under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

The FAA’s authority to issue rules regarding aviation safety is found in Title 49 of the U.S. Code. Subtitle I, Section 106, describes the authority for the FAA Administrator. Subtitle VII, Aviation Programs, describes in more detail the scope of the agency’s authority. This rulemaking is promulgated under the authority described in Subtitle VII, part A, subpart I, Section 40103. Under that section, the FAA is charged with prescribing regulations to assign the use of the airspace necessary to ensure the safety of aircraft and the efficient use of airspace. This regulation is within the scope of that authority as it creates additional controlled airspace at Frank Wiley Field, Miles City, MT.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 71

Airspace, Incorporation by reference, Navigation (air).

The Proposed Amendment

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me, the Federal Aviation Administration proposes to amend 14 CFR part 71 as follows:

PART 71—DESIGNATION OF CLASS A, B, C, D, AND E AIRSPACE AREAS; AIR TRAFFIC SERVICE ROUTES; AND REPORTING POINTS

§ 71.1 [Amended]

1. The authority citation for 14 CFR part 71 continues to read as follows:


§ 71.1 [Amended]

2. The incorporation by reference in 14 CFR part 71.1 of the Federal Aviation Administration Order 7400.9U, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated August 18, 2010, and effective September 15, 2010 is amended as follows:

Paragraph 6005 Class E airspace areas extending upward from 700 feet or more above the surface of the earth.

* * * * *

ANM MT E5 Miles City, MT [Modified]

Miles City, Frank Wiley Field, MT (Lat. 46°25′41″ N., long. 105°53′11″ W.)

That airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface within a 7.4-mile radius of Frank Wiley Field, and within 3.1 miles each side of the 047° bearing from Frank Wiley Field extending from the 7.4-mile radius to 5.5 miles north of the airport, and within 3.5 miles each side of the 226° bearing from Frank Wiley Field, extending from the 7.4-mile radius to 15 miles southwest of the airport, and within 4.5 miles each side of the 253° bearing from Frank Wiley Field, extending from the 7.4-mile radius to 12 miles west of the airport; that airspace extending upward from 1.200 feet above the surface within a 34.5-mile radius of Frank Wiley Field.

Issued in Seattle, Washington, on July 7, 2011.

John Warner,

Manager, Operations Support Group, Western Service Center.

[FR Doc. 2011–17850 Filed 7–14–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Office of the Secretary

14 CFR Parts 234 and 241

[Docket No. RITA 2011–0001]

RIN 2139–AA13

Reporting Ancillary Airline Passenger Revenues

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT or the Department) is proposing to collect revenue information in a more detailed manner regarding airline imposed fees from those air carriers meeting the definition of a large certificated air carrier. Many air carriers have adopted a la carte pricing with separate fees for such things as checked baggage, carry-on baggage, meals, on-board entertainment, internet connections, pillows, blankets, advance or upgraded seating, telephone reservations, early boarding, canceled or changed reservations, transportation of unaccompanied minors, pet transportation, third-party services such as hotel rooms, car rentals, and pick-up and delivery services, et cetera. The Department wants to make airline pricing more transparent to consumers and airline analysts. This action is in response to a Departmental initiative and responds to recommendations of the Government Accountability Office. Also, the Department is proposing to change the way it computes mishandled baggage rates from mishandled baggage reports per unit of domestic enplanements to mishandled bags per unit of checked bags. Fees for checked baggage have changed consumer behavior regarding the number of bags they check, skewing mishandled baggage rates. Finally, the Department is proposing to fill a data gap by collecting separate statistics for mishandled wheelchairs and scooters used by passengers with disabilities.

DATES: All comments must be received by September 13, 2011. Late filed comments will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments to Docket RITA 2011–0001 by any of the following methods:

• Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to http://www.regulations.gov. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

• Mail: Docket Management Facility: U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590–0001.

• Hand Delivery or Courier: U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

• Fax: 202–493–2251.

DOT will post all comments received, without change, to http://www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided. If DOT acknowledgement of comments is desired, please include a pre-addressed, stamped postcard on which the docket number appears. We will date the postcard and mail it to you.

