

(E) Absent a reasonably based factual showing that a requester should be placed in a particular user category, fees will be imposed as provided for in the commercial use requester category.

(iii)(A) In no event shall fees be imposed on any requester when the total charges are less than \$5, which is the Agency's cost of collecting and processing the fee itself.

(B) If the Agency reasonably believes that a requester or a group of requesters acting together is attempting to divide a request into a series of requests for the purpose of avoiding fees, the Agency may aggregate those requests and charge accordingly. The Agency may presume that multiple requests of this type made within a 30-day period have been made in order to avoid fees. Where requests are separated by a longer period, the Agency will aggregate them only where there exists a solid basis for determining that aggregation is warranted under all the circumstances involved. Multiple requests involving unrelated matters will not be aggregated.

(iv) Documents are to be furnished without charge or at reduced levels if disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the Government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester. Disclosure to data brokers or others who merely compile and market government information for direct economic return shall not be presumed to primarily serve the public interest. A fee waiver or reduction is justified where the public interest standard is satisfied and that public interest is greater in magnitude than that of any identified commercial interest in disclosure. Where only some of the requested records satisfy the requirements for a waiver of fees, a waiver shall be granted for those records.

(v) If a requester fails to pay chargeable fees that were incurred as a result of the Agency's processing of the information request, beginning on the 31st day following the date on which the notification of charges was sent, the Agency may assess interest charges against the requester in the manner prescribed in 31 U.S.C. 3717. Where appropriate, other steps permitted by federal debt collection statutes, including disclosure to consumer reporting agencies, use of collection agencies, and offset, will be used by the Agency to encourage payment of amounts overdue.

(vi) Each request for records shall contain a specific statement assuming financial liability, in full or to a

specified maximum amount, for charges, in accordance with paragraphs (d)(2)(i) and (ii) of this section, which may be incurred by the Agency in responding to the request. If the anticipated charges exceed the maximum limit stated by the person making the request or if the request contains no assumption of financial liability or charges, the person shall be notified and afforded an opportunity to assume financial liability. In either case, the request for records shall not be deemed received for purposes of the applicable time limit for response until a written assumption of financial liability is received. The Agency may require a requester to make an advance payment of anticipated fees under the following circumstances:

(A) If the anticipated charges are likely to exceed \$250, the Agency shall notify the requester of the likely cost and obtain satisfactory assurance of full payment when the requester has a history of prompt payment of FOIA fees, or require an advance payment of an amount up to the full estimated charges in the case of requesters with no history of payment.

(B) If a requester has previously failed to pay fees that have been charged in processing a request within 30 days of the date of the notification of fees was sent, the requester will be required to pay the entire amount of fees that are owed, plus interest as provided for in paragraph (d)(2)(v) of this section, before the Agency will process a further information request. In addition, the Agency may require advance payment of fees that the Agency estimates will be incurred in processing the further request before the Agency commences processing that request. When the Agency acts under paragraph (d)(2)(vi)(A) or (B) of this section, the administrative time limits for responding to a request or an appeal from initial denials will begin to run only after the Agency has received the fee payments required above.

(vii) Charges may be imposed even though the search discloses no records responsive to the request, or if records located are determined to be exempt from disclosure.

* * * * *

Dated, Washington, DC, September 28, 2001.

By direction of the Board.

John J. Toner,

Executive Secretary, National Labor Relations Board.

[FR Doc. 01-24739 Filed 10-2-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7545-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

33 CFR Parts 110 and 165

[CGD05-01-060]

RIN 2115-AA97 and 2115-AA98

Anchorage Grounds and Safety Zone; Delaware Bay and River

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Temporary final rule.

SUMMARY: The Army Corps of Engineers will begin dredging parts of the Delaware River including the Marcus Hook Range Ship Channel. Because of the dredging operations, temporary additional requirements will be imposed in Anchorage 7 off Marcus Hook, Anchorage 6 off Deepwater Point, and Anchorage 9 near entrance to Mantua Creek. The Coast Guard is also establishing a temporary moving safety zone around the dredge vessel ESSEX that will be working in the Marcus Hook Range Ship Channel adjacent to Anchorage 7 off Marcus Hook. Vessels desiring to use these anchorage grounds will need to observe these temporary requirements and no vessels will be permitted in the safety zone without the permission of the Captain of the Port.

