



# FEDERAL REGISTER

Pages 15201–15300

## OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL REGISTER



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# Contents

## Agriculture Department

See Forest Service

## Civil Rights Commission

### NOTICES

Hearings, Meetings, Proceedings, etc.:

Maryland Advisory Committee, 15220

Montana Advisory Committee, 15219–15220

## Commerce Department

See Foreign-Trade Zones Board

See International Trade Administration

See National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

## Education Department

### NOTICES

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals:

Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act State Plan Guide, 15231

Consolidated Annual Report for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, 15232

## Energy Department

See Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

### NOTICES

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals, 15232–15233

## Environmental Protection Agency

### PROPOSED RULES

Air Quality State Implementation Plans; Approvals and Promulgations:

Louisiana; Interstate Transport Requirements for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards, 15213–15218

## Federal Aviation Administration

### NOTICES

Petition for Exemption; Summary:

Beverly Hills Aerials, LLC, 15290–15291

Czechmate L-39 Demo Team, 15291

## Federal Communications Commission

### RULES

Radio Broadcasting Services:

Koloa, Hawaii and Waimea, Hawaii, 15212

### NOTICES

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals, 15241

## Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

### NOTICES

Application:

Stone Ridge Hydro, LLC, 15239–15240

Combined Filings, 15233–15234, 15237–15238

Environmental Assessments; Availability, etc.:

Pacific Gas and Electric Co., 15240–15241

Filing Process for Commission Forms:

Taxonomy Update, 15237

## Federal Register

Vol. 90, No. 67

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Hearings, Meetings, Proceedings, etc.:

Meeting the Challenge of Resource Adequacy in Regional Transmission Organization and Independent System Operator Regions; Commissioner-Led Technical Conference, 15238–15239

Licenses; Exemptions, Applications, Amendments etc.:

Southern California Edison Co.; Lower Tule Hydro, LLC, 15238

Scoping Period:

Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC; Environmental Issues; Planned Cape Cod Canal Bridge Relocation Project, 15234–15237

## Federal Highway Administration

### NOTICES

Final Federal Agency Action:

Transportation Project in Washington State, 15291–15292

## Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

### NOTICES

Exemption Application:

Hours of Service of Drivers; McKee Foods Transportation, LLC, 15292–15294

## Federal Reserve System

### NOTICES

Change in Bank Control:

Acquisitions of Shares of a Bank or Bank Holding Company, 15241–15242

## Food and Drug Administration

### NOTICES

21st Century Cures Act:

Annual Compilation of Notices of Updates from the Susceptibility Test Interpretive Criteria Web Page, 15244–15246

Drug Products not Withdrawn from Sale for Reasons of Safety or Effectiveness:

Decadron (Dexamethasone Sodium Phosphate) Solution/ Drops, Equivalent to 0.1 Percent Phosphate, 15249–15250

Ethyol (Amifostine) for Injection, 500 Milligrams/Vial, 15248–15249

Flumadine (Rimantadine Hydrochloride) Tablet, 100 Milligrams, 15243

Nascobal (Cyanocobalamin) Nasal Spray, 0.5 Milligram/ Spray, 15250–15251

Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc., et al., 15253

Vibramycin (Doxycycline) For Oral Suspension, Equivalent 25 Milligrams Base/5 Milliliter, 15253–15254

Electronic Study Data Submission:

Data Standards; Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium Dataset-JavaScript Object Notation, 15251–15252

Guidance:

Type VII Veterinary Master File for Research and Development and Risk Reviews, 15248

Request for Information:

Growing, Harvesting, Processing, and Distribution of Poppy Seeds—Industry Practices Related to Opiate Alkaloids, 15243–15244

Withdrawal of Approval of Drug Application:  
GE HealthCare, et al., 15247

### Foreign-Trade Zones Board

#### NOTICES

Proposed Production Activity:  
Logitech, Foreign-Trade Zone 50, Ontario, CA, 15220–  
15221

### Forest Service

#### NOTICES

Directive Publication, 15219

### General Services Administration

#### RULES

Acquisition Regulation:  
Office of Management and Budget Approval Table, 15212  
**NOTICES**  
Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals,  
Submissions, and Approvals:  
Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative  
Feedback on Agency Service Delivery, 15242–15243

### Health and Human Services Department

See Food and Drug Administration

See National Institutes of Health

### Interior Department

See Reclamation Bureau

### International Trade Administration

#### NOTICES

Antidumping or Countervailing Duty Investigations, Orders,  
or Reviews:  
Certain Softwood Lumber Products from Canada, 15224–  
15228  
Certain Superabsorbent Polymers from the Republic of  
Korea, 15228–15230  
Diffusion-Annealed, Nickel-Plated Flat-Rolled Steel  
Products from Japan, 15221  
Melamine from India, 15221–15224

### National Archives and Records Administration

#### NOTICES

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals,  
Submissions, and Approvals, 15258–15259

### National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

#### NOTICES

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals,  
Submissions, and Approvals:  
Examining the Effectiveness of Lane Departure Warning  
and Lane Keep Assist Advanced Driver Assistance  
Systems for Improving Driver Response, 15294–  
15298

### National Institutes of Health

#### NOTICES

Hearings, Meetings, Proceedings, etc.:  
Center for Scientific Review, 15254–15256  
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, 15256  
National Human Genome Research Institute, 15257  
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke,  
15254  
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism,  
15255  
National Institute on Minority Health and Health  
Disparities, 15255–15257

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### NOTICES

Hearings, Meetings, Proceedings, etc.:  
Fisheries of the Gulf of America; Southeast Data,  
Assessment, and Review; Cancellation, 15230  
Science Advisory Board, 15230–15231

### Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation

#### NOTICES

Meetings; Sunshine Act, 15259

### Nuclear Regulatory Commission

#### RULES

Regulatory Guide:  
Standard Format and Content of Decommissioning Plans  
for Materials Licensees; Withdrawal, 15211  
**NOTICES**  
Availability of Revised Form:  
Notice to Employees, 15263–15264  
Staff Assessment of a Proposed Agreement:  
Connecticut, 15259–15263

