

to the individual in the event of adverse determinations by an agency concerning access to or amendment of information contained in record systems. The reasons for exempting this system of records from the foregoing provisions are as follows: To notify an individual at the individual's request of the existence of an investigative file pertaining to such individual or to grant access to an investigative file pertaining to such individual could interfere with investigative and enforcement proceedings; deprive co-defendants of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication; constitute an unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of others; disclose the identity of confidential sources and reveal confidential information supplied by such sources; and, disclose investigative techniques and procedures.

(3) 5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(4)(I). This provision of the Privacy Act requires the publication of the categories of sources of records in each system of records. The reasons an exemption from this provision has been claimed, are as follows:

(i) Revealing categories of sources of information could disclose investigative techniques and procedures;

(ii) Revealing categories of sources of information could cause sources who supply information to investigators to refrain from giving such information because of fear of reprisal, or fear of breach of promises of anonymity and confidentiality.

(4) 5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(1). This provision of the Privacy Act requires each agency to maintain in its records only such information about an individual as is relevant and necessary to accomplish a purpose of the agency required to be accomplished by statute or executive order. The reasons for exempting this system of records from the foregoing are as follows:

(i) The IRS will limit the Employee Complaint and Allegation Referral Records to those relevant and necessary for identifying, monitoring, and responding to complaints, allegations and other information received concerning current and former IRS employees and IRS contractors. However, an exemption from the foregoing is needed because, particularly in the early stages of an investigation, it is not possible to determine the relevance or necessity of specific information.

(ii) Relevance and necessity are questions of judgment and timing. What appears relevant and necessary when first received may subsequently be determined to be irrelevant or unnecessary. It is only after the

information is evaluated that the relevance and necessity of such information can be established with certainty.

(iii) When information is received by the IRS relating to violations of law within the jurisdiction of other agencies, the IRS processes this information through IRS systems in order to forward the material to the appropriate agencies.

As required by Executive Order 12866, it has been determined that this proposed rule is not a significant regulatory action, and therefore, does not require a regulatory impact analysis.

The regulation will not have a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the Federal Government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Therefore, it is determined that this proposed rule does not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601–612, it is hereby certified that these regulations will not significantly affect a substantial number of small entities. The proposed rule imposes no duties or obligations on small entities.

In accordance with the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Department of the Treasury has determined that this proposed rule would not impose new record keeping, application, reporting, or other types of information collection requirements.

List of Subjects in 31 CFR Part 1

Privacy.

Part 1, Subpart C of title 31 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

PART 1—[AMENDED]

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

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 301 and 31 U.S.C. 321. Subpart A also issued under 5 U.S.C. 552 as amended. Subpart C also issued under 5 U.S.C. 552a.

2. Section 1.36 paragraph (g)(1)(viii) is amended by adding the following text to the table in numerical order.

§ 1.36 Systems exempt in whole or in part from provisions of 5 U.S.C. 522a and this part.

*	*	*	*	*
(g)	*	*	*	
(1)	*	*	*	
(viii)	*	*	*	

Number	Name of system
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Number	Name of system
IRS 00.007 .....	Employee Complaint and Allegation Referral Records
*	*

Dated: May 20, 2002.

W. Earl Wright, Jr.,

Chief Management and Administrative Programs Officer.

[FR Doc. 02–14745 Filed 6–11–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830–11–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 155

[USCG–1998–3417]

RIN 2115–AF60

Salvage and Marine Firefighting Requirements; Vessel Response Plans for Oil

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DOT.

**ACTION:** Proposed rulemaking; notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Coast Guard announces three public meetings to receive comments on a notice of proposed rulemaking addressing the salvage and marine firefighting requirements for tank vessels transporting oil. The meetings will be held at three locations in order to allow for greater public involvement.

**DATES:** The public meetings will be held at the following locations:

Texas City, TX, July 9, 2002, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Philadelphia, PA, July 17, 2002, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Seattle, WA, July 25, 2002, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The meetings may conclude before the allotted time if all matters of discussion have been addressed.

**ADDRESSES:** The public meetings will be held at the following locations:

Texas City, TX—The Texas City/Charles T. Doyle Convention Center, 2010 5th Ave N., Stephen F. Austin Room, Texas City, TX 77590

Philadelphia, PA—U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office, One Washington Avenue, Multi-Purpose Room, Philadelphia, PA 19147–4395

Seattle, WA—Henry M. Jackson Federal Building, 915 Second Ave., North Auditorium, Room 3448, Seattle, WA 98174–1067

This notice is available on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov> in the docket for this rulemaking [USCG–1998–3417].