DATES: This rule is effective from September 24, 2001 until November 19, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments and material received from the public, as well as documents indicated in this preamble as being available in the docket, are part of docket CGD05-01-060 and are available for inspection or copying at Coast Guard Marine Safety Office/Group Philadelphia, One Washington Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19147 between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lieutenant Junior Grade Wade Kirschner or Senior Chief Robert Ward, Coast Guard Marine Safety Office/Group Philadelphia, (215) 271-4889 or (215) 271-4888.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulatory Information

A Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) was not published for this regulation. In keeping with 5 U.S.C. 553 (b)(B), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for not publishing an NPRM. In keeping with the requirements of 5 U.S.C. 553 (d)(3), the Coast Guard also finds good cause exists for making this regulation effective less than 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**. Publishing a NPRM

and delaying its effective date would be contrary to the public interest, since action is needed to protect mariners against potential hazards associated with the dredging operations in the Marcus Hook Range Ship Channel and to modify the anchorage regulations to facilitate vessel traffic. In addition, notifications will be made via Notice to Mariners.

Background and Purpose

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) notified the Coast Guard that it needed to conduct dredging operations on the Delaware River, in the vicinity of the Marcus Hook Range Ship Channel. The dredging is needed to maintain the project depth of the channel. Dredging begins September 18, 2001 and is anticipated to end on November 19, 2001.

To reduce the hazards associated with dredging the channel, vessel traffic that would normally transit through the Marcus Hook Range Ship Channel will be diverted through part of Anchorage 7 off Marcus Hook (Anchorage 7) during the dredging operations. This necessitates additional requirements/restrictions on the use of Anchorage 7. For the protection of mariners transiting in the vicinity of dredging operations, the Coast Guard is also establishing a safety zone around the dredging vessel ESSEX. The safety zone will ensure mariners remain a safe distance from the potentially dangerous dredging equipment.

Discussion of the Regulation

Section 110.157(b)(2) allows vessels to anchor for up to 48 hours in the anchorage grounds listed in § 110.157(a), which includes Anchorage 7. However, because of the limited space available in Anchorage 7, the Coast Guard is adding a temporary paragraph in 33 CFR 110.157(b)(11) to provide additional requirements and restrictions on vessels utilizing Anchorage 7. During the effective period, vessels desiring to use Anchorage 7 must obtain permission from the Captain of the Port Philadelphia at least 24 hours in advance. The Captain of the Port will permit only one vessel at a time to anchor in Anchorage 7 and will grant permission on a "first come, first serve" basis. A vessel will be directed to a location within Anchorage 7 where it may anchor, and will not be permitted to remain in the Anchorage 7 for more than 12 hours.

The Coast Guard expects that vessels normally permitted to anchor in Anchorage 7 will use Anchorage 6 off Deepwater Point (Anchorage 6) or

Anchorage 9 near entrance to Mantua Creek (Anchorage 9), because they are the closest anchorage grounds to Anchorage 7. To control access to Anchorage 7, the Coast Guard is requiring a vessel desiring to anchor in Anchorage 7 obtain advance permission from the Captain of the Port. To control access to Anchorages 6 and 9, the Coast Guard is requiring any vessel 700 feet or greater in length to obtain advance permission from the Captain of the Port before anchoring. The Coast Guard is also concerned that the holding ground in Anchorages 6 and 9 is not as good as in Anchorage 7. Therefore, a vessel 700 to 750 feet in length is required to have one tug standing alongside while at anchor, and a vessel of over 750 feet in length must have two tugs standing alongside. The tug(s) must have sufficient horsepower to prevent the vessel they are attending from swinging into the channel.

The Coast Guard is also establishing a safety zone within a 150-yard radius of the dredging operations being conducted in the Marcus Hook Range Ship Channel in the vicinity of Anchorage 7 by the dredge vessel ESSEX. The safety zone will protect mariners transiting the area from the potential hazards associated with dredging operations. Vessels transiting the Marcus Hook Range Ship Channel will have to divert from the main ship channel through Anchorage 7, and must operate at the minimum safe speed necessary to maintain steerage and reduce wake. No vessel may enter the safety zone unless it receives permission from the Captain of the Port.