### Office of the Special Counsel

#### NOTICES

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals,  
Submissions, and Approvals, 15265  
Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals,  
Submissions, and Approvals:  
Office of Special Counsel Annual Survey, 15264–15265

### Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

#### RULES

Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest  
Assumptions for Valuing Benefits, 15211

### Postal Regulatory Commission

#### NOTICES

New Postal Products, 15265–15266

### Presidential Documents

#### PROCLAMATIONS

Special Observances:  
Cancer Control Month (Proc. 10910), 15201–15202  
National Child Abuse Prevention Month (Proc. 10911),  
15203–15204  
National Donate Life Month (Proc. 10912), 15205–15206  
National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention  
Month (Proc. 10913), 15207–15208

#### EXECUTIVE ORDERS

TikTok Enforcement Delay; Extension (EO 14258), 15209–  
15210

### Reclamation Bureau

#### NOTICES

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals,  
Submissions, and Approvals:  
Technical Service Center Summer Intern Program  
Application, 15257

### Securities and Exchange Commission

#### NOTICES

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Proposed Rule Changes:  
Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc., 15266–15274  
New York Stock Exchange LLC, 15287–15290  
The Options Clearing Corp., 15274–15287

**Small Business Administration**

**NOTICES**

Disaster Declaration:

Kentucky; Public Assistance Only, 15290

**Transportation Department**

*See* Federal Aviation Administration

*See* Federal Highway Administration

*See* Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

*See* National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

**U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission**

**NOTICES**

Hearings, Meetings, Proceedings, etc., 15298

**Veterans Affairs Department**

**NOTICES**

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals,

Submissions, and Approvals:

Certification Requirements for Funeral Honors Providers,  
15298-15299

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**Reader Aids**

Consult the Reader Aids section at the end of this issue for phone numbers, online resources, finding aids, and notice of recently enacted public laws.

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**CFR PARTS AFFECTED IN THIS ISSUE**

A cumulative list of the parts affected this month can be found in the Reader Aids section at the end of this issue.

**3 CFR****Proclamations:**

10910.....	15201
10911.....	15203
10912.....	15205
10913.....	15207

**Executive Orders:**

14258.....	15209
------------	-------

**10 CFR**

30.....	15211
40.....	15211
60.....	15211
61.....	15211
63.....	15211
70.....	15211
72.....	15211

**29 CFR**

4044.....	15211
-----------	-------

**40 CFR****Proposed Rules:**

52.....	15213
---------	-------

**47 CFR**

73.....	15212
---------	-------

**48 CFR**

501.....	15212
552.....	15212

# Presidential Documents

Title 3—

**The President**

**Proclamation 10910 of April 3, 2025**

**Cancer Control Month, 2025**

**By the President of the United States of America**

## **A Proclamation**

During Cancer Control Month, we honor the unwavering strength and courage of every American battling cancer and celebrate with over 18 million survivors who are still with us today. We also hold dear the memories of beloved family members and friends that we have lost to this devastating disease. My Administration remains devoted to pursuing groundbreaking medical advancement and spearheading innovative treatments to combat and prevent all forms of cancer.

Last year, over 2 million Americans were diagnosed with cancer, and more than 600,000 lost their lives to this horrific disease. Since 1990, adult cancer cases have surged by 88 percent, while childhood cancer cases, though still uncommon, has incrementally increased by 0.8 percent annually since 1975, leading to a more than 40 percent increase in the past 50 years. These trends indicate that something is wrong. That is why I have proudly established the Make America Healthy Again Commission to address the root causes of America's chronic disease crisis.

My Administration is committed to lowering healthcare costs; making additional treatment options available through Right to Try; and rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse in Government. By promoting transparency and ending conflicts of interest in federally funded health research, we are working to restore trust in our medical and scientific institutions. As President, I am also tapping into emerging technologies like artificial intelligence to support cutting-edge research in innovative fields like genomics and immunotherapy, pioneering medical advances that will improve the lives of cancer patients.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States. However, there are encouraging signs of progress. The combined death rate from all types of cancer continues to decline among both men and women, and the mortality rates for several common cancers—including lung, colon, breast, and ovarian—are steadily decreasing. These promising developments reflect the unending efforts of our Nation's dedicated healthcare professionals to diagnose cancers at earlier stages, improve prevention, and enhance treatment.

Americans must take action to prevent and combat cancer. Maintaining a healthy weight, adopting balanced eating habits, and engaging in regular physical activity may help prevent kidney, endometrial, esophageal, colorectal, and other cancers. Avoiding tobacco use and alcohol consumption can also help prevent and combat cancers. Additionally, Americans should discuss their family medical history with their doctors and undergo recommended screenings. This can lead to an early diagnosis and increase the odds of overcoming the disease.

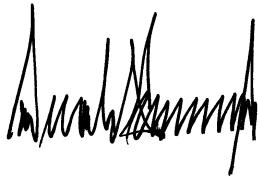
As a country, we will continue to push the boundaries of medical innovation, driven by the unwavering spirit of the American people. Together, we will work to vanquish cancer, eradicating the suffering and pain it has inflicted on too many American families. I have unshakable faith in the greatness of our Nation and the excellence of our people. We will continue to fight

until we find a long-sought cure, and we will emerge victorious in our fight against cancer.

The Congress of the United States, by joint resolution approved March 28, 1938 (52 Stat. 148; 36 U.S.C. 103), as amended, has requested the President to issue an annual proclamation declaring April as "Cancer Control Month."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 2025 as Cancer Control Month. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this month with relevant programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-ninth.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DONALD J. TRUMP", is positioned here.

## Presidential Documents

### Proclamation 10911 of April 3, 2025

### National Child Abuse Prevention Month, 2025

**By the President of the United States of America**

#### **A Proclamation**

America's children are the foundation of our families, the heirs of our freedom, and the stewards of our national promise. This National Child Abuse Prevention Month, we commit to empowering every child in America to lead a fulfilling life of dignity and love—and we pledge to bring every abuser, predator, and evildoer who threatens the health and safety of our children to swift justice.