Docket: To read background documents or comments received, go to http://www.regulations.gov at any time or to Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bonnie Stankus, Office of Airline Information, RTS–42, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590–0001, Telephone Number (202) 366–4387, Fax Number (202) 366–3383 or E-MAIL bernard.stankus@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
In July 2010, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report titled GAO–10–785, Commercial Aviation—Consumers Could Benefit from Better Information about Airline-Imposed Fees and Refundability of Government Imposed Taxes and Fees. This report found that it is difficult to determine the total amount of fees that airlines are collecting from passengers. “Currently revenues from fees other than baggage fees and reservation change and cancellation fees are reported in miscellaneous and other accounts that also include revenues from non-fee sources.” (See page 34 of the GAO report.) Thus, policymakers and regulators lack the necessary detailed data to determine total revenues from airline imposed fees and the fees’ impact on the industry. GAO recommended that DOT collect data on all the optional fees paid by passengers that relate to their trip in an identifiable format.

DOT is proposing a stand-alone reporting form to capture ancillary revenues. In order not to disrupt the various programs used by airline analysts to compute airline yields and passenger revenues, the Department’s proposal will not change the current reporting of the other Form 41 financial reports. DOT proposes to define ancillary revenues as those charges paid by airline passengers that are not included in the standard ticket fare. Generally, all mandatory charges necessary for air transportation are included in the ticket price, but fees for optional services are not. Treasury regulations and IRS guidance provide that revenue from many airline-imposed fees for airline services are generally not subject to the 7.5 percent excise tax, including fees for checked baggage, early boarding, phone reservations, and on-board meals. On the other hand, amounts paid for other airline imposed fees that are required as a condition of receiving domestic air transportation, such as some reservation change and cancellation fees, fuel surcharges and peak travel day charges, are subject to the 7.5 percent excise tax in accordance with IRS guidance and applicable regulations (see page 21 GAO–10–785, July 2010). The Airline Tariff Publishing Company (ATPCO), the world leader in the collection and distribution of airline fare and fare-related data, has over two hundred sub codes for the items that the Department is proposing to define as ancillary airline revenues. The Department is not proposing to require the detailed breakout of all the charges identified by ATPCO, but is using the ATPCO list of charges as a reference in developing the new reporting form—Report of Ancillary Passenger Revenues. The Department is proposing to collect the following data on optional charges in that report:

1. Booking Fees, including fees for telephone reservations
2. Priority Check-In and Security Screening
3. Baggage
   a. First Checked Bag
   b. Second Checked Bag
   c. Excess Baggage (i.e., third checked bag or more)
   d. Overweight/Oversized Baggage/Equipment
4. In-Flight Medical Equipment
5. In-Flight Entertainment/Internet Access
6. Sleep Sets
7. In-Flight Food/Non Alcoholic Drinks
8. Alcoholic Drinks
9. Pets
10. Seating Assignments
11. Reservation Cancellation and Change Fees
12. Charges for Lost Tickets
13. Unaccompanied Minor/Passenger Assistance Fee
14. Frequent Flyer Points/Points Acceleration
15. Commissions on Travel Packages—Hotel/Car Rental/etc.
16. Travel Insurance
17. Duty-Free and Retail Sales
18. One-Time Access to Lounges
19. Other

DOT proposes that carriers that submit the quarterly Form 41, Schedule P–1 Statement of Operations would also submit a new quarterly Form 41, P–9 Schedule Statement of Ancillary Revenues. Carriers that submit the Semiannual Form 41, Schedule P–1.1 Statement of Operations would also submit a new semiannual Form 41, Schedule P–9.1 Statement of Ancillary Revenues. The new Reports of Ancillary Revenues will be designed to show the ancillary revenues received by the reporting carriers from their passengers. For instance, in a code-share arrangement, Carrier A markets the service and pays Carrier B a predetermined fee for operating a flight segment. Carrier A charges a $25 fee for each checked bag. The baggage fees collected from passengers by Carrier B are held for Carrier A. Carrier A would include these baggage fees in its Report of Ancillary Revenues.