Regulatory Evaluation

This temporary final rule is not a "significant regulatory action" under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866 and does not require an assessment of potential costs and benefits under section 6(a)(3) of that order. The Office of Management and Budget has exempted it from review under that order. It is not significant under the regulatory policies and procedures of the Department of Transportation (DOT) (44 FR 11040; February 26, 1979). The Coast Guard expects the economic impact of this proposal to be so minimal that a full Regulatory Evaluation under paragraph 10e of the regulatory policies and procedures of DOT is unnecessary. Although this regulation requires certain vessels to have one or two tugs alongside while at anchor, the requirement only applies to vessels 700 feet or greater in length, that choose to anchor in Anchorages 6 and 9. Alternate anchorage grounds such as Anchorage A off the entrance to the Mispillion River

("Anchorage A," described in § 110.157(a)(1)) or Anchorage 1 off Bombay Hook Point ("Anchorage 1," described in § 110.157(a)(2)) in Delaware Bay, are also reasonably close and generally available. Vessels anchoring in Anchorages A and 1 are not required to have tugs alongside, except when specifically directed to do so by the Captain of the Port because of a specific hazardous condition. Furthermore, few vessels 700 feet or greater are expected to enter the port during the effective period. The majority of vessels expected are less than 700 feet and thus will not be required to have tugs alongside.

Small Entities

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601–612), we have considered whether this rule would have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The term "small entities" comprises small businesses, not-for-profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in their fields, and governmental jurisdictions with populations of less than 50,000.

The Coast Guard certifies under 5 U.S.C. 605(b) that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. This regulation's greatest impact is on vessels 700 feet and greater in length which choose to anchor in Anchorages 6 and 9 and will have virtually no impact on any small entities.

Assistance for Small Entities

Under section 213(a) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–121), we want to assist small entities in understanding the rule so that they could better evaluate its effects on them and participate in the rulemaking process.

Small businesses may send comments on the actions of Federal employees who enforce, or otherwise determine compliance with, Federal regulations to the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and the Regional Small Business Regulatory Fairness Boards. The Ombudsman evaluates these actions annually and rates each agency's responsiveness to small business. If you wish to comment on actions by employees of the Coast Guard, call 1–888-REG-FAIR (1–888–734–3247).

Collection of Information

This rule calls for no new collection of information under the Paperwork

Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520).

Federalism

A rule has implications for federalism under Executive Order 13132, Federalism, if it has a substantial direct effect on State or local governments and would either preempt State law or impose a substantial direct cost of compliance on them. We have analyzed this rule under that Order and have determined that it does not have implications for federalism.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531–1538) requires Federal agencies to assess the effects of their discretionary regulatory actions. In particular, the Act addresses actions that may result in the expenditure by a State, local, or tribal government, in the aggregate, or by the private sector of \$100,000,000 or more in any one year. Though this rule will not result in such an expenditure, we do discuss the effects of this rule elsewhere in this preamble.

Taking of Private Property

This rule will not effect a taking of private property or otherwise have taking implications under Executive Order 12630, Governmental Actions and Interference with Constitutionally Protected Property Rights.

Civil Justice Reform

This rule meets applicable standards in sections 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform, to minimize litigation, eliminate ambiguity, and reduce burden.

Protection of Children

We have analyzed this rule under Executive Order 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 risk to safety that may disproportionately affect children.

Indian Tribal Governments

This rule does not have tribal implications under Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, because it does not have a substantial direct effect on one or more Indian tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian tribes.

Energy Effects

We have analyzed this rule under Executive Order 13211, Actions Concerning Regulations That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use. We have determined that it is not a “significant energy action” under that order because it is not a “significant regulatory action” under Executive Order 12866 and is not likely to have a significant adverse effect on the supply, distribution, or use of energy. It has not been designated by the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs as a significant energy action. Therefore, it does not require a Statement of Energy Effects under Executive Order 13211.

Environment

We considered the environmental impact of this rule and concluded that, under figure 2–1, paragraphs (34)(f) and (g), of Commandant Instruction M16475.1C, this rule is categorically excluded from further environmental documentation.