As citizens, each of us is entrusted with the sacred responsibility of caring for the most vulnerable among us, especially children uniquely at risk of trauma and abuse. My Administration recognizes that the most powerful safeguard against child abuse is a stable family with loving parents, and that there is no substitute for a strong mother and father. For this reason, I am working every day to fortify our families and embolden our Nation's children to live their lives full of happiness, health, and success that they so dearly deserve. I call on every American to take steps to prevent child abuse and neglect before it occurs. By doing so, we can reduce the risk of depression, suicide, substance abuse, and developmental challenges in our youth.

Sadly, one of the most prevalent forms of child abuse facing our country today is the sinister threat of gender ideology. Proponents of the gender ideology movement are outrageously indoctrinating our children with the devastating lie that they are trapped in the wrong body—and that the only way they can be truly happy is to alter their sex with hormone therapy, puberty blockers, and sexual mutilation surgery. The evil and backwards lies of gender insanity are robbing our children of their happiness, health, and freedom, while imposing unimaginable heartbreak on parents and families. As I stated during my Joint Address to the Congress last month, my message to every American child is simple: you are perfect exactly the way God made you.

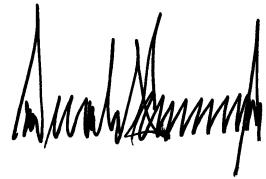
As President, I proudly signed Executive Order 14187 prohibiting public schools from indoctrinating our children with transgender ideology, while also taking action to cut off all taxpayer funding to any institution that engages in the sexual mutilation of our youth. To further protect our children, I have taken historic action to secure our southern border and end child trafficking—and am working diligently to make our young people healthy again.

This National Child Abuse Prevention Month, we pledge to stop the atrocity of child abuse in all its forms. We affirm that every perpetrator who inflicts violence on our children will be punished to the fullest extent of the law. Above all, we vow to give our children the tools they need to fully embrace God's gift of life, and to carry that radiant torch of American Liberty generations into the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 2025 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. I call upon all Americans to invest in the lives of our Nation's children, to be aware of their safety and well-

being, and to support efforts that promote their psychological, physical, and emotional development.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-ninth.

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[FR Doc. 2025-06159  
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Billing code 3395-F4-P

## Presidential Documents

### Proclamation 10912 of April 3, 2025

### National Donate Life Month, 2025

#### By the President of the United States of America

##### A Proclamation

Americans demonstrate their compassion in countless ways, perhaps none more selfless or vital than organ donations. More than 170 million people in the United States have made the decision to become donors, and for that, my Administration is grateful. During National Donate Life Month, we celebrate these heroes and the life-giving impact of their precious gift.

Last year alone, Americans saved and extended nearly 50,000 lives through organ donations and transplantations. Every life is precious, and each new donor can offer the gift of life to 8 souls while also enhancing the lives of 75 others who are battling chronic diseases, blindness, severe burns, and trauma.

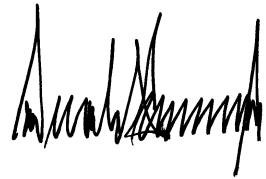
There are more than 103,000 men, women, and children on the national transplant waiting list, clinging to hope and longing for a miracle. A new name is added every 8 minutes. Tragically, 17 people lose their lives each day while waiting for a transplant, highlighting the urgent need for more registered donors.

Anyone who is eligible, regardless of age or medical history, has the ability sign up to be an organ donor. To enroll, visit your State registry, the Department of Motor Vehicles, or [www.organdonor.gov](http://www.organdonor.gov). The registration process is as simple as checking a box or registering online.

Throughout this month, we honor the selfless donors who generously give life to others and celebrate the beneficiaries who receive health and healing. The First Lady and I pray for all who await a transplant with anticipation and hope.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 2025 as National Donate Life Month. I urge all Americans to consider becoming a donor and sharing this decision with family members and loved ones.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-ninth.

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[FR Doc. 2025-06160  
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Billing code 3395-F4-P

## Presidential Documents

### Proclamation 10913 of April 3, 2025

### National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, 2025

#### By the President of the United States of America

##### A Proclamation

This month, we recognize National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month by ending the unfathomable human abuse committed under open borders policies.

One of the leading causes of sexual violence over the last 4 years has been the invasion of illegal aliens at our southern border. In a treasonous act of betrayal against the American people, the previous administration unleashed an army of gangs and criminal aliens from the darkest and most dangerous corners of the world—causing a dramatic increase of sexual violence in our neighborhoods and communities. These reckless policies empowered some of the most depraved people on the planet to exploit women and children in the most vicious ways imaginable.

We will never forget the names of precious American souls like Jocelyn Nungaray, Laken Riley, Rachel Morin, and many others who were savagely killed by illegal alien crime. Last June, 12-year-old Jocelyn Nungaray was brutally assaulted and murdered by two illegal aliens in her home state of Texas. To memorialize her young life and love of nature and animals, I proudly renamed the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge in Texas to the Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge. May this be Jocelyn's little piece of Heaven on Earth.

Every act of violence committed against an American at the hands of an illegal alien is a crime beyond all comprehension. For that reason, I am doing everything in my power to defend the dignity of every human life, keep violent criminals out of our country, and end sexual violence—including the degrading scourge of sex trafficking, a form of modern-day slavery that has battered multitudes of innocent lives and scarred untold numbers of our most vulnerable fellow citizens.

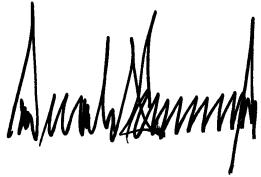
To protect our communities, one of my first actions as President was to declare a national emergency at the southern border. I also designated cartels as Foreign Terrorist Organizations and Specially Designated Global Terrorists to end their campaign of violence and bloodshed. In my first legislative action as President, I signed into law the Laken Riley Act, which requires U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to detain illegal aliens convicted of burglary, theft, larceny, or shoplifting. I have also initiated the largest deportation operation in the history of our country—including the deportation of hundreds of illegal alien gang members to El Salvador.

