

may also access this docket on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions on this proposed rule, contact Mr. Thomas Jordan, Office of Marine Safety and Environmental Protection (G-MSE-2), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Room 1308, telephone 202-267-0142. For questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, contact Dorothy Walker, Chief, Dockets, Department of Transportation, telephone 202-366-9329.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Request for Comments

The Coast Guard encourages you to participate in this rulemaking by submitting written data, views, or arguments. If you submit comments, you should include your name and address, identify this notice (USCG-1998-4623) and the specific section or question in this document to which your comments apply, and give the reason for each comment. Please submit all comments and attachments in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing to the DOT Docket Management Facility at the address under **ADDRESSES**. If you want acknowledgment of receipt of your comments, you should enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope.

The Coast Guard will consider all comments received during the comment period.

The Coast Guard may schedule a public meeting depending on input received in response to this notice. You may request a public meeting by submitting a request to the address under **ADDRESSES**. The request should include the reasons why a meeting would be beneficial. If we determine that a public meeting should be held, we will hold the meeting at a time and place announced by a later notice in the **Federal Register**.

Background and Purpose

On November 2, 1998, the Coast Guard published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 58679). The NPRM proposes exempting certain unmanned dry cargo river barges from the normal Great Lakes load line requirements to operate on Lake Michigan. Instead, these river barges would need to obtain a limited domestic service load line for two specific routes (between Chicago, Illinois and Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and between Chicago and Muskegon, Michigan). This proposed rule would allow direct river barge transport of

certain non-hazardous cargoes from inland river ports to Milwaukee and Muskegon while maintaining a relatively low cost-per-ton-mile rate for river barge transportation.

In response to the NPRM, a multi-industry group associated with the river barge transport of bulk ore along the southern shore of Lake Michigan to Burns Harbor, Indiana contacted the Coast Guard. The group recently met to review the proposed regulations and was concerned that there will not be enough time to develop and submit a consolidated response to the docket before the NPRM comment period closes on January 4, 1999. As a result, the group has requested an extension of the comment period. The Coast Guard accepts this as a reasonable request. We are extending the NPRM comment period to March 4, 1999.

Dated: December 21, 1998.

Howard L. Hime,

Acting Director for Standards.

[FR Doc. 98-34200 Filed 12-24-98; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73

[MM Docket No. 98-234, RM-9324]

Radio Broadcasting Services; Augusta, WI

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This document requests comments on a petition filed by L. Topaz Enterprises, Inc. proposing the allotment of Channel 268C3 to Augusta, Wisconsin, as that community's first local broadcast service. The channel can be allotted to Augusta with a site restriction 12.3 kilometers (7.7 miles) east of the community at coordinates 44-40-11 and 90-57-55.

DATES: Comments must be filed on or before February 8, 1999, and reply comments on or before February 23, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554. In addition to filing comments with the FCC, interested parties should serve the petitioner's counsel, as follows: Dale A. Ganske, President, L. Topaz Enterprises, Inc., 5546-3 Century Avenue, Middleton, WI 53562.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathleen Scheuerle, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, MM Docket No. 98-234, adopted December 9, 1998, and released December 18, 1998. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the Commission's Reference Center (Room 239), 1919 M Street, NW., Washington, DC. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractors, International Transcription Services, Inc., 1231 20th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20036, (202) 857-3800, facsimile (202) 857-3805.

Provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to this proceeding.

Members of the public should note that from the time a Notice of Proposed Rule Making is issued until the matter is no longer subject to Commission consideration or court review, all *ex parte* contacts are prohibited in Commission proceedings, such as this one, which involve channel allotments. See 47 CFR 1.1204(b) for rules governing permissible *ex parte* contact.

For information regarding proper filing procedures for comments, see 47 CFR 1.415 and 1.420.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73

Radio broadcasting.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Chief, Allocations Branch, Policy and Rules Division, Mass Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. 98-34236 Filed 12-24-98; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73

[MM Docket No. 98-236, RM-9344]

Radio Broadcasting Services; Knox City, TX

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This document requests comments on a petition filed by Alalatex Broadcasters, proposing the allotment of Channel 297A to Knox City, Texas. The channel can be allotted to Knox City with a site restriction 13.2 kilometers (8.2 miles) west of the community at coordinates 33-25-03 and 99-40-16.

DATES: Comments must be filed on or before February 8, 1999, and reply