List of Subjects

33 CFR Part 110

Anchorage grounds.

33 CFR Part 165

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

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard amends 33 CFR parts 110 and 165 as follows:

PART 110—ANCHORAGE REGULATIONS

1. The authority citation for part 110 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 471, 1221 through 1236, 2030, 2035, 2071; 49 CFR 1.46 and 33 CFR 1.05–1(g).

2. A new temporary § 110.157(b)(11) is added to read as follows:

§ 110.157 Delaware Bay and River.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(11) Additional requirements and restrictions for the anchorage grounds defined in paragraphs (a)(7), (a)(8), and (a)(10).

(i) Prior to anchoring in Anchorage 7 off Marcus Hook, as described in paragraph (a)(8) of this section, a vessel must first obtain permission from the Captain of the Port, Philadelphia, at least 24 hours in advance of arrival. Permission to anchor will be granted on a “first-come, first-serve” basis. The Captain of the Port will allow only one vessel at a time to anchor in Anchorage

7, and no vessel may remain within Anchorage 7 for more than 12 hours.

(ii) For Anchorage 6 off Deepwater Point as described in paragraph (a)(7) of this section, and Anchorage 9 near entrance to Mantua Creek as described in paragraph (a)(10) of this section.

(A) Any vessel 700 feet or greater in length requesting anchorage shall obtain permission from the Captain of the Port, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at least 24 hours in advance.

(B) Any vessel from 700 to 750 feet in length shall have one tug alongside at all times while the vessel is at anchor.

(C) Any vessel greater than 750 feet in length shall have two tugs alongside at all times while the vessel is at anchor.

(D) The master, owner or operator of a vessel at anchor shall ensure that a tug required by this section is of sufficient horsepower to assist with necessary maneuvers to keep the vessel clear of the navigation channel.

(iii) For the purposes of paragraph (b)(11), Captain of the Port means the Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office/Group Philadelphia or any Coast Guard commissioned, warrant, or petty officer who has been authorized by the Captain of the Port to act on his behalf. The Captain of the Port can be reached at telephone number (215) 271–4940.

(iv) *Effective dates.* Paragraph (b) (11) is effective from September 24, 2001 until November 19, 2001.

* * * * *

PART 165—REGULATED NAVIGATION AREAS AND LIMITED ACCESS AREAS

3. The authority citation for part 165 continues to read as follows:

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

4. Add temporary § 165.T05–060 to read as follows:

§ 165.T05–060 Safety Zone; Delaware Bay and River.

(a) *Location.* The following area is a safety zone: All waters within the arc of a circle with a 150-yard radius of the dredging vessel ESSEX operating in or near the Marcus Hook Range Ship Channel in the vicinity of Anchorage 7 off Marcus Hook.

(b) *Regulations.*

(1) All persons are required to comply with the general regulations governing safety zones in § 165.23 of this part.

(2) The Coast Guard vessels enforcing this section can be contacted on VHF Marine Band Radio, channels 13 and 16. The Captain of the Port can be contacted at telephone number (215) 271–4940.

(3) The Captain of the Port will notify the public of any changes in the status

of this safety zone by Marine Safety Radio Broadcast on VHF-FM marine band radio, channel 22 (157.1 MHz).

(c) *Definition.* For the purposes of this temporary section, Captain of the Port means the Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office/Group Philadelphia or any Coast Guard commissioned, warrant, or petty officer who has been authorized by the Captain of the Port to act on his behalf.

(d) *Effective dates.* This section is effective from September 24, 2001 until November 19, 2001.

Dated: September 24, 2001.

T.W. Allen,

Vice Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Commander, Fifth Coast Guard District.

[FR Doc. 01-24738 Filed 10-2-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-15-U

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

38 CFR Part 20

RIN 2900-AK54

Board of Veterans' Appeals: Rules of Practice—Time for Filing Substantive Appeal

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This document amends the Rules of Practice of the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board) relating to the time limit for filing a "substantive appeal." The amendment implements an opinion by the General Counsel of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) that, in some cases, when a claimant files additional evidence, the deadline for filing a substantive appeal may be extended.

