ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7228-2]

New York State Prohibition on Marine Discharges of Vessel Sewage; Receipt of Petition and Final Determination

Notice is hereby given that a petition was received from the State of New York on July 5, 2001 requesting a determination by the Regional Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), pursuant to section 312(f) of Public Law 92-500, as amended by Public Law 95-217 and Public Law 100-4 (the Clean Water Act), that adequate facilities for the safe and sanitary removal and treatment of sewage from all vessels are reasonably available for the waters of the Peconic Estuary. County of Suffolk, New York. The Towns of East Hampton, Riverhead, Shelter Island, Southampton, and Southold, and the Villages of Dering Harbor, Greenport, North Haven, and Sag Harbor are seeking to establish a New York State Designated No-Discharge Zone (NDZ) for the open waters, harbors and creeks on the Peconic Estuary, Suffolk County, New York west of a line from Orient Point (41.16133, −72.23065) to Montauk Point (41.07312, −71.8570).

On March 6, 2002, EPA published a Receipt of Petition and Tentative Determination and accepted comments from the public for a thirty (30) day period. EPA received letters from the following individuals or communities:

Honorables David E. Kapell, Mayor, Village of Greenport, 236 Third Street, Greenport, New York 11944.
Paul W. Esterle, 2971 Broad Street, #155, Bristol, Tennessee 37620-3461.
Rameshwar Das, 61 Shoridge, East Hampton, New York 11937.

Two of the comment letters expressed support for the establishment of the NDZ, stating that the NDZ was important to protect fishing and water recreational resources. One letter stated that the existing NDZ in East Hampton is a valuable component of public awareness for ensuring the health of the estuary and that it served to bring the stakeholders in the estuary into the process.

One comment letter objected to establishing a NDZ and raised two general concerns. In explaining the first concern, the commenter pointed out that the existing national standards already prohibit the discharge of untreated sewage from vessels and argued that the quality of treated wastes discharged from marine sanitation devices (MSDs) was better than wastes discharged from on-shore sewage treatment systems.

In response, EPA acknowledges the accuracy of the first point regarding the existing national prohibition against untreated discharges from MSDs in coastal waters such as the Peconic Estuary. However, EPA questions the claim that MSDs produce wastewater that is cleaner than the wastes discharged from on-shore sewage treatment plants, and EPA notes that the justification provided in the letter to support the claim is anecdotal. Further, EPA is not aware of any studies conducted on the discharges from existing MSDs that evaluate the efficacy of the units after years of operation. Sewage treatment plants, on the other hand, are typically required to reduce biochemical oxygen demand and total suspended solids by 85%, and are generally subject to routine monitoring and reporting requirements. In addition, many sewage treatment plants are required to provide disinfection, which commonly results in effluent quality less than 100 colonies per 100 milliliter for fecal coliform, which is better than the standards that MSDs are required to meet.

The second concern raised in the letter challenged the conclusion in the tentative determination that sufficient pumpout facilities were available for boaters. The commenter cites an article that was published in Cruising World regarding the Rhode Island coastal waters NDZ. The article recounts a boater’s three day attempt, in Rhode Island, to locate a functioning pumpout facility. The article alleges that many of the pumpouts in the waters of Rhode Island, to locate a functioning pumpout facility. The article argues that the quality of treated wastes discharged from on-shore sewage treatment plants is cleaner than the wastes discharged from marine sanitation devices (MSDs). However, EPA questions the claim that MSDs produce wastewater that is cleaner than the wastes discharged from on-shore sewage treatment systems.

