

PART 117—DRAWBRIDGE OPERATION REGULATIONS

1. The authority citation for part 117 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 499; 33 CFR 1.05–1; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 0170.1.

2. § 117.118 is added to read as follows:

§ 117.118 Tombigbee River.

The draw of the Meridian and Bigbee Railroad (MNBR) vertical lift span bridge across the Tombigbee River, mile 128.6 (Black Warrior Tombigbee (BWT) Waterway mile 173.6), at Naheola, shall operate as follows:

(a) The draw shall be maintained in the fully open-to-navigation position for vessels at all times, except during periods when it is closed for the passage of rail traffic.

(b) When a train approaches the bridge, it will stop and a crewmember from the train will observe the waterway for approaching vessels. If vessels are observed approaching the bridge, they will be allowed to pass prior to lowering the bridge. The crewmember will then announce via radiotelephone on VHF–FM channel 16 that the bridge is preparing to be lowered. If, after two minutes, no response has been received, the crewmember will initiate the lowering sequence.

(c) After the train has completely passed over the bridge, the crewmember will initiate the raising sequence. When the bridge is in the fully open-to-navigation position, the crewmember will announce via radiotelephone on VHF–FM channel 16 that the bridge is in the fully open-to-navigation position.

(d) To request openings of the bridge when the lift span is in the closed-to-navigation position, mariners may contact the MNBR via VHF–FM channel 16 or by telephone at 205–654–4364.

Dated: April 17, 2012.

Roy A. Nash,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District.

[FR Doc. 2012–10449 Filed 4–30–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9910–04–P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

34 CFR Chapter VI

[Docket ID ED–2012–OPE–0008]

Negotiated Rulemaking Committee; Public Hearings

AGENCY: Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education.

ACTION: Intent to establish negotiated rulemaking committee.

SUMMARY: We announce our intention to establish a negotiated rulemaking committee to prepare proposed regulations for the Federal Student Aid Programs authorized by the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA). The committee will include representatives of organizations or groups with interests that are significantly affected by the subject matter of the proposed regulations. We also announce two public hearings at which interested parties may suggest additional issues that should be considered for action by the negotiating committee. In addition, for anyone unable to attend a public hearing, we announce that the Department will accept written comments.

DATES: The dates, times, and locations of the public hearings are listed under the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice. We must receive written comments suggesting issues that should be considered for action by the negotiating committee on or before May 31, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal or via postal mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery. We will not accept comments by fax or by email. To ensure that we do not receive duplicate copies, please submit your comments only once. In addition, please include the Docket ID at the top of your comments.

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to www.regulations.gov to submit your comments electronically. Information on using Regulations.gov, including instructions for accessing agency documents, submitting comments, and viewing the docket is available on the site under “How to Use Regulations.gov.”

- *Postal Mail, Commercial Delivery, or Hand Delivery:* If you mail or deliver your comments about these proposed regulations, address them to Wendy Macias, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street NW., Room 8017, Washington, DC 20006.

Privacy Note: The Department’s policy is to make all comments received from members of the public available for public viewing in their entirety on the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov. Therefore, commenters should be careful to include in their comments only information that they wish to make publicly available.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information about the public hearings, go to <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/reg/hearulemaking/2012/index.html> or contact: Wendy Macias,

U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street NW., Room 8017, Washington, DC 20006. Telephone: (202) 502–7526. Email: Wendy.Macias@ed.gov.

For information about negotiated rulemaking in general, see *The Negotiated Rulemaking Process for Title IV Regulations, Frequently Asked Questions* at <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/reg/hearulemaking/hea08/neg-reg-faq.html> or contact: Wendy Macias, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street NW., Room 8017, Washington, DC 20006. Telephone: (202) 502–7526. Email: Wendy.Macias@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) or text telephone (TTY), call the Federal Relay Service (FRS), toll free, at 1–800–877–8339.

Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotope, or compact disc) by contacting Wendy Macias, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street NW., Room 8017, Washington, DC 20006. Telephone: (202) 502–7526. Email: Wendy.Macias@ed.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 492 of the HEA requires that, before publishing any proposed regulations to implement programs authorized under Title IV of the HEA, the Secretary obtain public involvement in the development of the proposed regulations. After obtaining advice and recommendations from the public, the Secretary conducts negotiated rulemaking to develop the proposed regulations. We announce our intent to develop proposed Title IV regulations by following the negotiated rulemaking procedures in section 492 of the HEA.

We intend to select participants for the negotiated rulemaking committee from nominees of the organizations and groups that represent the interests significantly affected by the proposed regulations. To the extent possible, we will select, from the nominees, individual negotiators who reflect the diversity among program participants, in accordance with section 492(b)(1) of the HEA.

Regulatory Issues

We intend to convene a committee to develop proposed regulations designed to prevent fraud and otherwise ensure proper use of Title IV, HEA program funds, especially within the context of current technologies. In particular, we intend to propose regulations to address the use of debit cards and other banking mechanisms for disbursing Federal Student Aid funds. In addition, we intend to propose regulations to

improve and streamline the campus-based Federal Student Aid programs.