The Department is requesting public comment on which items should be specifically identified as ancillary revenues, and the projected reporting burden for submitting a report of ancillary revenues in terms of costs and hours of reporting burden. Further, the Department requests public comment on how to best capture reporting of all ancillary fees. Should the Department include specific fee categories in the regulatory text? Or, specify in the regulatory text that “all ancillary fees” must be reported, with accompanying guidance on the reporting format and fee categories? How could the Department ensure that the fees categorized as “other” fees are most informative to the Department and to the consumer?

### Mishandled Baggage Reports

The Department believes that the current matrix for comparing airline mishandled baggage performance is outdated. Airline passengers would...
have better information to compare airline services if the matrix for mishandled baggage were changed to the number of the actual mishandled bags per unit of checked bags rather than the number of Mishandled Baggage Reports (MBRs) filed by passengers per unit domestic scheduled-service passengers. Passenger behavior was altered regarding the unit of bags checked when many air carriers began charging passengers for each bag that they check. The GAO reported that the introduction of baggage fees resulted in a decline of 40 to 50% in the number of checked bags with a corresponding 40% decline in the number of MBRs per 1,000 passengers (see page 25 of GAO–10–785, July 2010). Also, the ratio between checked bags and the number of passengers can vary greatly depending on the fees carriers charge. Moreover, there is not a direct relationship between the number of MBRs and the number of lost, stolen, delayed, damaged and pilfered bags because a single MBR could be submitted by a family with multiple mishandled bags. The proposed matrix would better inform passengers of their chances to retrieve their checked baggage and belongings in an acceptable and timely manner.

The Department is also interested in capturing data about the number of the mishandled wheelchairs/scooters per unit of wheelchairs/scooters transported in aircraft cargo. Many air travelers who use wheelchairs are reluctant to travel by air because of concern that the return of their wheelchairs or scooters will be delayed, or the wheelchair/scooter will be damaged or lost. However, we do not know the magnitude of the problem. The proposed data collection for mishandled wheelchairs/scooters is crucial to understanding the magnitude of the problem as this data is not available to us through other means. It is very important that passengers with mobility disabilities arrive at their destination with their wheelchair/scooter in good working order. Without these devices, they will have great difficulty in exiting the airport or may be confined to their hotel or place of visit. We invite interested persons to comment on this proposal. Should the rule be expanded to require data not only about wheelchairs and scooters transported in the aircraft cargo compartment but about all wheelchairs and scooters regardless of whether the devices are transported in the cabin or in the cargo compartment? Should the rule also apply to other mobility devices such as walkers? The Department plans to publish the data it receives from the carriers which would increase public awareness of the issue, provide passengers with disabilities a means by which to compare the overall mishandled wheelchair/scooter rates by carrier and create an added incentive for air carriers to treat these mobility devices with greater care.

Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

A. Executive Order 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review), DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures, and Executive Order 13563 (Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review)

This action has been determined to be significant under Executive Order 12866 and the Department of Transportation’s Regulatory Policies and Procedures because of the substantial public and Congressional interest. It has been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget in accordance with Executive Order 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review) and Executive Order 13563 (Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review) and is consistent with the requirements in both orders. Executive Order 13563 reaffirms the principles of Executive Order 12866 and seeks to create a regulatory process that “strikes the right balance” between what is needed to protect health, welfare, safety, and the environment and what is needed to foster economic growth, job creation, and competitiveness.

The Department is seeking public comment on the estimated costs and benefits of its proposal. To this end, the Department is seeking an open exchange of information between Department officials, transportation experts, industry representatives and members of the public. The Department believes that participation will lead to a better and more informed decision. We encourage those air carriers who would be covered by this proposal to provide comments to the Docket explaining the potential impact on their business operations. We are committed to selecting the least burdensome method to achieve the regulatory goals described above. By requesting public comments, we are hopeful that additional alternatives will be proposed which then can be reviewed by the Department’s decisionmakers. We believe this process will provide the Department the maximum regulatory flexibility.

The regulatory evaluation finds that the benefits of the proposal appear to exceed its costs considering non-quantifiable benefits, such as providing data on fees that impact the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and providing consumers with better data for comparing air carrier service performance. Also, airline passengers will likely be better informed about the existence of ancillary fees. This NPRM provides the public an opportunity to express their views and needs.