As President, I am bringing back security on our border, safety on our streets, and law and order in our communities. Under my leadership, human trafficking is being brought to a rapid end, and justice is being swiftly served.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 2025 as National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. I urge all Americans, families, law enforcement personnel, healthcare providers, and community

and faith-based organizations to support survivors of sexual assault and work together to prevent these crimes in their communities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-ninth.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized form of the name "JOHN BIDEN".

[FR Doc. 2025-06161  
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Billing code 3395-F4-P

## Presidential Documents

### Executive Order 14258 of April 4, 2025

#### Extending the TikTok Enforcement Delay

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered:

**Section 1. Extension.** (a) The enforcement delay specified in section 2(a) of Executive Order 14166 of January 20, 2025 (Application of Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act to TikTok), is further extended until June 19, 2025. During this period, the Department of Justice shall take no action to enforce the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act (the “Act”) (Public Law 118–50, Div. H) or impose any penalties against any entity for any noncompliance with the Act, including for distributing, maintaining, or updating (or enabling the distribution, maintenance, or updating) of any foreign adversary controlled application as defined in the Act. In light of this direction, even after the expiration of the above-specified period, the Department of Justice shall not take any action to enforce the Act or impose any penalties against any entity for any conduct that occurred during the above-specified period or any period prior to the issuance of this order, including the period of time from January 19, 2025, to the date of this order.

(b) The Attorney General shall take all appropriate action to issue written guidance to implement the provisions of subsection (a) of this section.

(c) The Attorney General shall further issue a letter to each provider stating that there has been no violation of the statute and that there is no liability for any conduct that occurred during the above-specified period, as well as for any conduct from the effective date of the Act until the date of this order.

(d) Because of the national security interests at stake and because section 2(d) of the Act vests authority for investigations and enforcement of the Act only in the Attorney General, attempted enforcement by the States or private parties represents an encroachment on the powers of the Executive. The Attorney General shall exercise all available authority to preserve and defend the Executive’s exclusive authority to enforce the Act.

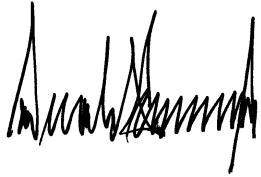
**Sec. 2. General Provisions.** (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'J' or a similar character, is positioned here.

THE WHITE HOUSE,  
*April 4, 2025.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06162  
Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]  
Billing code 3395-F4-P

# Rules and Regulations

## Federal Register

Vol. 90, No. 67

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

This section of the **FEDERAL REGISTER** contains regulatory documents having general applicability and legal effect, most of which are keyed to and codified in the **Code of Federal Regulations**, which is published under 50 titles pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 1510.

The **Code of Federal Regulations** is sold by the Superintendent of Documents.

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### 10 CFR Parts 30, 40, 60, 61, 63, 70, 72 [NRC-2025-0067]

#### Regulatory Guide: Standard Format and Content of Decommissioning Plans for Materials Licensees

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Regulatory guide; withdrawal.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is withdrawing Regulatory Guide (RG) 3.65, "Standard Format and Content of Decommissioning Plans for Materials Licensees." This RG is being withdrawn because it is not needed to endorse NUREG-1757, "Consolidated Decommissioning Guidance: Decommissioning Process for Materials Licensees," Volume 1, "Decommissioning Process for Materials Licensees." NUREG-1757 provides the most current guidance on decommissioning nuclear facilities to support license termination for applicants, licensees, and NRC staff reviewers.

**DATES:** The effective date of the withdrawal of RG 3.65 is April 9, 2025. **ADDRESSES:** Please refer to Docket ID NRC-2025-0067 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly available information related to this document using any of the following methods:

- **Federal Rulemaking Website:** Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2025-0067. Address questions about Docket IDs in *Regulations.gov* to Bridget Curran; telephone: 301-415-1003; email: *Bridget.Curran@nrc.gov*. For technical questions, contact the individuals listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.
- **NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System**

(ADAMS): You may obtain publicly available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select "Begin Web-based ADAMS Search." For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, at 301-415-4737, or by email to *PDR.Resource@nrc.gov*.

- **NRC's PDR:** The PDR, where you may examine and order copies of publicly available documents, is open by appointment. To make an appointment to visit the PDR, please send an email to *PDR.Resource@nrc.gov* or call 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. eastern time (ET), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James Smith, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, telephone: 301-415-6103; email: *James.Smith@nrc.gov*, or Amir Mobasheran, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, telephone: 301-415-8112; email: *Amir.Mobasheran@nrc.gov*. Both are staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Discussion

The NRC is withdrawing RG 3.65, "Standard Format and Content of Decommissioning Plans for Materials Licensees." RG 3.65 provides guidance on the decommissioning leading to termination of a materials license. In May 2008, RG 3.65, Revision 1, was issued and endorsed the method described in NUREG-1757, Volume 1, Revision 2 (ADAMS Accession No. ML063000243), to provide applicants and licensees with consolidated and updated guidance for decommissioning to support termination of a materials license. The NRC staff uses NUREG-1757 as the primary guidance document while reviewing these applications and licenses. Since NUREG-1757 provides the most current guidance, the NRC has determined that RG 3.65 is no longer needed.

The withdrawal of RG 3.65 does not alter any prior or existing NRC licensing approval or the acceptability of licensee commitments to RG 3.65. Although RG 3.65 is being withdrawn, current licensees may continue to use it, and this withdrawal does not affect any

existing licenses or agreements. However, applicants and licensees should use NUREG-1757 to support future requests or applications for NRC licensing actions related to the guidance in RG 3.65.

