

Operators, one position from Labor, and one position from Shippers. To be eligible, applicants should have particular expertise, knowledge, and experience relative to the position in towing operations, marine transportation, or business operations associated with shallow-draft inland and coastal waterway navigation and towing safety. Each member serves for a term of up to 4 years. A few members may serve consecutive terms. All members serve at their own expense and receive no salary, reimbursement of travel expenses, or other compensation from the Federal Government.

In support of the policy of the Department of Homeland Security on gender and ethnic diversity, we encourage qualified women and members of minority groups to apply.

Dated: January 7, 2004.

Joseph J. Angelo,

Director of Standards, Marine Safety, Security, & Environmental Protection.

[FR Doc. 04-636 Filed 1-12-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

[USCG-2003-16814]

Discharge of Dry Cargo Residues in the Great Lakes

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard gives notice that Congressional authorization of the United States 1997 enforcement policy (enforcement policy) relating to the incidental discharge of dry cargo residue on the Great Lakes expires on September 30, 2004, and that the study of that policy mandated by Congress has been completed. If new regulations are not in place by September 30, 2004, the enforcement policy will expire, and the current statute, which prohibits such discharges, will become effective October 1, 2004, and will be enforced by the Coast Guard. Although the Coast Guard is initiating a rulemaking regarding the discharge of dry cargo residue on the Great Lakes, it is improbable that any such rulemaking would be completed before the expiration of the enforcement policy.

DATES: The interim enforcement policy discussed in this notice expires September 30, 2004. Enforcement in accordance with current statutes will begin October 1, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Any comments or material received from the public in regard to this notice, as well as documents mentioned in the notice as being available in the public docket, are part of docket USCG-2003-16814 and may be viewed online at <http://dms.dot.gov> or at the Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions relating to the substance of this notice call LCDR Mary Sohlberg, U.S. Coast Guard, telephone 202-267-0713. If you have questions on viewing the docket, call Andrea M. Jenkins, Program Manager, Docket Operations, Department of Transportation, telephone 202-366-0271.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The historical practice of bulk dry cargo vessels on the Great Lakes is to wash non-hazardous and non-toxic cargo residues ("dry cargo residue" or "cargo sweepings") overboard. In 1987, Congress amended the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (APPS; see Pub. L. 100-220, sec. 2002; see also 33 U.S.C. 1901 *et seq.*), adopting Annex V to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), 1973. Under MARPOL interpretive guidelines, dry cargo residues and cargo sweepings are considered to be garbage. Strict application of the MARPOL interpretive guideline adopted the following year (33 CFR part 151) banned the discharge of dry cargo residue and cargo sweepings in the Great Lakes.

To ease the difficult implementation issues that application of the MARPOL guidelines would create within the unique legal, environmental, and economic framework of the Great Lakes, the Ninth Coast Guard District implemented in 1993 an "enforcement policy" (CCGD9INST 16460.1) that has been revised over the years and reissued in 1995 and in 1997. The 1997 policy is the current practice in place in the Great Lakes. The Coast Guard was directed by Congress in the 1998 Coast Guard Authorization Bill to continue its current policy regarding dry cargo residues on the Great Lakes until 2002. This authorization was subsequently extended until September 30, 2004, in Public Law 106-554, sec. 1117, pending completion of a study and formulation of a specific regulatory solution to the issue. Unless new regulations adopt elements of the enforcement policy, the Coast Guard has concluded that we have

no authority to extend the enforcement policy on our own, beyond the September 2004 deadline. The Coast Guard contracted the completion of the study and has received the study report on discharge of vessel dry cargo residues mandated by Congress in Public Law 106-554. The study is available at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Because of the effects on U.S. flag commercial shipping on the Great Lakes of a ban on dry cargo residues discharges, that study, among other things, recommended that the current practice of allowing vessels to discharge their incidental cargo residues into certain portions of the Great Lakes be continued, but, citing the lack of available data, also recommended that an Environmental Assessment be performed of the long term effects of continuing that practice. We intend to initiate a rulemaking and, as part of the rulemaking process, perform an Environmental Assessment in conjunction with other regulatory assessments. The analyses would assist in determining whether the regulations regarding the discharge of dry cargo residues in the Great Lakes should reflect past practice, prohibit discharges altogether, or allow for some other course of action, taking into account all the circumstances and stakeholder interests. If new regulations are not in effect by September 30, 2004, the Coast Guard will enforce the existing statutes commencing October 1, 2004.

Dated: January 7, 2004.

Joseph J. Angelo,

Director of Standards, Marine Safety, Security & Environmental Protection.

[FR Doc. 04-590 Filed 1-8-04; 4:56 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

[USCG-2004-16859]

Chemical Transportation Advisory Committee and Towing Safety Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of open teleconference meetings.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a teleconference of the Chemical Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) and a teleconference of the Towing Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC). The purpose of these teleconferences is for CTAC and TSAC to review the findings of the joint CTAC/TSAC Working Group on

ammonium nitrate and to vote on the proposed final report as recommendations to the Coast Guard.

