

(d) Commission staff will not consider requests for confidential treatment of information that is required to be made public under Section 5(d)(7) of the Act or Commission Regulations 40.3(a)(7) or 40.5(a)(8).

6. Appendix D is amended by adding a new sentence to the end of section 8, "Other requirements," to read as follows:

Appendix D to Part 40—Submission Cover Sheet and Instructions

* * * * *

(8) *Other requirements*—* * * Checking the box marked "confidential treatment requested" on the Submission Cover Sheet does not obviate the submitter's responsibility to comply with all applicable requirements for requesting confidential treatment in Rule 40.8(c) and, where appropriate, Rule 145.9, and will not substitute for notice or full compliance with such requirements.

* * * * *

PART 41—SECURITY FUTURES PRODUCTS

7. The authority citation for part 41 continues to read as follows:

Authority: Sections 206, 251 and 252, Pub. L. 106–554, 114 Stat. 2763, 7 U.S.C. 1a, 2, 6f, 6j, 7a–2, 12a; 15 U.S.C. 78g(c)(2).

8. Section 41.23 is amended by adding new paragraph (a)(7) to read as follows:

§ 41.23 Listing of security futures products for trading.

(a) * * *

(7) Includes a request for confidential treatment as permitted under the procedures of § 40.8.

* * * * *

9. Section 41.24 is amended by adding new paragraph (a)(6) to read as follows:

§ 41.24 Rule amendments to security futures products.

(a) * * *

(6) Includes a request for confidential treatment as permitted under the procedures of § 40.8.

* * * * *

PART 145—COMMISSION RECORDS AND INFORMATION

10. The authority for part 145 continues to read as follows:

Authority: Pub. L. 99–570, 100 Stat. 3207; Pub. L. 89–554, 80 Stat. 383; Pub. L. 90–23, 81 Stat. 54; Pub. L. 98–502, 88 Stat. 1561–1564 (5 U.S.C. 552); Sec. 101(a), Pub. L. 93–463, 88 Stat. 1389 (5 U.S.C. 4a(j)); unless otherwise noted.

11. Section 145.9 is amended by revising paragraph (b) to read as follows:

§ 145.9 Petition for confidential treatment of information submitted to the Commission.

* * * * *

(b) Scope. The provisions of this section shall apply only where the Commission has not specified that an alternative procedure be utilized in connection with a particular study, report, investigation, or other matter. See § 40.8 for procedures to be utilized in connection with filing information required to be filed pursuant to 17 CFR parts 40 and 41.

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Issued in Washington, DC on July 23, 2008, by the Commission.

David Stawick,

Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. E8–17529 Filed 7–31–08; 8:45 am]

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DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

18 CFR Part 410

Proposed Amendments to the Water Code and Comprehensive Plan To Implement a Revised Water Audit Approach to Identify and Control Water Loss

AGENCY: Delaware River Basin Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule; notice of public hearing.

SUMMARY: The Delaware River Basin Commission ("Commission" or "DRBC") will hold a public hearing to receive comments on proposed amendments to the Commission's *Water Code and Comprehensive Plan* to phase in a requirement for water purveyors to follow a revised water audit approach to identify and control water loss.

DATES: Comments: Written comments must be received by 5 p.m. October 3, 2008.

Meeting and public hearing: The Commission will hold an informational meeting on Wednesday, September 10, 2008 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. The Commission also will hold a public hearing on Thursday, September 25, 2008 at the Commission's office building. The hearing will begin at 1:30 p.m. and will continue until all those who wish to testify are afforded an opportunity to do so. For more information regarding the procedures for these hearings and comments, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

ADDRESSES: The informational meeting and public hearing will be held at the Commission's office building, which is

located at 25 State Police Drive, West Trenton, New Jersey. Driving directions are available on the Commission's Web site—<http://www.drbc.net>. Please do not rely on Internet mapping services as they may not provide accurate directions to the DRBC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: For further information, please contact Pamela Bush, Commission Secretary and Assistant General Counsel, Delaware River Basin Commission, at 609–883–9500 ext. 203.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Persons wishing to testify at the public hearing are asked to register in advance by phoning Ms. Paula Schmitt at 609–883–9500, ext. 224.

Written comments may be submitted as follows: If by e-mail, to paula.schmitt@drbc.state.nj.us; if by fax, to Commission Secretary at 609–883–9522; if by U.S. Mail, to Commission Secretary, DRBC, P.O. Box 7360, West Trenton, NJ 08628–0360; or if by overnight mail, to Commission Secretary, DRBC, 25 State Police Drive, West Trenton, NJ 08628–0360. In all cases, please include the commenter's name, address and affiliation, if any, in the comment document and include "Water Audit" in the subject line.

Background. An estimated 150 million gallons of treated and pressurized water is physically lost from public water supply distribution systems in the Delaware River Basin per day and current methods to account for, track and reduce this loss are inadequate.

The purpose of the proposed amendments is to phase in a program requiring water purveyors to perform a water audit and report their findings in accordance with a new audit structure established by the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and the International Water Association (IWA). These new methods are widely regarded as superior to the existing approach, which entails tracking "unaccounted for water," which is no longer considered best practice.

The new water audit methodology provides a rational approach that will facilitate more consistent tracking and reporting than the existing approach allows. It will help water managers and regulators, including the Commission, state agencies, and utility managers, target their efforts to improve water supply efficiency, thereby reducing water withdrawals. Improving water accountability will contribute to achieving objective 1.3.C of the *Water Resources Plan for the Delaware River Basin*, which calls for ensuring

maximum feasible efficiency of water use across all sectors.