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** If you have questions concerning this proposed rulemaking or concerning any of the public meetings, please contact Lieutenant Douglas Lincoln, Office of Response, Response Operations Division, Coast Guard Headquarters, telephone 202–267–0448, or via e-mail at [DLincoln@comdt.uscg.mil](mailto:DLincoln@comdt.uscg.mil). If you have questions on viewing or submitting material(s) to the docket, please call Ms. Dorothy Beard, Chief, Dockets, Department of Transportation, telephone 202–366–5149.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background and Purpose**

In a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) that was published in the **Federal Register** on May 10, 2002 (67 FR 31868), entitled “Salvage and Marine Firefighting Requirements; Vessel Response Plans for Oil,” the Coast Guard stated our intention to hold public meetings, and we indicated that we would announce their locations and dates as soon as we had finalized the details of the meetings. In this notice we announce three public meetings to receive comments on the proposed rulemaking.

In the NPRM, we proposed to revise the vessel response plan salvage and marine firefighting requirements for tank vessels transporting oil. The revisions would clarify the salvage and marine firefighting services that must be identified in vessel response plans. The proposed changes would assure that the appropriate salvage and marine firefighting resources are identified and available for responding to incidents up to, and including, the worst-case scenario. The proposed rulemaking would also set new response time requirements for each of the required salvage and marine firefighting services.

**Information on Service for Individuals With Disabilities**

For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the public meeting, contact Lieutenant Douglas Lincoln at the telephone number indicated under the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice.

**Public Meeting**

The Coast Guard will hold three public meetings regarding this proposed rulemaking on the following dates at the following locations:

Texas City, TX, July 9, 2002, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at The Texas City/

Charles T. Doyle Convention Center, 2010 5th Ave N., Stephen F. Austin Room, Texas City, TX 77590  
Philadelphia, PA, July 17, 2002, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office, One Washington Avenue, Multi-Purpose Room, Philadelphia, PA 19147–4395  
Seattle, WA, July 25, 2002, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Henry M. Jackson Federal Building, 915 Second Ave., North Auditorium, Room 3448, Seattle, WA 98174–1067

The meetings may conclude before the allotted time if all matters of discussion have been addressed.

Summaries of comments made and lists of attendees will be available on the docket after each meeting concludes.

Dated: June 5, 2002.

**J.G. Lantz,**

*Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Acting Director of Standards, Marine Safety, Security and Environmental Protection.*

[FR Doc. 02–14967 Filed 6–10–02; 3:05 pm]

**BILLING CODE 4910–15–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**38 CFR Part 20**

**RIN 2900–AL08**

**Board of Veterans’ Appeals: Speeding Appellate Review for Aging Veterans**

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Veterans Affairs proposes amending the Rules of Practice of the Board of Veterans’ Appeals (Board) to provide that a case may be advanced on the Board’s docket because of the appellant’s advanced age. This change is necessary to speed the appellate process for the large group of aging veterans.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before August 12, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Mail or hand-deliver written comments to: Director, Office of Regulations Management (02D), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave., NW, Room 1154, Washington, DC 20420. Fax comments to: (202) 273–9289. E-mail comments to: [OGCRegulations@mail.va.gov](mailto:OGCRegulations@mail.va.gov). Comments should indicate that they are submitted in response to “RIN 2900–AL08.” All comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of Regulations Management, Room 1158, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Steven L. Keller, Senior Deputy Vice Chairman, Board of Veterans’ Appeals ((202) 565–5978), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Board of Veterans’ Appeals (Board) is the component of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in Washington, DC, that decides appeals from denials of claims for veterans’ benefits. An agency of original jurisdiction (AOJ), typically one of VA’s 58 regional offices, makes the initial decision on a claim. A claimant who is dissatisfied with an AOJ’s decision may appeal to the Board.

America owes a great debt to its military service veterans. They defended our nation in times of war and kept watch in times of peace to keep new crises from developing. Unfortunately, our nation is now losing large numbers of these veterans each year. Barely 2,000 of the almost 5 million men and women who served in World War I and one-third of the 16 million who served in World War II still survive. Even a number of Korean War veterans are now in their seventies. Among all veterans, approximately 18% are age 75 or older. Twenty-seven percent of the veteran population is aged 70 or over. See “Veteran Data & Information” <<http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Demographics/VPwelcome.htm>>. (Note: “Demographics” is the spelling used at the site.) In 1995, a person who reaches age 65 in the United States has an average life expectancy of 17 years. “Sixty-Five Plus in the United States” at 1, SB/95–8, U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, Bureau of the Census (May 1995), available at [http://www.census.gov/apds/www/statbrief/sb95\\_8.pdf](http://www.census.gov/apds/www/statbrief/sb95_8.pdf).

The process of obtaining veterans benefits can be protracted, particularly where benefits are initially denied and that denial is appealed up through VA’s administrative appeal process and beyond into the judicial system. The claims adjudication and appellate systems provide a myriad of procedural protections which, added together, take a great deal of time to work through. Further, the appellate process normally functions on a “first come, first served” basis. The law requires that the Board consider and decide each appeal “in regular order according to its place upon the docket.” 38 U.S.C. 7107(a). While this is normally a just and orderly approach, we are concerned that aging veterans may not survive to see it through to the end. The same is true of