In further response to the comment letter, the Clean Water Act (Sec. 314(f)(3)) authorizes a State to completely prohibit the discharge from all vessels of any sewage, whether treated or not, by making a written application to EPA. Upon receipt of an application, EPA must determine whether adequate facilities for the safe and sanitary removal and treatment of sewage from all vessels are reasonably available. The State of New York has applied to EPA in accordance with the Clean Water Act and EPA has determined that such facilities are reasonably available. The criteria for approval of the NDZ application is the adequacy and availability of the pumpouts for the number and size of vessels operating in the Peconic Estuary. This criteria has been satisfied. This determination is based on the following information which was included in the application submitted to EPA by the State of New York and the Towns of East Hampton, Riverhead, Shelter Island, Southampton, and Southold, and the Villages of Dering Harbor, Greenport, North Haven, and Sag Harbor. The open waters, harbors and creeks of the Peconic Estuary support significant shellfisheries, fish spawning, nursery and feeding areas, primary contact recreation such as swimming, and are or have within them State designated Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitats. Vessel counts indicate that there are approximately 7,000 to 11,300 boats in the area on an average summer weekend. These areas provide important natural and recreational resources that contribute significantly to the local, regional and state economy and the protection and enhancement of these waters is crucial to maintaining the natural resource values and economic viability of traditional maritime commercial and recreational activities. A New York State Designated No-Discharge Zone has already been established in the Town of East Hampton (1996) for the enclosed harbors and creeks on the Peconic Estuary from the Sag Harbor Village line to Montauk Point, Town of East Hampton, Suffolk County, New York. The existing NDZ includes Northwest Creek, Accabonac Harbor, Three Mile Harbor, Napeague Harbor, Hog Creek and Lake Montauk.

For many years, most of the Peconic Estuary was open for shellfishing. However, beginning in the mid-1980’s, the creeks and embayments experienced partial seasonal closures due to coliform bacteria levels. At present, the major creeks and embayments experience closure on a year round or a seasonal...
basis due to high levels of coliform bacteria in the water. Although vessel waste may be a relatively small contributor to marine pollution in general in the Peconic Estuary, pollution from boats has been identified in the New York State Priority Waterbodies List as one of several key pollution sources that has led to shellfish being classified as an impaired use in water quality classifications within the Peconic Estuary.

According to the State’s petition, the maximum daily vessel population for the waters of the Peconic Estuary is 11,247 vessels which are docked or moored. An inventory was developed including the number of recreational, commercial and estimated transient vessels that occupy the estuary. The following table summarizes the location of pumpout facilities and vessel populations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Waterbody</th>
<th>Vessels</th>
<th>Pumpouts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orient Harbor</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenport Harbor</td>
<td>1026</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southold</td>
<td>1319</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hog Neck Bay</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutchogue Harbor Complex</td>
<td>699</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southold</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flanders Bay</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complex</td>
<td>446</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Creek Pond</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cold Springs</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bullhead Bay/</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sebonac Complex</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Sea Harbor</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noyack Harbor</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sag Harbor</td>
<td>1867</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complex</td>
<td>1262</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Mile Harbor</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accabonac Harbor</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Napeague Harbor</td>
<td>1274</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dering Harbor</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coecles Harbor</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Neck Harbor</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>11247</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The ratio of boats to pumpout facilities has been based on the total number of vessels which could be expected. With thirty shore-side pumpout facilities and six pumpout vessel available to boaters, the ratio of docked or moored boats (including transients) is approximately 311 vessels per pumpout. Standard guidelines refer to acceptable ratios failing in the range of 300 to 600 vessels per pumpout.

There are commercial vessel operators active in and around the Peconic Estuary. These include the Cross Sound Ferry, the Plum Island Ferry, the Shelter Island Ferry and the commercial fishing fleets which operate out of Greenport and East Hampton. Cross Sound Ferry has a fleet of seven vessels. Six of these accommodate autos, trucks, buses and passengers. Cross Sound Ferry also offers high speed ferry service on its passenger only vessel, Sea Jet I. The ferries run hourly from each location, generally between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m., although the schedule varies with the season and at holidays. All of the Cross Sound Ferry fleet have holding tanks. These are pumped out at its facility in New London. Waste is emptied into the sewer system for treatment at the New London Sewage Treatment Plant. The Plum Island Ferry operates three vessels between Orient Point and the USDA facility on Plum Island. Vessel waste from the ferries is pumped out and treated at the sewage treatment facility at Plum Island.