The Commission's Water Management Advisory Committee (WMAC), which has taken primary responsibility for reviewing the proposed audit methodology and developing these amendments, is composed of representatives from a wide range of public and private sector organizations. WMAC membership includes: Mr. Ferdows Ali, Environmental Scientist with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture; Ms. Janet L. Bowers, Executive Director of the Chester County Water Resources Authority; Mr. Gerald Esposito, President of Tidewater Utilities; Mr. David Fröehlich, of the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association; Mr. David Jostenski, Chief of the Water Use Assessment Section of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection; Mr. Mark Hartle, of the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, Division of Environmental Services; Mr. Stewart Lovell, Supervisor of Water Allocations of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control; Mr. John Mello, of Region II of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Mr. Bruno M. Mercuri, of Mercuri and Associates, Inc.; Dr. Joseph A. Miri, of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Water Supply Element; Mr. Robert Molzahn, of the Water Resources Association of the Delaware River Basin; Mr. Howard Neukrug, of the Philadelphia Water Department; Ms. Mary Ellen Noble, of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network; Ms. Senobar Safafar, of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, Strategic Services Division, Bureau of Water Supply; Mr. Tom Simms, Director of the Institute of Soil and Environmental Quality of the University of Delaware DGS Annex; Mr. Ronald A. Sloto, of the U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division; Ms. Edith Stevens, of the League of Women Voters; and Mr. Glen Stevens, of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

On May 25, 2004, the WMAC established a subcommittee to investigate the issue of water loss and water accountability in light of new methods proposed by the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and the International Water Association (IWA). The subcommittee met on four occasions to review the Commission's current policies concerning water loss and water accountability and to discuss the new methods. The DRBC's current policies are based on the concept of "unaccounted for water," which is no longer considered best practice. The new methods are based upon more

precise definitions and more rational accounting procedures that will result in a clearer understanding on the part of utility managers and regulators of the causes of water loss. The new methods will thus facilitate targeted improvements that reduce system water demands, with region-wide benefits. DRBC staff participated in the development of water audit software based on the new accounting methods, in an effort led by the AWWA Water Loss Control Committee (WLCC).

On March 16, 2005, after listening to a presentation outlining the benefits of the new water accountability methods, the DRBC Commissioners asked DRBC staff and the WMAC to develop a position statement and policy recommendations for the Commission and to engage water purveyors in the Basin in a pilot study of the newly developed water audit software in order to test the software and solicit feedback.

Six water purveyors from the Delaware River Basin were identified to participate in the nationwide pilot study. The comments and feedback provided to AWWA led to improvements in the software. In March 2006, the software was approved by the AWWA WLCC and was posted on the AWWA Web site, where it is available at no charge to all users. Links to the software are posted on the water conservation page of the DRBC Web site: <http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/policy.htm>.

The WMAC and its subcommittee determined that the IWA/AWWA water audit methodology represents an improvement to the Commission's current practices and can lead to multiple benefits for water utilities and other stakeholders. It is anticipated that adoption of the IWA/AWWA approach will:

- Improve upon the traditional approach for identifying "unaccounted for water," which lacks standardized terminology and a clearly defined water audit structure.
- Provide a rational water audit structure to help identify water losses and improve water supply system efficiency.
- Provide meaningful performance indicators to help identify systems with the greatest losses. These indicators allow water utility managers to make reliable comparisons of performance and to identify best practices to control water loss in an economical way.
- Identify ways to improve water supply efficiency and thereby reduce water withdrawals that have no beneficial end use.
- Help to target efforts to reduce the estimated 150 million gallons per day that is physically lost from public water

supply distribution systems in the Basin.

- Enhance utility revenues by enabling utility managers to recover the significant revenue that is otherwise lost due to apparent losses such as theft of service, unbilled connections, meter discrepancies and data errors.

- Help utility managers and regulators identify real losses (such as leakage) that waste treated and pressurized water and increase operating costs. Significant real losses indicate opportunities for improved asset management that can reduce the vulnerability of utilities to disruptive water main breaks, other service disruptions and water quality upsets.

Because the water audit approach is relatively new in a regulatory context, the proposed amendments call for phased implementation. Until 2011, the DRBC will promote the voluntary use of the IWA/AWWA water audit program. During this period, information will be gathered from within the Basin and nationwide to assist in the establishment of performance indicators for water loss, which ultimately will replace the "unaccounted for water" targets. If approved, the proposed amendments will require water purveyors to perform an annual water audit conforming to the IWA/AWWA methodology, beginning in calendar year 2012.

The proposed amendments also require changes in the way data pertaining to water loss are collected by the state agencies and shared with DRBC.

The text of the proposed *Water Code* amendments is available on the DRBC Web site, drbc.net. A copy can also be obtained by contacting Paula Schmitt at 609-883-9500, ext. 224.

Dated: July 28, 2008.

Pamela M. Bush,

Commission Secretary.

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RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

20 CFR Part 220

RIN 3220-AB62

Removal of Listing of Impairments and Related Amendments

AGENCY: Railroad Retirement Board

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Railroad Retirement Board proposes to remove the Listing of Impairments within our regulations. The Board's Listing of Impairments (the