

number of producers, the average annual producer revenue in Washington and Oregon could approximate \$23,130 this year, excluding receipts from other sources. Further, based on Committee records and recent F.O.B. prices reported by the Fruit and Vegetable Market News Service for fresh Bartlett pears, over 98 percent of the regulated handlers ship less than \$5,000,000 worth of fresh Bartlett pears on an annual basis, excluding receipts from other sources. In view of the foregoing, it can be concluded that the majority of fresh Bartlett pear producers and handlers may be classified as small entities.

This rule would increase the assessment rate established for the Committee and collected from handlers for the 2001–2002 and subsequent fiscal periods from \$0.02 to \$0.025 per standard box of fresh Bartlett pears handled. The Committee met on May 31, 2001, and unanimously recommended 2001–2002 expenditures of \$76,477 and an assessment rate of \$0.025 per standard box of fresh Bartlett pears handled. In comparison, budgeted expenditures for last year totaled \$81,060. The assessment rate of \$0.025 is \$0.005 more than the rate currently in effect, and was recommended by the Committee because the current rate of \$0.02 would not generate enough income for it to adequately administer the program. Its monetary reserve would drop below \$7,000 at the current rate of assessment, which was not acceptable to the Committee.

Major expenses recommended by the Committee for the 2001–2002 fiscal period include \$39,040 for salaries, \$5,675 for office rent, and \$3,911 for health insurance. Budgeted expenses for these items in 2000–2001 were \$44,468, \$4,847, and \$3,891, respectively.

The Committee developed the \$0.025 assessment rate recommendation by considering the 2001–2002 budget and crop estimate, as well as the relatively small size of its current monetary reserve. Assessment income for the fiscal period should approximate \$79,700 based on estimated fresh Bartlett pear shipments of 3,188,000 standard boxes, which would be adequate to cover budgeted expenses. Funds in the reserve (currently \$18,443) are expected to increase to \$25,666, which would be within the maximum permitted by the order of approximately one fiscal period's operational expenses (§ 931.42).

The Committee considered alternative levels of assessment but, considering the current relatively low level of funding in the monetary reserve, determined that increasing the assessment rate to \$0.025 per standard box would be

appropriate. The Committee believes that an assessment rate of more than \$0.025 per standard box would generate income in excess of that needed to adequately administer the program, and if left at the current rate of \$0.02, or reduced, would be inadequate to administer the program.

A review of historical information and preliminary information pertaining to the upcoming crop indicates that the producer price for the 2001–2002 marketing season could average about \$11.61 per standard box of fresh Bartlett pears handled. Therefore, the Committee's estimated assessment revenue for the 2001–2002 fiscal period as a percentage of total producer revenue should be approximately 0.215 percent.

This action would increase the assessment obligation imposed on handlers. While assessments impose some additional costs on handlers, the costs are minimal and uniform on all handlers. Some of the additional costs may be passed on to producers. However, these costs would be offset by the benefits derived by the operation of the order. In addition, the Committee's meeting was widely publicized throughout the fresh Bartlett pear industry and all interested persons were invited to attend the meeting and participate in Committee deliberations on all issues. Like all Committee meetings, the May 31, 2001, meeting was a public meeting and all entities, both large and small, were able to express views on this issue. Finally, interested persons are invited to submit information on the regulatory and informational impacts of this action on small businesses.

This proposed rule would impose no additional reporting or recordkeeping requirements on either small or large fresh Bartlett pear handlers. As with all Federal marketing order programs, reports and forms are periodically reviewed to reduce information requirements and duplication by industry and public sector agencies.

The Department has not identified any relevant Federal rules that duplicate, overlap, or conflict with this rule.

A small business guide on complying with fruit, vegetable, and specialty crop marketing agreements and orders may be viewed at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/moab.html>. Any questions about the compliance guide should be sent to Jay Guerber at the previously mentioned address in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

A 30-day comment period is provided to allow interested persons the opportunity to respond to this proposed

rule. Thirty days is deemed appropriate because: (1) The 2001–2002 fiscal period began on July 1, 2001, and the order requires that the rate of assessment for each fiscal period apply to all assessable fresh Bartlett pears handled during such fiscal period; (2) the Committee needs to have sufficient funds to pay its expenses which are incurred on a continuous basis; and (3) handlers are aware of this action which was unanimously recommended by the Committee at a public meeting and is similar to other assessment rate actions issued in past years.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 931

Marketing agreements, Pears, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 7 CFR part 931 is proposed to be amended as follows:

PART 931—FRESH BARTLETT PEARS GROWN IN OREGON AND WASHINGTON

1. The authority citation for 7 CFR part 931 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 601–674.

2. Section 931.231 is revised to read as follows:

§ 931.231 Assessment rate.