DATES: The CTAC teleconference will take place on Wednesday, January 28, 2004, from 10 a.m. until 12 a.m. (noon), EST. The TSAC teleconference will take place on Wednesday, January 28, 2004, from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m., EST. These teleconferences may close early if all business is finished. Comments and related material must reach the Coast Guard before the public comment period at the teleconferences.

ADDRESSES: Members of the public may participate in these teleconferences by dialing 1-202-366-3920, pass code: 3199. Public participation is welcomed; however, the number of teleconference lines is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Members of the public may also participate by coming to Room 1303, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street, SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001. We request that members of the public who plan to attend this meeting notify LT Michael McKean at 202-267-0087 so that he may notify building security officials. Written comments should be sent to CDR Robert J. Hennessy, Executive Director, CTAC, or Mr. Gerald Miente, Assistant Executive Director, TSAC, Commandant (G-MSO), 2100 Second Street, SW., Washington DC 20593-0001 or Fax 202-267-4570. This notice is available on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Executive Director of CTAC, at telephone 202-267-1217, fax 202-267-4570, Assistant Executive Director of TSAC, at telephone 202-267-0221, fax 202-267-4570, or LT Michael McKean at telephone 202-267-0087, fax 202-267-4570.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770, as amended).

Agenda of Teleconferences

- (1) Introductions and opening remarks.
- (2) Discussion of CTAC/TSAC working group findings regarding the potential addition of ammonium nitrate and ammonium nitrate fertilizers that are classified as oxidizers to the Coast Guard Certain Dangerous Cargo (CDC) definition.
- (3) Review proposed final report.
- (4) Public comment period.
- (5) Vote.
- (6) Closing remarks.

Procedural

The Chairpersons of CTAC and TSAC shall conduct the teleconferences in a way that will, in their judgment, facilitate the orderly conduct of business. During the teleconferences, the committees welcome public comment. Members of the public will be heard during the public comment period. The committees will make every effort to hear the views of all interested parties. Please note that the teleconferences may close early if all business is finished. Written comments must be submitted before the public comment period at the teleconferences to the Executive Director of CTAC or the Assistant Executive Director of TSAC (see **ADDRESSES**).

The teleconferences will be recorded and a summary will be available for public review upon request approximately 30 days following the teleconference meetings.

Dated: January 7, 2004.

Joseph J. Angelo,

Director of Standards, Marine Safety, Security, and Environmental Protection.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

[CGD08-03-052]

Houston/Galveston Navigation Safety Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: The Houston/Galveston Navigation Safety Advisory Committee (HOGANSAC) and its working groups will meet to discuss waterway improvements, aids to navigation, area projects impacting safety on the Houston Ship Channel, and various other navigation safety matters in the Galveston Bay area. All meetings will be open to the public.

DATES: The next meeting of HOGANSAC will be held on Thursday, February 5, 2004 at 9 a.m. An advance meeting of the Committee's working groups will be held on Thursday, January 22, 2004 at 9 a.m. The meetings may adjourn early if all business is finished. Members of the public may present written or oral statements at either meeting. Requests to make oral presentations or distribute written materials should reach the Coast Guard 5 working days before the meeting at which the presentation will be made. Requests to have written

materials distributed to each member of the committee in advance of the meeting should reach the Coast Guard at least 10 working days before the meeting at which the presentation will be made.

ADDRESSES: The full Committee meeting will be held at the Houston Pilot Association Office, 8150 South Loop East, Houston, Texas (713-645-9620). The working groups meeting will be held at the Galveston-Texas City Pilots Association Office, 1301 Pelican Island #1, Galveston, Texas (409-740-3336). This notice is available on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Captain (CAPT) Richard Kaser, Executive Director of HOGANSAC, telephone (713) 671-5199, Commander (CDR) Tom Marian, Executive Secretary of HOGANSAC, telephone (713) 671-5164, or Lieutenant (LT) Sean Komatinsky, assistant to the Executive Secretary of HOGANSAC, telephone (713) 671-5103, e-mail skomatinsky@vtshouston.uscg.mil.

Written materials and requests to make presentations should be sent to Commanding Officer, VTS Houston-Galveston, Attn: LT Komatinsky, 9640 Clinton Drive, Floor 2, Houston, TX 77029.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice of this meeting is given pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

Agendas of the Meetings

Houston/Galveston Navigation Safety Advisory Committee (HOGANSAC). The tentative agenda includes the following:

- (1) Opening remarks by the Committee Sponsor (RADM Robert Duncan) (or the Committee Sponsor's representative), Executive Director (CAPT Richard Kaser) and Chairman (Mr. Tim Leitzell).
- (2) Approval of the October 9, 2003 minutes.
- (3) Old Business:
 - (a) Dredging projects.
 - (b) AtoN Knockdown Working Group and pending AtoN projects.
 - (c) Mooring subcommittee report.
 - (d) Education and Outreach subcommittee report.
 - (e) Area Maritime Security Committee Liaison's report.
 - (f) Bridge Allision Prevention Working Group.
 - (g) Swimmers Near Lynchburg.
 - (h) Electronic Navigation.
 - (i) Safe Harbor Working Group
 - (j) Maritime Incident Review Working Group
 - (k) Deepdraft Entry Facilitation Working Group
 - (l) Galveston Causeway Construction Working Group