## II. Additional Information

As noted in the **Federal Register** on December 9, 2022 (87 FR 75671), this document is being published in the "Rules" section of the **Federal Register** to comply with publication requirements under chapter I of title 1 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*.

## III. Submitting Suggestions for Improvement of Regulatory Guides

A member of the public may, at any time, submit suggestions to the NRC for improvement of existing RGs or for the development of new RGs. Suggestions can be submitted on the NRC's public website at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/contactus.html>. Suggestions will be considered in future updates and enhancements to the "Regulatory Guide" series.

Dated: April 4, 2025.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Meraj Rahimi,**

*Chief, Regulatory Guide and Programs Management Branch, Division of Engineering, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06107 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7590-01-P**

## PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

### 29 CFR Part 4044

#### Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing Benefits

In rule document 2025-05531 beginning on page 14577 in the issue of Thursday, April 3, 2025, make the following correction:

On page 14577, in the second column, under the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** heading, in the fourth line, "assumption" should read "assumptions".

[FR Doc. C1-2025-05531 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 1505-01-D**

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION**
**47 CFR Part 73**

[DA 25-293; MB Docket No. 23-198; RM-11950, RM-11972; FR ID 288463]

**Radio Broadcasting Services; Koloa, Hawaii and Waimea, Hawaii**

**AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission.

**ACTION:** Final rule; petition for reconsideration.

**SUMMARY:** This document amends the Table of FM Allotments, of the Federal Communications Commission's (Commission) rules, by substituting Channel 272A for vacant Channel 264A at Koloa, Hawaii. The staff engineering analysis determines that Channel 272A at Koloa can be allotted consistent with the minimum distance separation requirements of the Commission's rules with a site restriction of 8.3 kilometers (5.2 miles) northwest of the community. The reference coordinates are 21°58'24" NL and 159°29'45" WL.

**DATES:** Effective May 16, 2025.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rolanda F. Smith, Media Bureau, (202) 418-2054, [Rolanda-Faye.Smith@fcc.gov](mailto:Rolanda-Faye.Smith@fcc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This is a synopsis of the Commission's *Memorandum Opinion and Order*, adopted March 31, 2025 and released April 1, 2025. The full text of this Commission decision is available online at <https://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/>. The full text of this document can also be downloaded in Word or Portable Document Format (PDF) at <https://www.fcc.gov/edocs>. This document does not contain information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-

13. The Commission will send a copy of the *Memorandum Opinion and Order* in a report to be sent to Congress and the Government Accountability Office pursuant to the Congressional Review Act, see 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

**List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73**

Radio, Radio broadcasting.  
Federal Communications Commission.

**Nazifa Sawez,**  
*Assistant Chief, Audio Division, Media Bureau.*

**Final Rules**

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Federal Communications Commission amends 47 CFR part 73 as follows:

**PART 73—RADIO BROADCAST SERVICES**

■ 1. The authority citation for part 73 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 47 U.S.C. 154, 155, 301, 303, 307, 309, 310, 334, 336, 339.

■ 2. In § 73.202, amend table 1 to paragraph (b) under Hawaii, by revising in alphabetical order the entry for "Koloa" to read as follows:

**§ 73.202 Table of Allotments.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) *Table of FM Allotments.*

**TABLE 1 TO PARAGRAPH (b)  
[U.S. States]**

	Channel No.				
	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Hawaii</b>					

**TABLE 1 TO PARAGRAPH (b)—  
Continued  
[U.S. States]**

	Channel No.
*	*
Koloa .....	272A

[FR Doc. 2025-06076 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6712-01-P**

**GENERAL SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION**
**48 CFR Parts 501 and 552**

[GSAR Case 2024-G502; Docket No. GSA-GSAR-2024-0022; Sequence No. 1]

**RIN 3090-AK81**

**General Services Administration  
Acquisition Regulation (GSAR);  
Update to OMB Approval Table**
**Correction**

In rule document 2025-05430 appearing on page 14054 in the issue of Friday, March 28, 2025, make the following corrections:

1. On page 14054, in the third column, in the 33rd line, "JAN 2025" should read "MAR 2025".

**552.270-1 [Corrected]**

■ 2. On page 14054, in section 552.270-1, in the third column, in the fifth through fourth lines from the bottom, "JAN 2025" should read "MAR 2025".

[FR Doc. C1-2025-05430 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 0099-10-D**

# Proposed Rules

## Federal Register

Vol. 90, No. 67

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

### 40 CFR Part 52

[EPA-R06-OAR-2013-0465; FRL-12681-01-Region 6]

#### Air Plan Approval; Louisiana; Interstate Transport Requirements for the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the Federal Clean Air Act (CAA or the Act), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to approve the portion of the State Implementation Plan (SIP) submittal from the State of Louisiana demonstrating that the State satisfies the interstate transport requirements of section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I), also known as the “good neighbor” provision of the CAA, for the 2010 1-hour sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). The good neighbor provision requires each State’s implementation plan contain adequate provisions prohibiting the interstate transport of air pollution in amounts that will contribute significantly to nonattainment, or interfere with maintenance, of a NAAQS in any other State.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before May 9, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit your comments, identified by Docket Number EPA-R06-OAR-2013-0465, at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Once submitted, comments cannot be edited or removed from *Regulations.gov*. The EPA may publish any comment received to its public docket. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Multimedia submissions (audio, video, etc.) must be accompanied by a written comment.

The written comment is considered the official comment and should include discussion of all points you wish to make. The EPA will generally not consider comments or comment contents located outside of the primary submission (*i.e.*, on the web, cloud, or other file sharing system). For additional submission methods, please contact Nevine Salem, (214) 665-7222, [salem.nevine@epa.gov](mailto:salem.nevine@epa.gov). For the full EPA public comment policy, information about CBI or multimedia submissions, and general guidance on making effective comments, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets>.

