

Saturday, May 16, and Sunday, May 17, 1998.

(c) *Regulations.*

(1) The general regulations contained in 33 CFR 165.23 apply to this safety zone.

(2) Vessels not participating in this event, swimmers, and personal watercraft of any nature are prohibited from entering or moving within the safety zone.

(3) All persons and vessels shall comply with the instructions of the Coast Guard Captain of the Port or the designated on scene patrol personnel. U.S. Coast Guard patrol personnel include commissioned, warrant, and petty officers of the Coast Guard. Upon being hailed by a U.S. Coast Guard vessel via siren, radio, flashing light, or other means, the operator of a vessel shall proceed as directed.

Dated: April 20, 1998.

R.C. Vlaun,

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port, New York.

[FR Doc. 98-12139 Filed 5-6-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-15-M

POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 241

Expansion, Relocation, Construction of New Post Offices

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Interim rule.

SUMMARY: This interim rule establishes procedures by which the Postal Service notifies local citizens and public officials of facility projects, and solicits and considers the community's input before making a final decision to expand an existing facility, relocate to a new building, or start new construction. The purpose of the interim rule is to build into the facility project planning process specific opportunities and adequate time for the community to be a partner in the decision-making process and to have its views considered.

DATES: Effective: May 7, 1998.

Comments must be received by June 8, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Please submit written comments to Louis Norris, Manager, Real Estate, U.S. Postal Service, Facilities, 4301 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203-1861.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Sorenson, U.S. Postal Service, Facilities, 4301 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203-1861; phone (703) 526-2782.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This interim rule adds a new § 241.4 to 39

CFR part 241 to require that both local public officials and local citizens be notified and invited to comment at critical stages of the planning to enlarge or relocate a postal customer service facility. In addition, the rule requires postal officials to take into account community input, including alternative recommendations.

Throughout the towns and villages of America, people have long viewed their post office as much more than a place to send and receive mail. A community's post office is a vital part of its infrastructure—a place to greet old friends, make new ones, and exchange information. With more than 35,000 leased and owned postal facilities, the Postal Service takes seriously its commitment to be a good neighbor and a vital part of every community.

Adding new facilities and upgrading or replacing existing ones is a continuing activity that is influenced by population growth and shifts, the increasing automation of mail processing, aging and deteriorating building stock, and changing environmental and energy conservation requirements. In order to fulfill its role as a member of virtually every U.S. community, the Postal Service believes that, to the maximum extent possible, it should undertake its most locally significant projects—to relocate a post office, to build a new one, or to expand an existing facility—in partnership with the local community.

This has long been Postal Service policy. These community relations guidelines are being published to help ensure that communities and local public officials, as well as postal employees, will have the most up-to-date policy and procedures for projects that involve expansion, relocation, or new construction of a post office, and to help ensure that all such projects are handled in accordance with the guidelines.

The rule also formalizes the Postal Service's long-standing policy of complying with local zoning and land use ordinances and building codes when it can do so consistent with prudent business practices and unique postal requirements.

This interim rule reflects existing policy and procedures and, in any event, imposes no burden on members of the public; therefore, it is effective immediately. Although exempted by 39 U.S.C. 410(a) from the advance notice requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act regarding proposed rulemaking (5 U.S.C. 553), the Postal Service invites public comment at the above address and will consider any

comments received before issuing a final rule.

Accordingly, the Postal Service amends, on an interim basis, 39 CFR part 241, as follows:

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 241

Organization and functions (Government agencies).

PART 241—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for 39 CFR part 241 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 39 U.S.C. 401.

2. Effective May 7, 1998, 39 CFR part 241 is amended by adding § 241.4, as follows:

§ 241.4 Expansion, relocation, and construction of post offices

(a) *Application.* (1) This section applies when the Postal Service contemplates any one of the following projects that provides retail services to customers: expansion, relocation to another existing building, or new construction, except when the project is to meet an emergency requirement or is for temporary use.

(2) This section does not apply when the project under consideration is limited to repair and alterations, such as:

- (i) Painting, no matter how extensive;
- (ii) Repairs, no matter how extensive;
- (iii) Replacement or upgrade of structural or functional elements of a postal building or of its equipment, no matter how extensive the work;
- (iv) Paving, striping, or other repair of parking areas;
- (v) Landscaping.

(b) *Purpose.* The purpose of the procedures required by this section is to ensure increased opportunities for members of the communities who may be affected by certain Postal Service facility projects, along with local officials, to convey their views concerning the contemplated project and have them considered prior to any final decision to expand, relocate to another existing building, or construct a new building.

(c) *Expansion, relocation, new construction.* When an expansion, relocation, or new construction of a retail facility (whether leased or owned) is planned, postal representatives responsible for the project will take the following steps in accordance with the time schedule shown:

(1) Personally visit one or more of the highest ranking local public officials (generally, individuals holding elective office) at least 45 days before any public advertising. During the visit, the postal representatives will:

(i) Describe the project fully, explain the process by which the Postal Service will solicit and consider input from the affected community, and solicit a working partnership with the community officials for the success of the project.

