

12988, Civil Justice Reform, to minimize litigation, eliminate ambiguity, and reduce burden.

Protection of Children

We have analyzed this rule under E.O. 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks. This rule is not an economically significant rule and does not concern an environmental risk to health or safety that may disproportionately affect children.

Environment

The Coast Guard has considered the environmental impact of this action and has determined under figure 2-1, paragraph 34(g) of Commandant Instruction M16475.1C, that this rule is categorically excluded from further environmental documentation.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 165

Harbors, Marine safety, Navigation (water), Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Safety measures, Waterways.

Temporary Regulations

In consideration of the foregoing, the Coast Guard amends Subpart C of Part 165 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, as follows:

PART 165—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for Part 165 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1231; 50 U.S.C. 191; 49 CFR 1.46 and 33 CFR 1.05-1(g), 6.04-1, 6.04-6, and 160.5.

2. From 6 a.m. April 3, 2000, until 7 a.m., April 15, 2000, temporary § 165.T07-030 is added to read as follows:

§ 165.T07-030 Safety Zone; Fort Lauderdale, Florida

(a) *Regulated area.* All waters within 200 yards on either side of the 17th Street Causeway Bridge, Mile Marker 1065.9, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

(b) *Regulations.* In accordance with the general regulations in 165.23 of this part, anchoring, mooring or transiting in this zone is prohibited unless authorized by the Coast Guard Captain of the Port. The Captain of the Port will notify the public of any changes in the status of this zone by Marine Safety Radio Broadcast on VHF Marine Band Radio, Channel 22 (157.1 MHz).

(c) *Effective dates.* This section is applicable from 6 a.m. on April 3, 2000, to 6 a.m. on April 6, 2000, and from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. each night on April 12 and 13, 2000. In the event of inclement weather on April 12 or 13, this section

is applicable from 7 p.m. on April 14 to 7 a.m., April 15, 2000.

Dated: March 20, 2000.

L.J. Bowling,

Captain, U. S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port, Miami, Florida.

[FR Doc. 00-7854 Filed 3-29-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

38 CFR Part 3

RIN 2900-AJ09

Eligibility Reporting Requirements

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This document adopts as a final rule the provisions of an interim final rule that amended the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) adjudication regulations concerning eligibility verification reports (EVRs) for recipients of pension under programs in effect prior to January 1, 1979. The amendment reduces the number of circumstances under which VA requires such pensioners to furnish annual EVRs. The intended effect of this amendment is to reduce the reporting burden on these beneficiaries, reduce the workload at VA regional offices, and enable VA to use its resources more effectively.

DATES: *Effective Date:* March 30, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Don England, Chief, Regulations Staff, Compensation and Pension Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, telephone (202) 273-7210.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 6, 1998, VA published in the **Federal Register** an interim final rule generally exempting old law and section 306 pension beneficiaries from the requirement to submit annual eligibility verification reports (EVRs). (63 FR 53593-96, October 6, 1998.) The term "old law pension" means the disability and death pension programs that were in effect on June 30, 1960. The term "section 306 pension" means those disability and death pension programs in effect on December 31, 1978. VA uses EVRs to request information, such as income and marital status, that VA needs to determine or verify eligibility for its need-based benefit programs.

We requested interested persons to submit comments on or before December 7, 1998. We received no comments. Based on the rationale set forth in the interim final rule and in this document, we are adopting the interim

final rule as a final rule without change, except that we are adding statements explaining that the information collections are approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under control number 2900-0101. We also affirm the information in the interim final rule document concerning the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Paperwork Reduction Act

VA submitted the information collection provisions contained in the interim final rule to OMB for review in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520). The only action concerning information collection is to eliminate certain collections of information. We requested interested parties to submit comments on the collection of information provisions to OMB by October 14, 1998. No comments were submitted. OMB has approved the information collection provisions under control number 2900-0101.

OMB assigns a control number for each collection of information it approves. VA may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance program numbers are 64.104 and 64.105.

List of Subjects in 38 CFR Part 3

Administrative practice and procedure, Claims, Disability benefits, Health care, Pensions, Veterans, Vietnam.

Approved: February 29, 2000.

Togo D. West, Jr.,

Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Accordingly, the interim final rule amending 38 CFR part 3 which was published at 63 FR 53593 on October 6, 1998, is adopted as final with the following change:

PART 3—ADJUDICATION

Subpart A—Pension, Compensation, and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

1. The authority citation for part 3, subpart A continues to read as follows:

Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501(a), unless otherwise noted.