**Docket:** The index to the docket for this action is available electronically at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). While all documents in the docket are listed in the index, some information may not be publicly available due to docket file size restrictions or content (*e.g.*, CBI).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nevine Salem, (214) 665-7222, [salem.nevine@epa.gov](mailto:salem.nevine@epa.gov). We encourage the public to submit comments via [https://www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Please call or email the contact listed above if you need alternative access to material indexed but not provided in the docket.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Throughout this document wherever “we,” “us,” or “our” is used, we mean the EPA.

## I. Background

### A. Infrastructure SIPs

On June 2, 2010, the EPA established a revised primary 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS with a level of 75 parts per billion (ppb), based on a 3-year average of the annual 99th percentile of daily maximum 1-hour average concentrations.<sup>1</sup> CAA section 110(a)(1) requires all States to submit, within three years after promulgation of a new or revised NAAQS, SIP submissions to provide for the implementation, maintenance, and enforcement of the NAAQS.<sup>2</sup> The EPA has historically referred to these SIPs as “infrastructure SIPs.” Specifically, section 110(a)(1) provides the

<sup>1</sup> See 75 FR 35520 (June 22, 2010).

<sup>2</sup> In 2012, the EPA retained the current secondary NAAQS for SO<sub>2</sub>. Thus, the CAA section 110(a)(1) requirement to submit an infrastructure SIP for this secondary standard was not triggered. The secondary SO<sub>2</sub> standard is 500 ppb averaged over three hours, not to be exceeded more than once per year. See 77 FR 20218 (April 3, 2012).

procedural and timing requirements for SIP submissions. Section 110(a)(2) lists specific elements that all States must meet related to a newly established or revised NAAQS, such as requirements for monitoring, basic program requirements, and legal authority that are designed to assure attainment and maintenance of the NAAQS.

Section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I) of the CAA requires a State’s SIP include provisions prohibiting any source or other type of emissions activity in the State from emitting any air pollutant in amounts that will contribute significantly to nonattainment, or interfere with maintenance, of the NAAQS in any other State. EPA has long interpreted this language to enact a “functional prohibition” on certain emissions from upwind States, necessitating the EPA’s independent assessment whether those emissions will occur or have been adequately controlled in the State where they originate.<sup>3</sup> The EPA often refers to these requirements as Prong 1 (significant contribution to nonattainment of the NAAQS) and Prong 2 (interference with maintenance of the NAAQS). We are addressing Prongs 1 and 2 in this action. All other applicable infrastructure SIP requirements of the Louisiana SIP submission are addressed in separate rulemakings.

### B. 2010 1-Hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS Designations Background

In this proposed action, the EPA has considered information from the 2010 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS designations process, as discussed in more detail in section III.C of this notice. For this reason, a brief summary of the EPA’s designations process for the 2010 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS is included here.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> See *Genon Rema LLC v. EPA*, 722 F.3d 513, 520-24 (3d Cir. 2013); *Appalachian Power Co. v. EPA*, 249 F.2d 1032, 1045-47 (D.C. Cir. 2001); see also 71 FR 25328, 25335 (April 28, 2006) (explaining that the SIP/FIP process under section 110 and the petitioning process for direct federal regulation under section 126 provide independent means of effectuating the same “functional prohibition” found in CAA section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I)).

<sup>4</sup> While designations may provide useful information for purposes of analyzing transport, the EPA notes that designations themselves are not dispositive of whether or not upwind emissions are impacting areas in downwind states. The EPA has consistently taken the position that CAA section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I) requires elimination of significant contribution and interference with maintenance in

Continued

After the promulgation of a new or revised NAAQS, the EPA is required to designate areas as “nonattainment,” “attainment,” or “unclassifiable” pursuant to CAA section 107(d)(1)–(2). The process for designating areas following promulgation of a new or revised NAAQS is contained in CAA section 107(d). The EPA promulgated the 2010 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS on June 2, 2010. *See* 75 FR 35520 (June 22, 2010). The EPA Administrator signed the first round<sup>5</sup> of designations; Round 1<sup>6</sup> for the 2010 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS on July 25, 2013, designating 29 areas in 16 States as nonattainment for the 2010 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS. *See* 78 FR 47191 (August 5, 2013). The **Federal Register** notices for Round 2 designations<sup>7</sup> published on July 12, 2016 (81 FR 45039) and on December 13, 2016 (81 FR 89870). Round 3 designations<sup>8</sup> were published on January 9, 2018 (83 FR 1098) and April 5, 2018 (83 FR 14597). Round 4 designations<sup>9</sup> were published on March

other states, and this analysis is not limited to designated nonattainment areas. Nor must designations for nonattainment areas have first occurred before states or the EPA can act under section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I). *See, e.g.*, Clean Air Interstate Rule, 70 FR 25162, 25265 (May 12, 2005); Cross State Air Pollution Rule, 76 FR 48208, 48211 (Aug. 8, 2011); Final Response to Petition from New Jersey Regarding SO<sub>2</sub> Emissions From the Portland Generating Station, 76 FR 69052 (Nov. 7, 2011) (finding facility in violation of the prohibitions of CAA section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I) with respect to the 2010 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS prior to issuance of designations for that standard).

<sup>5</sup> The term “round” in this instance refers to which “round of designations.”

<sup>6</sup> EPA and state documents and public comments related to the Round 1 final designations are in the docket at *regulations.gov* with Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2012-0233 and at EPA’s website for SO<sub>2</sub> designations at <https://www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations>.

<sup>7</sup> EPA and state documents and public comments related to the Round 2 final designations are in the docket at *regulations.gov* with Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2014-0464 and at EPA’s website for SO<sub>2</sub> designations at <https://www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations>.

<sup>8</sup> EPA and state documents and public comments related to Round 3 final designations are in the docket at *regulations.gov* with Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0003 and at EPA’s website for SO<sub>2</sub> designations at <https://www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations>.

<sup>9</sup> EPA and state documents and public comments related to Round 4 final designations are in the docket at *regulations.gov* with Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2020-0037 and at EPA’s website for SO<sub>2</sub> designations at <https://www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations>.