Cost/Benefit Analysis

Benefits

The ancillary revenue data collection would supply the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Government Accountability Office (GAO) with information to assess the potential impact of these fees on the Airport and Airway Trust Fund. In the last few years, some carriers have adopted a la carte pricing for optional services. Airlines have also developed new services with separate charges such as in-flight wireless internet access, one-time admission to airport lounges, accelerated frequent flyer miles, etc. Airlines have been able to lower airfares while increasing overall revenues with the a la carte pricing and new services. At the same time, revenues to the Airport and Airway Trust Fund have slightly decreased.

A report of ancillary revenues should assist DOT and the Justice Department in evaluating the impact of proposed mergers and acquisitions. Presently, it is difficult, if not impossible, to determine the average total cost of air travel to consumers. Ancillary charges often are omitted from the total costs of tickets reported in the Passenger Origin-Destination Survey.

There is a range of bills in Congress that would impose taxes on various airline services. Because of the current Department of Transportation reporting requirements, GAO has been unable to accurately forecast the amount of revenues that these taxes would generate.

The change in the matrix to mishandled bags per unit of checked bags would give consumers more reliable information on the air carriers’ performance regarding the treatment of baggage within their control. Under the current system, there is no direct relationship between the number of mishandled bags and the number of checked bags. Carriers report the number of MBRs that they receive from passengers. A mishandled baggage report may be filed for one bag or multiple bags. The denominator in the current matrix is enplaned passengers. A passenger may opt to travel with only carry-on baggage or may check multiple bags.

With the institution of baggage fees, the number of checked bags at some
carriers has declined by 40 to 50 percent. There has been a corresponding 40 percent decline (i.e., improvement) in the industry mishandled baggage rates. A large part of the improvement in the mishandled baggage rate appears to be related to the decrease in checked baggage, although the current matrix hides this fact. The proposed matrix would have a direct correlation between mishandled baggage and checked baggage. Separate breakout of mishandled wheelchairs/scooters would assist passengers with mobility disabilities in selecting air carriers with high probabilities in meeting their special needs.

Finally, there is a gap in the Department’s data regarding the mishandling of wheelchairs and scooters. The proposed data will provide information to passenger with disabilities on which air carriers best meet their special needs.

The Department has not quantified the benefits of the ancillary revenue data collection, the change in the matrix to mishandled bags per unit of checked bags, or the data collection regarding mishandling of wheelchairs and scooters. DOT estimates a one-time programming effort of 40 hours per certificated air carrier to retrieve the required breakout of the reportable ancillary revenues from its accounting systems. After the programming effort is completed, there will be a recurrent reporting burden of approximately 10 hours per carrier to produce and submit each ancillary revenue report. Presently, there are 66 air carriers that would submit quarterly reports and 11 air carriers that would submit semiannual reports. Thus, the total first-year reporting burden would be 5,940 hours:

- 3,080 programming hours (77 carriers × 40 programming hours)
- 2,640 hours for quarterly submissions (66 carriers × 4 quarterly reports × 10 hours)
- 220 hours for semiannual submissions (11 carriers × 2 semiannual reports × 10 hours)

The proposed reporting form to collect ancillary data would become a part of Form 41 financial data which is collected under the OMB number 2138–0013. The Department requests comments on the estimates of first year reporting burden.

Mishandled Baggage Reports

BTS anticipates a one-time reprogramming effort in changing the matrix from MBRs per 1,000 enplaned passengers to the number of mishandled bags per unit of checked bags. Most reporting carriers have these data in their systems or have the ability to gather the information. DOT estimates a range from 1 hour to 80 hours with an average of 20 hours per carrier to implement this proposed change. Total burden is estimated to be 360 hours for the 18 reporting air carriers.

The Department encourages air carriers to comment on these cost estimates.

C. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act generally requires an agency to prepare a regulatory flexibility analysis of any rule subject to notice-and-comment rulemaking requirements under the Administrative Procedure Act or any other statute unless the agency certifies that the rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

I certify that, if adopted, this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The Department has defined small entities as those carriers that operate strictly small aircraft (60 seats or less aircraft). This rule will impact only those carriers that operate large aircraft or have annual domestic passenger revenues of over $600 million dollars. The cost estimate to implement this rule is between $2,500 and $12,500 per carrier.