Two vehicle ferries run between Shelter Island and the mainland. The North Ferry Co., Inc. provides ferry service between the Village of Greenport and the Town of Shelter Island. The North Ferry operates four 100-ton, 90-foot-long ferries, each capable of carrying cars, trucks, bicycles, and passengers. The ferry operates between 5:40 a.m. and 11:45 p.m., running every 15 minutes between 7:15 a.m. and 10:15 p.m., with additional trips on holiday weekends. No restroom facilities are on board.

South Ferry Inc. of Shelter Island provides ferry service between the Town of Shelter Island and the Village of North Haven. The South Ferry operates 3 ferries, each capable of carrying cars, trucks, bicycles, and passengers. The ferry operates between 6 a.m. and 11:45 p.m., running every 10–12 minutes, with additional trips on holiday weekends. No restroom facilities are on board.

Greenport is home to a commercial fishing fleet. Although subject to turnover and change, the fleet has at times comprised as many as 44 ground fish trawlers, 12 inshore and 7 offshore lobster boats, and 9 long-liners, including as many as 30 transient boats from other areas of the East Coast (A. T. Kearney, Development of a Commercial Fisheries Industry Strategy for the State of New York, 1989). Commercial dock space is available at two municipal and four private docks on Star Island and on West Lake Drive, two facilities on East Lake Drive and two facilities on the west side of the Inlet. Discussions with the commercial fishing fleet indicate that they discharge holding tanks outside the three mile limit.

There is one recreational party fishing boat that operates out of Greenport, the Peconic Queen II. It docks at the Mitchell site and has a capacity for up to 150 persons. This vessel has two 60 gallon holding tanks and these are pumped out by a septic truck. The Peconic Queen operates out of the Peconic River in Riverhead and tours the estuary. This vessel has a holding tank and pumps out at the Town of Riverhead pumpout in downtown Riverhead. Montauk is also home to charter boats for offshore sport fishing and the Viking passenger ferry fleet. Interviews indicate that these vessels discharge holding tanks outside the three mile limit.

The EPA hereby makes a final affirmative determination that adequate facilities for the safe and sanitary removal and treatment of sewage from all vessels are reasonably available for the Peconic Estuary in the County of Suffolk, New York. This final determination on this matter follows a 30-day period for public comment and results in a New York State prohibition of any sewage discharges from vessels in the Peconic Estuary.

Based on this EPA determination, the Peconic Estuary automatically becomes...
a State designated No-Discharge Zone, pursuant to Section 33.e.1. of the New York State Navigation Law. Within the No-Discharge Zone, discharges from marine toilets are prohibited under Section 33.e.2 of the State Navigation Law, and marine sanitation devices on board vessels operated in a No-Discharge Zone must be secured to prevent discharges. This statute may be enforced by any police officer or peace officer acting pursuant to their special duties.

Dated: May 21, 2002.

Jane M. Kenny,
Regional Administrator, Region II.
[FR Doc. 02–14495 Filed 6–7–02; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–7225–2]

Public Water System Supervision Program Revisions for Iowa

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of tentative approval and solicitation of requests for a public hearing.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Iowa is revising its approved Public Water System Supervision Program. The EPA has determined that these revisions are no less stringent than the corresponding Federal regulations. Therefore, the EPA intends to approve these program revisions. All interested parties may request a public hearing on the approval.

DATES: A request for a public hearing must be submitted in writing by July 10, 2002, to the Regional Administrator at the EPA Region 7 address.