<sup>10</sup> The Round 4 2010 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS designations action was signed by former EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler on December 21, 2020, pursuant to a court-ordered deadline of December 31, 2020. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, former Acting Administrator Jane Nishida re-signed the same action on March 10, 2021, for publication in the **Federal Register**.

<sup>11</sup> On August 21, 2015 (80 FR 51052), EPA separately promulgated air quality characterization

26, 2021 (86 FR 16055)<sup>10</sup> and April 14, 2021 (86 FR 19576).<sup>11</sup>

For Louisiana, the EPA designated St. Bernard Parish area as nonattainment during the initial round of SO<sub>2</sub> designations<sup>12</sup> effective October 4, 2013 based on available monitoring data. The agency published the Data Requirements Rule (DRR) on August 21, 2015 (80 FR 51052) to provide expectations for collection of data, either monitoring or modeling, for the remaining designations. In the DRR, the EPA identified 16 sources in Louisiana which the State was required to characterize air quality through modeling or monitoring or impose federally enforceable controls. In Round 2 designations, EPA designated De Soto Parish as attainment/unclassifiable and Calcasieu Parish as unclassifiable effective August 12, 2016.<sup>13</sup> In Round 3 designations, the EPA designated Pointe Coupee Parish, and Rapides Parish as attainment/unclassifiable; St. Mary Parish as unclassifiable; and Evangeline Parish as nonattainment effective April 9, 2018.<sup>14</sup> Also, during Round 3, the EPA designated the remaining areas without DRR sources as attainment/unclassifiable effective April 9, 2018. In Round 4, the EPA designated the remaining Parishes—East Baton Rouge, St. Charles, St. James, and West Baton Rouge—as attainment/unclassifiable, completing the area designations for the 2010 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS in Louisiana effective April 30, 2021.

## II. Relevant Factors Used To Evaluate 2010 1-Hour SO<sub>2</sub> Interstate Transport SIPs

Although SO<sub>2</sub> is emitted from a similar universe of point and nonpoint sources as is directly emitted fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and the precursors to ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, interstate transport of SO<sub>2</sub> is unlike the transport of PM<sub>2.5</sub> or ozone, which disperse over a wide area and can contribute to nonattainment or maintenance issues

requirements for the 2010 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS in the Data Requirements Rule (DRR). The DRR requires state air agencies to characterize air quality, through air dispersion modeling or monitoring, in areas associated with sources that emitted in 2014 2,000 tons per year (tpy) or more of SO<sub>2</sub>, or that have otherwise been listed under the DRR by EPA or state air agencies. In lieu of modeling or monitoring, state air agencies, by specified dates, could elect to impose federally enforceable emissions limitations on those sources restricting their annual SO<sub>2</sub> emissions to less than 2,000 tpy, or provide documentation that the sources have been shut down. EPA used the information generated by implementation of the DRR to help inform Round 4 designations for the 2010 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS.

<sup>12</sup> See 78 FR 47191 (August 5, 2013).

<sup>13</sup> See 81 FR 45039 (July 12, 2016).

<sup>14</sup> See 83 FR 1089 (January 9, 2018).

hundreds of miles from precursor-emitting sources or activities. SO<sub>2</sub> emissions usually do not undergo long-range transport in the atmosphere. The transport of SO<sub>2</sub> relative to the 2010 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS is more analogous to the transport of lead (Pb) relative to the Pb NAAQS in that emissions of SO<sub>2</sub> typically result in 1-hour pollutant impacts of greatest concern near the emissions source. However, ambient 1-hour concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> do not decrease as quickly with distance from the source as do 3-month average concentrations of Pb, because SO<sub>2</sub> gas is not removed by deposition as rapidly as are Pb particles. Emitted SO<sub>2</sub> has wider-ranging impacts than emitted Pb, but it does not have such wide-ranging (far downwind) impacts that treatment in a manner similar to ozone or PM<sub>2.5</sub> would be appropriate. Accordingly, the approaches that the EPA has adopted for ozone or PM<sub>2.5</sub> transport are too regionally focused, and the approach for Pb transport is too tightly circumscribed to the source, to be appropriate for assessing SO<sub>2</sub> transport. SO<sub>2</sub> transport is therefore a unique case and necessitates an approach that lies between these other approaches to assessing pollutant transport.

In this proposed rulemaking, and consistent with prior SO<sub>2</sub> transport analyses, the EPA focused on a 50 kilometer (km)-wide zone around sources of interest because the physical properties of SO<sub>2</sub> result in relatively localized pollutant impacts near an emission source that drop off with distance. Given the properties of SO<sub>2</sub>, the EPA believes that significant impacts in a downwind State are unlikely at distances greater than 50 km from a source and thus, we are focusing our review on areas within 50 km of the State lines. This scale of analysis is consistent with the “urban scale” which is the largest appropriate spatial scale for SO<sub>2</sub> monitors and is useful for assessing SO<sub>2</sub> transport and trends in area-wide air quality.<sup>15</sup>

As discussed in section III, and in further detail in the Technical Support Document (TSD) for this action, the EPA reviewed Louisiana’s SO<sub>2</sub> SIP submittal. The State’s submission did not have sufficient information to fully assess whether Louisiana was meeting its CAA good neighbor requirements for the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS. Therefore, we elected to

<sup>15</sup> For the definition of spatial scales for SO<sub>2</sub>, see 40 CFR part 58, appendix D, section 4.4 (“Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) Design Criteria”). For further discussion on how the EPA applies these definitions with respect to interstate transport of SO<sub>2</sub>, see the EPA’s proposed rulemaking on Connecticut’s SO<sub>2</sub> transport SIP. *See* 82 FR 21351, 21352, 21354 (May 8, 2017).

review and assess other available information regarding SO<sub>2</sub> emissions and air quality for sources in Louisiana to assist in our own evaluation. We independently analyzed such information to determine whether Louisiana meets the interstate transport requirements described in the CAA.<sup>16</sup>

Consistent with our prior evaluations of other States' SO<sub>2</sub> transport obligations, we conducted a weight of evidence (WOE) analysis evaluating several sources of information, including current air quality data from monitors as well as available emissions and/or source modeling for sources in Louisiana and in neighboring States within 50 km of the Louisiana border. A WOE approach can be appropriate in instances, such as in this case, to determine whether or not SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from Louisiana contribute to nonattainment or maintenance issues in adjoining States. A WOE analysis that is based strictly on available data may not be sufficient in all instances for evaluating interstate SO<sub>2</sub> transport, and additional analysis may be necessary. Further, the term "WOE" does not establish the legal or technical meaning for what constitutes significant contribution to nonattainment or interference with maintenance for the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS. Rather, the term refers to the gathering and consideration of a wide range of information, on a case-by-case basis, to make a determination regarding whether a statutory or regulatory standard is met.