DATES: *Effective date:* This amendment is effective February 11, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven L. Keller, Acting Vice Chairman, Board of Veterans' Appeals, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 565-5978.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Board is an administrative body within VA that decides appeals from denials of claims for veterans' benefits.

An appeal to the Board is initiated by filing a "notice of disagreement" with the "agency of original jurisdiction" (AOJ), usually one of VA's 58 regional offices. 38 U.S.C. 7105(a), (b); 38 CFR 20.200 and 20.201. In response, the AOJ provides the claimant with a "statement of the case," that sets forth the reasons for the decision. 38 U.S.C. 7105(d)(1); 38

CFR 19.26 and 19.29. The claimant must file a substantive appeal within 60 days from the date of the mailing of the statement of the case, or within the remainder of the one-year period from the date VA mailed the original decision to the claimant, whichever is later. 38 U.S.C. 7105(d)(3); 38 CFR 20.302(b).

If, however, a claimant submits additional pertinent evidence after the AOJ issues the statement of the case, the AOJ must issue a "supplemental statement of the case" (SSOC). 38 CFR 19.31 and 19.37(a). VA's regulations give the claimant 60 days to respond to the SSOC. 38 CFR 20.302(c). However, the previous version of 38 CFR 20.304 provided that filing additional evidence after receipt of notice of an adverse determination did not extend the time limit for completing an appeal from that determination. Accordingly, if a claimant submitted (1) pertinent additional evidence within one year of the AOJ's determination and (2) a substantive appeal within 60 days of the issuance of the SSOC, but more than one year after the date of the AOJ's adverse determination, then the appeal would have been untimely under the prior version of 38 CFR 20.304.

In a precedent opinion, however, the General Counsel held that VA must provide the claimant with a 60-day period of time in which to file a substantive appeal following issuance of an SSOC even if the one-year appeal period will expire before the 60-day period ends. VAOPGCPREC 9-97; 62 FR 15565, 15567 (Apr. 1, 1997). The Board is bound in its decisions by the precedent opinions of the General Counsel. 38 U.S.C. 7104(c).

Accordingly, we are amending 38 CFR 20.302 and 20.304 to conform to that General Counsel opinion. As amended, these rules clarify that, where a claimant submits additional pertinent evidence within one year of the challenged AOJ decision, and that evidence requires the preparation of an SSOC, the time to file a substantive appeal shall end not sooner than 60 days after the AOJ mails that SSOC.

Because this is a rule of agency practice, this rule would be published as a final rule. 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(3)(A). In addition, because this amendment constitutes a liberalizing change relieving a restriction and is an interpretative rule, this amendment is not required to be published 30 days prior to its effective date. 5 U.S.C. 553(d). In this case, since the Board is bound by the precedent opinions of the General Counsel, 38 U.S.C. 7104(c), the amendment would be retroactively effective to February 11, 1997, the

effective date of the precedent opinion upon which it is based.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This document contains no provisions constituting a collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520).

Unfunded Mandates

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act requires (in section 202) that agencies prepare an assessment of anticipated costs and benefits before developing any rule that may result in an expenditure by State, local, or tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector of \$100 million or more in any given year. This rule would have no consequential effect on State, local, or tribal governments.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Secretary hereby certifies that this rule does not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities as they are defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601-612. This rule would affect only the processing of claims by VA and would not affect small businesses. Therefore, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 605(b), this final rule is exempt from the initial and final regulatory flexibility analyses requirements of sections 603 and 604.

List of Subjects in 38 CFR Part 20

Administrative practice and procedure, Claims, Veterans.

Approved: September 21, 2001.

Anthony J. Principi,

Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 38 CFR part 20 is amended as follows:

PART 20—BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS: RULES OF PRACTICE

1. The authority citation for part 20 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501(a) and as noted in specific sections.

2. In § 20.302, paragraph (b) is revised to read as follows:

§ 20.302 Rule 302. Time limit for filing Notice of Disagreement, Substantive Appeal, and response to Supplemental Statement of the Case.

* * * * *

(b) *Substantive Appeal.* (1) *General.* Except in the case of simultaneously contested claims, a Substantive Appeal must be filed within 60 days from the date that the agency of original jurisdiction mails the Statement of the Case to the appellant, or within the