D. Executive Order 12612

This rule has been analyzed in accordance with the principles and criteria in Executive Order 12612 ("Federalism") and the Department has determined that this proposed rule does not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

E. Trade Agreements Act

This act prohibits agencies from setting standards that create unnecessary obstacles to foreign commerce of the United States. The Department believes this proposed rule will not impact foreign commerce.

F. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995

This Act requires agencies to prepare written assessment of costs, benefits, and other effects of a proposed rule that include a Federal mandate likely to result in the expenditure by State, local, or tribal government. This proposed rule imposes no expenditures on State, local, or tribal government. The estimated cost to the airline industry from this proposed rule would account for 0.0002 percent of total industry operating revenues.

G. Regulation Identifier Number

A regulation identifier number (RIN) is assigned to each regulatory action listed in the Unified Agenda of Federal Regulations. The Regulatory Information Service Center publishes the Unified Agenda each April and October. The RIN Number 2138–AA13 contained in the heading of this document can be used to cross reference this action with the Unified Agenda.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Parts 234 and 241

Air Carriers, Reporting, On-time statistics, Mishandled baggage, and Uniform system of accounts.

Accordingly, the Department of Transportation proposes to amend 14 CFR Chapter II as follows:
PART 234—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for Part 234 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 329 and chapters 41101 and 41701.

2. Section 234.6 is revised to read as follows:

§ 234.6 Baggage-handling statistics.

Each reporting carrier shall report monthly to the Department on a domestic system basis, excluding charter flights, the total number of checked bags, including gate checked baggage, the number of wheelchairs and scooters transported in the aircraft cargo compartment, the total number of mishandled checked bags, including gate checked baggage, and the number of mishandled wheelchairs and scooters that were carried in the cargo compartment. The information shall be submitted to the Department within 15 days of the end of the month to which the information applies and must be submitted with the transmittal accompanying the data for on-time performance in the form and manner set forth in accounting and reporting directives issued by the Director, Office of Airline Information.

PART 241—[AMENDED]

3. The authority citation for part 241 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 329 and chapters 41101, 41708, and 41709.

4. In part 241, the table titled “List of Schedules in BTS Form 41” in Section 22(a) is amended by adding entries for Schedule P–9, and P–9.1 to read as follows:

Section 22 General Reporting Instructions.

(a) * * *

LIST OF SCHEDULES IN BTS FORM 41

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schedule number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Applicability by carrier group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P–9</td>
<td>Statement of Ancillary Revenues</td>
<td>Q</td>
<td>(1) x x x x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P–9.1</td>
<td>Statement of Ancillary Revenues</td>
<td>SA</td>
<td>(2) na na</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. In part 241, the table titled “Due Dates of Schedules in BTS Form 41 Report” in Section 22(a) is amended by revising the entries for “February 10”, “May 10”, “August 10” and “November 10” to read as follows:

Section 22 General Reporting Instructions.

(b) * * *

DUE DATES OF SCHEDULES IN BTS FORM 41 REPORT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dues dates</th>
<th>Financial data on schedule number</th>
<th>Traffic and capacity data on schedule number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* * *</td>
<td>* * *</td>
<td>* * *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* * *</td>
<td>* * *</td>
<td>* * *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* * *</td>
<td>* * *</td>
<td>* * *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* * *</td>
<td>* * *</td>
<td>* * *</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Due Dates falling on Saturday, Sunday or national holiday will become effective the first following work day.

2 Reporting due dates on Form 41 schedules B and P are extended to March 30 if preliminary schedules are filed at the Department by February 10.

* * * * *

6. In part 241, Section 24 is amended by adding Schedules P–9 and P–9.1 to read as follows:

Section 24 Profit and Loss Elements

* * * * *

Schedule P–9  Statement of Ancillary Revenues

(a) Section 24 Profit and Loss Elements P–9  Statement of Ancillary Revenues

(a) This schedule shall be filed quarterly by all Group II and Group III air carriers and by Group I air carriers that have annual operating revenues of $20 million or more.