ADDRESSES: Copies of documents related to this determination are available for inspection between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the following locations: EPA Region 7, 901 N. 5th Street, Kansas City, Kansas, 66101, and Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Water Supply Section, 401 SW 7th Street, Suite “M”, Des Moines, Iowa, 50309.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stan Calow, 913–551–7798.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Iowa has adopted (1) the Consumer Confidence Report regulations that require community water systems to prepare and provide to their customers annual consumer confidence reports on the quality of the water delivered by the systems (63 FR 44511–44536, August 19, 1998); (2) a revised definition of “public water systems” (63 FR 23361–23368, April 28, 1998); (3) the Analytical Methods for Chemical and Microbiological Contaminants and Revisions to Laboratory Certification Requirements (64 FR 67449–67467, December 1, 1999); (4) an Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule to improve control of microbial pathogens in drinking water, including the protozoan, Cryptosporidium (63 FR 69477–69521, December 16, 1998); and (5) a Stage 1 Disinfection/Disinfection By-Products Rule, setting requirements to limit the formation of chemical disinfectant by-products in drinking water (63 FR 69389–69476, December 16, 1998).

Any request for a public hearing must include the following information: (1) The name, address, and telephone number of the individual, organization, or other entity requesting a hearing; (2) a brief statement of the requesting person’s interest in the Regional Administrator’s determination and a brief statement of information that the requesting person intends to submit at such hearing; and (3) the signature of the individual making the request; or, if the request is made on behalf of an organization or other entity, the signature of a responsible official of the organization or other entity.

Insufficient requests for a hearing may be denied by the Regional Administrator. However, if a substantial request is made by July 10, 2002, a public hearing will be held. If no timely and appropriate request for a hearing is received and the Regional Administrator does not elect to hold a hearing on his own motion, this determination will become final and effective on July 10, 2002.

Authority: 40 CFR 142.12.


William Rice,
Acting Administrator, Region 7.
[FR Doc. 02–14210 Filed 6–7–02; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Sunshine Act; Meeting Notice

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED DATE & TIME: Thursday, June 13, 2002, meeting open to the public.

This meeting has been cancelled.

PERSON TO CONTACT FOR INFORMATION:
Mr. Ron Harris, Press Officer, Telephone: (202) 694–1220.

Mary W. Dove,
Secretary of the Commission.
[FR Doc. 02–14676 Filed 6–6–02; 2:44 pm]  
BILLING CODE 6715–01–M

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

[Docket No. 02–08]

Odyssey Stevedoring of Puerto Rico, Inc. v. Puerto Rico Port Authority; Notice of Filing of Complaint and Assignment

Notice is given that a complaint has been filed with the Federal Maritime Commission (“Commission”) by Odyssey Stevedoring of Puerto Rico, Inc. (“Complainant”) against the Puerto Rico Port Authority (“PRPA”).

Complainant contends that PRPA engaged in a number of activities in connection with negotiating and entering into maritime terminal leases and agreements, including preferential use, berthing and warehousing agreements, which violated sections 10(d)(1), 10(d)(2), and 10(d)(4) of the Shipping Act of 1984 and injured the Complainant.

[Report No. 2555]

Petition for Reconsideration of Action in Rulemaking Proceeding

June 4, 2002.

Petition for Reconsideration has been filed in the Commission’s rulemaking proceeding listed in this Public Notice and published pursuant to 47 CFR Section 1.429(e). The full text of this document is available for viewing and copying in Room CY–A257, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC or may be purchased from the Commission’s copy contractor, Qualex International (202) 863–2893. See Section 1.4(b)(1) of the Commission’s rules (47 CFR 1.4(b)(1)). Replies to an opposition must be filed within 10 days after the time for filing oppositions has expired.

Subject: Amendment FM Table of Allotments, Order to Show Cause (MM Docket No. 89–120); Amendment FM Table of Allotments, Order to Show Cause (MM Docket No. 91–352); Amendment of FM Table of Allotments (MM Docket No. 90–195); Amendment of the FM Table of Allotments (MM Docket No. 92–214).

Number of Petitions Filed: 1.

Marlene H. Dortch,
Secretary.
[FR Doc. 02–14461 Filed 6–7–02; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 6712–01–M