§§ 3.256 and 3.277 [Amended]

2. In §§ 3.256 and 3.277, a parenthetical is added at the end of each section to read as follows:

(The Office of Management and Budget has approved the information collection

requirements in this section under control number 2900-0101.)

[FR Doc. 00-7913 Filed 3-29-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

41 CFR Parts 301-51, 301-52, 301-54, 301-70, 301-71 and 301-76

[FTR Amendment 90]

RIN 3090-AG92

Federal Travel Regulation; Mandatory Use of the Travel Charge Card

AGENCY: Office of Governmentwide Policy, GSA.

ACTION: Final rule; delay of applicability date.

SUMMARY: This document constitutes a deviation to the applicability date of the Federal Travel Regulation (FTR) provisions pertaining to payment by the Government of expenses connected with official Government travel published in the **Federal Register** of January 19, 2000 (65 FR 3054). Due to the difficulties involved in implementing the requirements of Public Law 105-264, October 19, 1998, regarding the required use of the travel charge card, collection of amounts owed, and reimbursement of travel expenses, the Associate Administrator for the Office of Governmentwide Policy hereby grants a class deviation that delays the applicability date until May 1, 2000, for mandatory use of the travel charge card and payment of associated penalties and interest. This delay will allow agencies time to work out the details of implementation of the mandatory use of the travel charge card regulations.

DATES: *Effective Date:* The effective date of this final rule remains July 16, 1999.

Applicability Date: The applicability date of the final rule published at 65 FR 3054 on January 19, 2000, is delayed from February 29, 2000, until May 1, 2000, or upon the issuance of agency implementing regulations, whichever occurs first.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sandra Batton, Travel and Transportation Management Policy Division, at (202) 501-1538.

Dated: March 24, 2000.

G. Martin Wagner,

Associate Administrator for Governmentwide Policy.

[FR Doc. 00-7819 Filed 3-29-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 18

RIN 1018-AF54

Marine Mammals; Incidental Take During Specified Activities

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: These regulations authorize the incidental, unintentional take of small numbers of polar bears and Pacific walrus during year-round oil and gas industry (Industry) exploration, development, and production operations in the Beaufort Sea and adjacent northern coast of Alaska.

We made a finding that the total expected takings of polar bear and Pacific walrus during oil and gas industry exploration, development, and production activities will have a negligible impact on these species and will have no unmitigable adverse impacts on the availability of these species of subsistence use by Alaska Natives. We base this finding on results from 6 years of monitoring interactions between marine mammals and Industry and using oil trajectory models and polar bear density models to determine the likelihood of impacts to polar bears should an accidental oil release occur.

DATES: This rule is effective March 30, 2000, and remains effective through March 31, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments and materials received in response to this action are available for public and inspection during normal working hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, at the Office of Marine Mammals Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 E. Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Bridges, Office of Marine Mammals Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503, Telephone 907-786-3810 or 1-800-362-5148, or Internet John_Bridges@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (Act) gives the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) through the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (We) the authority to allow the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals, in response to

requests by U.S. citizens (You) [as defined in 50 CFR 18.27(c)] engaged in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) in a specified geographic region.

Under the provisions of the Act, and based on our finding and the best scientific evidence available that the total of such taking for the 3-year period will have a negligible impact on these species and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of these species for taking for subsistence use by Alaska Natives, we will allow the incidental taking of polar bears and Pacific walrus. These regulations set forth: (1) permissible methods of taking; (2) means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the species and their habitat and on the availability of the species for subsistence uses; and (3) requirements for monitoring and reporting.

The term "take" as defined by the Act means to harass, capture, or kill, or attempt to harass, hunt, capture, or kill any marine mammal.

Harassment as defined by the Act, as amended in 1994, " * * * means any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which—

(i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild; or

(ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering."

As a result of 1986 amendments to the Act, we amended 50 CFR 18.27 (i.e., regulations governing small takes of marine mammals incidental to specified activities) with a final rule published on September 29, 1989. Section 18.27(c) included, among other things, a revised definition of "negligible impact" and a new definition for "unmitigable adverse impact" as follows. Negligible impact is an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival. Unmitigable adverse impact means an impact resulting from the specified activity:

(1) that is likely to reduce the availability of the species to a level insufficient for a harvest to meet subsistence needs by:

(i) causing the marine mammals to abandon or avoid hunting areas,

(ii) directly displacing subsistence users, or