(b) Data reported on this schedule shall be for ancillary revenues as defined as those charges paid by airline passengers that are not included in the passenger revenues.

(c) Carriers shall submit the data using a comma separated value format as follows:

(1) Carrier code;

(2) Period end date (yyyyymmdd);

(3) Booking Fees (includes fees for telephone reservations, paper tickets, delivery);

(4) Priority Check-In and Security Screening;

* * * * *
P-9.1 Statement of Ancillary Revenues
(a) This scheduled shall be filed semiannually by Group I air carriers with annual operating revenues below $20 million.
(b) Data reported on this schedule shall be for ancillary revenues as defined as those charges paid by airline passengers that are not included in the passenger revenues.
(c) Carriers shall submit the data using a comma separated value format as follows:
1. Carrier code;
2. Period end date (yyyyymmdd);
3. Booking Fees (includes fees for telephone reservations, paper tickets, delivery);
4. Priority Check-In and Security Screening;
5. First Checked Baggage;
6. Second Checked Baggage;
7. Excess Baggage (i.e., third checked baggage or more);
8. Overweight/Oversized Baggage/ Sports Equipment;
9. Carry-On Baggage;
10. In-Flight Medical Equipment;
11. In-Flight Entertainment/Internet Access;
12. Sleep Sets;
13. In-Flight Food/Non Alcoholic Drinks;
14. Alcoholic Drinks;
15. Pets;
16. Seating Assignments;
17. Reservation Cancellation and Change Fees;
18. Charges for Lost Tickets;
19. Unaccompanied Minor/Passenger Assistance Fee;
20. Frequent Flyer Points/Points Acceleration (includes fees for purchasing travel with points or fees for purchases with points close to departure dates; Points Acceleration are fees for increased frequent flyer point accumulation);
21. Commissions on Travel Packages—Hotel/Car Rental/etc.;
22. Commissions on Travel Insurance;
23. Duty-Free and Retail Sales;
24. One-Time Access to Lounges; and
25. Other.

Issued in Washington, DC, on July 7, 2011 under authority delegated by 14 CFR 385.19(a).

Anne Suissa,
Director, Office of Airline Information.
[FR Doc. 2011–17652 Filed 7–14–11; 8:45 am]

ENVIROMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
40 CFR Part 51

AIR QUALITY: WIDESPREAD USE FOR ONBOARD REFUELING VAPOR RECOVERY AND STAGE II WAIVER

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The EPA is proposing criteria for determining whether onboard refueling vapor recovery (ORVR) is in widespread use for purposes of controlling motor vehicle refueling emissions throughout the motor vehicle fleet. The EPA is also proposing to determine the date at which such widespread use of ORVR will occur. Once the Administrator has determined that widespread use has occurred, the Administrator may waive Clean Air Act (CAA or Act) statutory requirements for states to implement Stage II gasoline vapor recovery systems at gasoline dispensing facilities in areas classified "Serious," "Severe," or "Extreme" for nonattainment of the ozone national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS).

Based on the proposed criteria, the EPA is proposing to determine that June 30, 2013, will be the date when "widespread use" will occur and the Stage II waiver will be effective. This rulemaking was identified as an example of examining rules to make sure they are still achieving the environmental benefit that was originally intended.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before September 13, 2011. Public Hearing: If anyone contacts us requesting to speak at a public hearing on or before August 1, 2011, we will hold a public hearing. Additional information about the hearing would be published in a subsequent Federal Register notice.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA–HQ–OAR–2010–1076, by one of the following methods:
• http://www.regulations.gov. Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.
• E-mail: a-and-r-docket@epamail.epa.gov, Attention Docket ID No. EPA–HQ–OAR–2010–1076

Hand Delivery: Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, Attention Docket ID No. EPA–HQ–OAR–2010–1076, Environmental Protection Agency, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket’s normal hours of operation, and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.

Instructions: Direct your comments to Docket ID No. EPA–HQ–OAR–2010–1076. The EPA’s policy is that all comments received will be included in the public docket without change and may be made available online at http://www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided, unless the comment includes information claimed to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Do not submit information that you consider to be CBI or otherwise protected through http://www.regulations.gov, or e-mail. The