On and after July 1, 2001, an assessment rate of \$0.025 per western standard pear box is established for the Northwest Fresh Bartlett Pear Marketing Committee.

Dated: September 17, 2001.

Kenneth C. Clayton,

Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 01–23656 Filed 9–20–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

10 CFR Part 852

RIN:1901–AA90

Guidelines for Physicians Panel Determinations on Worker Requests for Assistance in Filing for State Workers' Compensation Benefits

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking; rescheduling of public hearing and extension of comment deadline.

SUMMARY: This document announces a new date for the public hearing originally scheduled for September 24, 2001; and extends the time period for submitting comments regarding a notice

of proposed rulemaking published in the **Federal Register** on September 7, 2001 (66 FR 46742).

DATES: Comments must be received on or before November 8, 2001. DOE is requesting 3 copies of the written comments and prepared statements for the public hearing. Oral views, data, and arguments may be presented at the public hearing in Washington, DC, beginning at 9 a.m. on October 10, 2001. DOE must receive requests to speak at the public hearing and a copy of your statements no later than 4 p.m., October 9, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Please submit written comments, oral statements, and requests to speak at the public hearing to: Loretta Young, Office of Advocacy, EH-8, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20585.

The hearing will begin at 9 a.m., in Room 1E-245 at the U.S. Department of Energy, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington DC. You can find more information concerning public participation in this rulemaking proceeding in Section IV, "Opportunity for Public Comment," of the previously published notice of proposed rulemaking (66 FR 46742).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Loretta Young, Office of Advocacy, EH-8, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585; (202) 586-2819; fax: 202-586-6010; e-mail: loretta.young@eh.doe.gov.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on September 18, 2001.

Steven Cary,

Acting Assistant Secretary, Environment, Safety and Health.

[FR Doc. 01-23739 Filed 9-20-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2001-SW-14-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Model HH-1K, TH-1F, TH-1L, UH-1A, UH-1B, UH-1E, UH-1F, UH-1H, UH-1L, UH-1P, and Southwest Florida Aviation Model SW204, SW204HP, SW205, and SW205A-1 Helicopters, Manufactured by Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc. for the Armed Forces of the United States

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This document proposes superseding an existing airworthiness directive (AD) for Model HH-1K, TH-1F, TH-1L, UH-1A, UH-1B, UH-1E, UH-1F, UH-1H, UH-1L, and UH-1P; and Southwest Florida Aviation SW204, SW204HP, SW205, and SW205A-1 helicopters manufactured by Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc. (BHTI) for the Armed Forces of the United States. That AD currently requires establishing retirement lives for certain main rotor masts, creating a component history card or equivalent record, and identifying and replacing any unairworthy masts. That AD also contains certain requirements regarding the hub spring, conducting inspections based on the retirement index number (RIN), and sending information to the FAA. This action would contain the same requirements but would establish a retirement life for the main rotor trunnion (trunnion) based on monitoring the number of torque events and flight hours rather than flight hours only as currently required. This action would also add a note clarifying that the mast serial number (S/N) is defined by 5 or fewer digits plus various prefixes. This proposal is prompted by the determination that monitoring the number of torque events and flight hours for the trunnion is more accurate than by monitoring flight hours only to establish a retirement life. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent failure of a mast or trunnion, separation of the main rotor system, and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before November 20, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Office of the

Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2001-SW-14-AD, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Room 663, Fort Worth, Texas 76137. You may also send comments electronically to the Rules Docket at the following address: 9-asw-adcomments@faa.gov. Comments may be inspected at that Office between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Kohner, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, Rotorcraft Directorate, Rotorcraft Certification Office, Fort Worth, Texas 76193-0170, telephone (817) 222-5447, fax (817) 222-5783.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

Interested persons are invited to participate in the making of the proposed rule by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Communications should identify the Rules Docket number and be submitted in triplicate to the address specified above. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments will be considered before taking action on the proposed rule. The proposals contained in this document may be changed in light of the comments received.

Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of the proposed rule. All comments submitted will be available, both before and after the closing date for comments, in the Rules Docket for examination by interested persons. A report summarizing each FAA-public contact concerned with the substance of this proposal will be filed in the Rules Docket.

Commenters wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their mailed comments submitted in response to this proposal must submit a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket No. 2001-SW-14-AD." The postcard will be date stamped and returned to the commenter.

Availability of NPRMs

Any person may obtain a copy of this NPRM by submitting a request to the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, Attention: Rules Docket No. 2001-SW-14-AD, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Room 663, Fort Worth, Texas 76137.

Discussion

On November 13, 1998, the FAA issued AD 98-24-15 for BHTI Model