalism

This rule involves no policies that have federalism implications under Executive Order 12612, Federalism, dated October 26, 1987.

#### Executive Order 12778, Civil Justice Reform

This rule meets the applicable standards of section 2(b)(2) of Executive Order 12778.

#### List of Subjects in 44 CFR Part 206

Disaster assistance.

Accordingly, 44 CFR Part 206 is proposed to be amended as follows:

#### PART 206—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 206 is revised to read as follows:

**Authority:** The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121 *et seq.*; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1978, 43 FR 41943, 3 CFR, 1978 Comp., p. 329; E.O. 12127, 44 FR 19367, 3 CFR, 1979 Comp., p. 376; E.O. 12148, 44 FR 43239, 3 CFR, 1979 Comp., p. 412; and E.O. 12673, 54 FR 12571, 3 CFR, 1989 Comp., p. 214.

2. Part 206, Subpart L, Fire Suppression Assistance, is proposed to

be amended by adding § 206.396 to read as follows:

#### § 206.396 Federal grant assistance.

(a) *General.* This section describes the extent of Federal funding available under the State fire suppression grants as well as limitations and special procedures applicable to each.

(b) *Limitations of Federal expenditures.* Federal funding will be available when the annual floor cost is surpassed during a single federal declared event. The amount of expense greater than the floor cost will be cost shared as stated in the FEMA-State Agreement. Any Federal declared event for the remainder of that calendar year will be eligible for funding. The floor cost will be established at the beginning of each calendar year in joint consultation between the State and the United States Department of Agriculture (Forest Service).

(c) *Cost sharing.* All fire suppression costs approved under the State's grant will be subject to the cost sharing provisions established in the FEMA-State Agreement. FEMA will contribute not less than 75 percent of the costs approved for funding under the Fire Suppression Grant Program for disasters declared on or after [insert effective date of final rule]. FEMA will contribute at least 70 percent of the costs for funding for disasters declared before [insert effective date of final rule].

Dated: November 18, 1997.

**James L. Witt,**

*Director.*

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#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

#### Research and Special Programs Administration

#### 49 CFR Parts 192 and 195

[Docket No. PS-94; Notice 8]

RIN 2137-AB38

#### Qualification of Pipeline Personnel

**AGENCY:** Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This document announces the next meeting of the RSPA Negotiated Rulemaking Committee. This committee is conducting a negotiated rulemaking to develop a proposed rule on qualification of pipeline employees performing certain safety-related functions on pipelines subject to the pipeline safety regulations. The

advisory committee is composed of persons who represent the interests that would be affected by the rule, such as gas pipeline operators, hazardous liquid pipeline operators, representatives of state and federal governments, labor organizations, and other interested parties.

**DATES:** The Committee will meet from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on December 3-5, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** The Committee will meet at the William P. Clements Building, 300 West 15th Street, Austin, TX 78701.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Eben M. Wyman, (202) 366-0918, or by e-mail (eben.wyman@rspa.dot.gov) regarding the subject matter of this Notice; or the Dockets Unit, (202) 366-4453, for copies of this document or other material in the docket.

Issued in Washington, DC on November 19, 1997.

**G. Tom Fortner,**

*Director for Compliance and State Programs.*

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#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

#### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 971112268-7268-01; I.D. 102997E]

#### Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Proposed 1998 Fishing Quotas for Atlantic Surf Clams and Ocean Quahogs

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Proposed fishing quotas for the 1998 Atlantic surf clam and ocean quahog fisheries; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS proposes quotas for the Atlantic surf clam and ocean quahog fisheries for 1998. These quotas were selected from a range defined as optimum yield (OY) for each fishery and in compliance with overfishing definitions for each species. The intent of this action is to establish allowable harvests of surf clams and ocean quahogs from the exclusive economic zone in 1998.

**DATES:** Public comments must be received on or before December 24, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's analysis