(ii) Emphasize that in meeting a need for increased space, the first priority is to expand the existing facility, the second priority is to find an existing building in the same area as the current facility, and the third option is to build on a new site that will be either owned or leased.

(iii) Ask that a Postal Service presentation of the project be placed on the regular agenda of a public meeting or hearing. If no such meeting is planned within the next 60 days or the agenda of a planned meeting cannot accommodate the project, the Postal Service will schedule a public hearing concerning the project and will advertise the hearing in a local general circulation newspaper.

(iv) Give the local officials a letter describing the intended project.

(2) Notify the lessor of the affected facility in writing.

(3) Send an initial appropriate press release to local news media.

(4) Except as provided herein, attend or conduct one or more public hearings to describe the project to the community, invite questions, solicit written comment, and describe the process by which community input will be considered. If it is known at the time that the existing facility is not able to be expanded or that expansion is impracticable, that fact will be disclosed and the project file documented as to the reasons expansion is not possible or practical. Exception: If circumstances prevent postal representatives from attending or conducting a public meeting or hearing on the planned project within a reasonable time, the Postal Service must distribute a notification card to all affected customers, seeking their comment or other feedback. In addition, if the decision is to distribute notification cards, the project file must document the circumstances that prevented postal representatives from conducting or attending a public hearing or meeting within a reasonable time; in no event shall a lack of public interest or objection constitute a qualifying circumstance.

(5) Review comments and notify local officials of decision. After the date of the most recent public meeting or the date of distribution of notification cards, make a decision (e.g., relocation to another building, new construction, or expansion of the existing facility) that

takes into account community input and is consistent with prudent business practices and postal objectives, and notify local officials in writing. Take no action on the decision for at least 15 days following notification of local officials.

(6) Advertise for sites and existing buildings, in accordance with the decision.

(d) *New site or existing buildings—historic preservation.* (1) It is the policy of the Postal Service, by virtue of Board of Governors Resolution No. 82-7, to comply with Section 106 of the general provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*), Executive Order 13006, and, through it, Executive Order 12072. Therefore, when the decision is to relocate to another existing building, that building will be selected in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and applicable provisions of the executive orders identified above.

(2) When the decision is to advertise for sites and existing buildings, once such sites have been identified, advise local officials of all contending sites and with respect to all sites not selected, provide an explanation.

(3) Once a site or existing building has been selected, notify local officials of the selection decision.

(4) Take no final action to acquire or lease the new location for 15 days.

(e) *Planning, zoning, building codes.* It is the policy of the Postal Service to comply with local planning and zoning requirements and building codes to the maximum extent feasible consistent with postal needs and objectives. To promote a partnership with local officials and ensure conformance with local building codes, plans and drawings will be sent to appropriate building department or other officials for review. The Postal Service will give local public officials written notice of any timely, written objections or recommendations that it does not plan to adopt or implement.

(f) *Continuing communication.* During construction, whether renovation or new construction, the postmaster will keep local officials and the community informed via letters and news releases. The postmaster and other postal officials will plan, conduct, and invite the community and local officials to any "grand opening."

Stanley F. Mires,

Chief Counsel, Legislative.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[PA041-4069; FRL-6009-3]

Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Conditional Limited Approval of the Pennsylvania VOC and NO_x RACT Regulation; Correction

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule; correcting amendment.

SUMMARY: This document corrects an error in the amendatory instruction in a final rule pertaining to the Pennsylvania VOC and NO_x RACT Regulation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 22, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cynthia H. Stahl, (215) 566-2180 or by e-mail at stahl.cynthia@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA published a document on March 23, 1998 (63 FR 13789) inadvertently adding paragraph (e) to § 52.2026 when that paragraph already existed. The intent of the rule was to amend that section by adding a paragraph (f). This document corrects the erroneous amendatory language.

Correction

In the final rule published in the *Federal Register* on March 23, 1998 (63 FR 13789), on page 13794 in the third column, the fourth amendatory instruction is corrected to read—"4. Section 52.2026 is amended by adding a paragraph (f) to read as follows:" and the new text is designated as paragraph (f).

Administrative Requirements

Under Executive Order 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993), this action is not a "significant regulatory action" and, is therefore not subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget. In addition, this action does not impose any enforceable duty or contain any unfunded mandate as described in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-4), or require prior consultation with State officials as specified by Executive Order 12875 (58 FR 58093, October 28, 1993), or involve special consideration of environmental justice related issues as required by Executive Order 12898 (59 FR 7629, February 16, 1994).

Because this corrective rulemaking action is not subject to notice-and-comment requirements under the