On September 26, 2011, the Department's Office of Inspector General issued an Investigative Program Advisory Report alerting the Department to the increasingly common discovery of groups of individuals who conspire to defraud the Title IV, HEA programs through distance education programs (the report is available at <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oig/invreports/l42l0001.pdf>). In response to the report, on October 20, 2011, the Department issued Dear Colleague Letter GEN-11-17 (available at <http://ifap.ed.gov/dpclletters/GEN1117.html>) recommending actions that institutions can take to detect and prevent fraud in distance education programs and convened a Department-wide task force on the subject. The Department is now considering suggestions for regulatory changes to further help institutions combat fraud and protect students and taxpayers from fraudulent activity.

In addition, we are considering regulatory changes related to the disbursement of Title IV, HEA program funds, particularly electronic funds transfers (EFTs) made directly to a student's bank account and available to the student via debit or another bank-provided card. We are interested in how or whether the use of EFTs, in lieu of checks, could provide one means to help prevent fraud or identify those involved in fraud rings. We are also interested in whether students should have a greater role in deciding to accept debit cards or other banking services provided through an institutionally-controlled process or contracted provider, particularly in view of the costs and fees associated with the use of those cards and services. We are requesting public input on these areas and others that the public believes should be addressed through regulations to ensure the proper use of Title IV, HEA program funds.

Finally, pursuant to Executive Order 13563, the Department issued its final "Plan for Retrospective Analysis of Existing Regulations" in August 2011 (the plan is available at <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/reg/retrospective-analysis/index.html>). The Department's plan creates a defined policy, method, and schedule for identifying significant regulations, as determined under Executive Order 12866, that may be outmoded, ineffective, insufficient, or excessively burdensome, as well as regulations that can be modified, streamlined, expanded, or repealed to be more effective and efficient, achieve better outcomes for students, and be

easy to understand. As part of the retrospective analysis of existing regulations, the Department identified the need to review the regulations in 34 CFR parts 673, 674, 675, and 676 governing the campus-based Federal Student Aid programs (i.e., the Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, and Federal Work-Study programs). The Department is considering whether to update and streamline the regulations governing these programs. We will consider changes that improve the administration and efficiency of these programs while reducing burden on regulated parties.

After a complete review of the public comments presented at the public hearings and in the written submissions, we will publish a document (or documents) announcing the specific subject areas for which we intend to establish a negotiated rulemaking committee, and a request for nominations for individual negotiators for the committee who represent the interests significantly affected by the proposed regulations.

Public Hearings

We will hold two public hearings for interested parties to discuss the rulemaking agenda. The public hearings will be held on:

- May 23, 2012, at South Mountain Community College, 7050 South 24th Street, Student Union Building, Room 100-ABC, Phoenix, AZ 85042.
- May 31, 2012, at the U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street NW., 8th Floor Conference Center, Washington, DC 20006.

The public hearings will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., local time. Further information on the public hearing sites, including directions, is available at <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/reg/hearulemaking/2012/index.html>.

Individuals desiring to present comments at the public hearings must register by sending an email to nereg2012@ed.gov. The email should include the name of the presenter along with a general timeframe during which the individual would like to speak (for example, a presenter could indicate morning or afternoon, or before 11:00 a.m. or after 3:00 p.m.). We will attempt to accommodate each speaker's preference but, if we are unable to do so, we will make the determination on a first-come first-served basis (based on the time and date the email was received). It is likely that each participant will be limited to five minutes. The Department will notify registrants indicating the specific

location and time slot reserved for them. An individual may make only one presentation at the public hearings. If we receive more registrations than we are able to accommodate, the Department reserves the right to reject the registration of an entity or individual that is affiliated with an entity or individual that is already scheduled to present comments, and to select among registrants to ensure that a broad range of entities and individuals is allowed to present. We will accept walk-in registrations for any remaining time slots on a first-come first-served basis beginning at 8:30 a.m. on the day of the public hearing at the Department's on-site registration table.

Speakers may also submit written comments. In addition, for anyone who does not present at a public hearing, the Department will accept written comments through May 31, 2012. (See the **ADDRESSES** sections of this notice for submission information.)

Schedule for Negotiations

We anticipate that any committee established after the public hearings will begin negotiations in September 2012, with the committee meeting for up to three sessions of approximately three days each at roughly monthly intervals. The committee will meet in the Washington, DC area. The dates and locations of these meetings will be published in a subsequent document in the **Federal Register**, and will be posted on the Department's Web site at: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/reg/hearulemaking/2012/index.html>.

Electronic Access to This Document: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available via the Federal Digital System at: www.gpo.gov/fdsys. At this site you can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site. You may also access documents of the Department published in the **Federal Register** by using the article search feature at: <http://www.federalregister.gov>. Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1098a.

Dated: April 26, 2012.

David A. Bergeron,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning, and Innovation, delegated the authority to perform the functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

[FR Doc. 2012-10488 Filed 4-30-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[EPA-R9-OAR-2011-0130; FRL 9667-7]

State of Nevada; Regional Haze State and Federal Implementation Plans; BART Determination for Reid Gardner Generating Station

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Announcement of second public hearing and extension of public comment period.

SUMMARY: In addition to the public hearing previously scheduled for this action, EPA is holding a second public hearing at a different location earlier in the day on May 3, 2012. The public hearings are for the proposed rule, "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Nevada; Regional Haze State and Federal Implementation Plans; BART Determination for Reid Gardner Generating Station." EPA also is extending the closing date of the public comment period for the proposed rule to June 4, 2012 to allow for 30 days of public comment following the public hearings.

DATES: The second public hearing is on May 3, 2012. Any comments on this proposal are due by June 4, 2012.

ADDRESSES: *Public hearings:* EPA will hold a second public hearing at the Big Auditorium in the Moapa Band of Paiutes Administration Building on 1 Lincoln Street (cross street is Reservation Road) in Moapa, Nevada.

In a previous **Federal Register** notice published on April 18, 2012 (77 FR 23191), EPA announced a public hearing in Ron Dalley Theater at the Moapa Valley Empowerment High School on 2400 St. Joseph Street in Overton, Nevada, with an open house at the same location. This hearing will proceed as scheduled. Additional information about both hearings is provided in **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

Public comments: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No.

EPA-R09-OAR-2011-0130 by one of the following methods:

1. *Federal Rulemaking portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.

2. *Email:* Webb.Thomas@epa.gov.

3. *Fax:* 415-947-3579 (Attention: Thomas Webb).

4. *Mail:* Thomas Webb, EPA Region 9, Planning Office, Air Division, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, California 94105.

5. *Hand Delivery or Courier:* Such deliveries are only accepted Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., excluding federal holidays. Special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.

For detailed instructions concerning how to submit comments on this proposed rule, see the previous **Federal Register** notice of proposed rulemaking published on April 12, 2012 (77 FR 21896, 21897). The EPA Region 9 web site for the rulemaking, which includes the proposal and information about the public hearings, is at <http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/actions/nv.html#reid>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions about the public hearings, please contact Thomas Webb, EPA Region IX at 415-947-4139 or Webb.Thomas@epa.gov. If you require a reasonable accommodation, please contact Terisa Williams, EPA Region IX Reasonable Accommodations Coordinator at 415-972-3829, or Williams.Terisa@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Public hearings:* The public hearings are to provide the public with an opportunity to present oral comments regarding proposed Regional Haze State and Federal Implementation Plans for the determination of Best Available Retrofit Technology at the Reid Gardner Generating Station in the State of Nevada. The proposed rule requires the Reid Gardner Generating Station to meet an emissions limit for oxides of nitrogen at Units 1, 2 and 3 of 0.20 lbs/MMBtu on a 30-day rolling average.

Details about the two hearings are as follows:

1. In a previous **Federal Register** notice published on April 18, 2012, EPA announced a public hearing in Ron Dalley Theater at the Moapa Valley Empowerment High School on 2400 St. Joseph Street in Overton, Nevada from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on May 3, 2012, with an open house at the same location from 5 to 6 p.m. This hearing will proceed as scheduled. We are holding two public hearings on the same day at different times and locations for the convenience of the public.

2. EPA will hold a second public hearing at the Big Auditorium in the Moapa Band of Paiutes Administration Building on 1 Lincoln Street (cross street is Reservation Road) in Moapa, Nevada. The formal hearing will begin at 1 p.m. and end at 4 p.m. An informational open house at the same location will precede the public hearing from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We will not record public comments at the open house.

The proposed rule (77 FR 21896, Apr. 12, 2012) for which EPA will hold the public hearings is available at <http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/actions/nv.html#reid> and also in the docket identified below. The public hearings will provide interested parties the opportunity to present data, views, or arguments concerning the proposal. EPA may ask clarifying questions during the oral presentations, but will not respond to the presentations at that time. We will consider written statements and supporting information submitted during the comment period with the same weight as any oral comments and supporting information presented at the public hearings. At the public hearings, the hearing officer may limit the time available for each commenter to address the proposal to five minutes or less if the hearing officer determines it is appropriate. We will not provide equipment for commenters to show overhead slides or make computerized slide presentations. Any person may provide written or oral comments and data pertaining to our proposal at the public hearings. We will include verbatim transcripts, in English, of the hearing and written statements in the rulemaking docket.

Extension of comment period: EPA is extending the public comment period for the proposed rule to align with the dates of the public hearings. The comment period will now end on June 4, 2012, 30 days after the public hearings.

EPA has established a docket for the proposed rule under Docket ID No. EPA-R09-OAR-2011-0130 (available at <http://www.regulations.gov>).

Dated: April 25, 2012.

Deborah Jordan,

Air Division Director, Region IX.

[FR Doc. 2012-10589 Filed 4-30-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P