In other SO<sub>2</sub> transport SIP actions, the EPA has generally been able to use a WOE analysis of available information to reach a conclusion that there are no SO<sub>2</sub> nonattainment or maintenance issues in the relevant areas of other States, or that no sources in the upwind State are contributing to those issues. If the available evidence indicated, however, that an upwind source, sources, or emissions activities were contributing to an out-of-state SO<sub>2</sub> nonattainment or maintenance problem, then further analysis and a regulatory determination would be necessary concerning what amount of those emissions, if any, constituted "significant contribution" under Prong

<sup>16</sup> This proposed action is based on the information contained in the administrative record for this action and does not prejudge any future EPA action that may make other determinations regarding the air quality status in Louisiana and downwind states. Any such future action, such as area designations under any NAAQS, would be based on separate administrative records and the EPA's analyses of information that become available at that time. Future available information may include, monitoring data and modeling analyses conducted by states, air agencies, and third-party stakeholders.

1 or Prong 2 of the good neighbor provision.

We find that there is sufficient information to allow the EPA to make a determination that under baseline conditions and likely future emissions scenarios no Louisiana sources are contributing or will contribute to any out-of-state SO<sub>2</sub> nonattainment or maintenance concerns, therefore it is not necessary for purposes of this action to render a determination concerning what amount of emissions would be "significant" and therefore subject to prohibition under the good neighbor provision.<sup>17</sup>

### III. Louisiana's SIP Submission and EPA's Analysis

#### A. State Submission

On June 4, 2013, Louisiana submitted to the EPA a SIP revision to address the requirements of CAA section 110(a)(1) and (2), including section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I) for the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS. The submittal cited Louisiana's approved Clean Air Interstate Rule SIP revision as verification that the State met and would continue to meet the requirements of 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I) for the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS. A copy of the submittal is in the docket for this action. Other portions of this SIP revision were addressed in 81 FR 68322 (October 4, 2016).

The 2005 Clean Air Interstate Rule<sup>18</sup> (CAIR) covered 28 eastern States (including Louisiana) and the District of Columbia. CAIR was designed to address interstate transport of ozone and fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) pollution. CAIR required the covered eastern States to make reductions in SO<sub>2</sub> and nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) emissions that significantly contribute to the nonattainment or interference with the maintenance of the 1997 PM<sub>2.5</sub> and 1997 ozone NAAQS in any downwind State (70 FR 25161, May 12, 2005). CAIR addressed interstate transport for the 1997 PM<sub>2.5</sub> and 1997 ozone NAAQS but did not address interstate transport for the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS. Subsequently, the D.C. Circuit invalidated CAIR and required that the rule be revised.<sup>19</sup> The court, however, left CAIR in place in order to "temporarily preserve the

<sup>17</sup> Cf. *Genon Rema v. EPA*, 722 F.3d 513 (3d Cir. 2013) (upholding EPA grant of CAA section 126(b) petition and establishment of direct federal emissions control requirements on SO<sub>2</sub> source in Pennsylvania found to be significantly contributing to nonattainment and interfering with maintenance of the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS in New Jersey).

<sup>18</sup> May 12, 2005 (70 FR 25162).

<sup>19</sup> *North Carolina v. EPA*, 531 F. 3d 896, 901 (D.C. Cir. 2008), modified, 550 F. 3d 1176 (D.C. Cir. 2008).

environmental values covered by CAIR" until the EPA could, by rulemaking, replace CAIR consistent with the court's opinion.<sup>20</sup> In 2011, the EPA promulgated the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) to replace CAIR.<sup>21</sup> CSAPR addresses interstate transport for the 1997 PM<sub>2.5</sub>, 1997 ozone and 2006 PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS. CSAPR replaced CAIR beginning on January 1, 2015.<sup>22</sup> Neither CAIR nor CSAPR directly addresses interstate transport for the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS. Because CAIR is no longer in place (and was only allowed to remain temporarily in place pending its replacement at the time of Louisiana's submission, *see* 76 FR 48208, 48223–24 (Aug. 8, 2011)) and because it did not address the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS, Louisiana's sole reliance on CAIR is not adequate on its own to demonstrate the State meets the requirements of CAA section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I).

Both CAIR and CSAPR focused on achieving widespread reductions in PM<sub>2.5</sub> precursor pollutants, which include SO<sub>2</sub>. While the programs reduced SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from power plants, they did so with the goal of reducing PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels, not with the goal of preventing contribution to nonattainment or interference with maintenance of the SO<sub>2</sub> standard. Louisiana did not provide an analysis to show how the reductions from these programs would sufficiently address SO<sub>2</sub> to prevent prohibited impacts. Moreover, these rules required emissions reductions through emissions trading programs for power plants. As such, they were not designed to ensure a particular level of emissions reduction at a particular power plant, and did not address SO<sub>2</sub> emissions at all from non-power plant sources or emissions activities. Thus, despite these programs, individual power plant and non-power plant sources that are near State borders may be able to continue to emit at uncontrolled levels, potentially contributing to SO<sub>2</sub> nonattainment or maintenance issues in other States. As such, these programs alone cannot be relied upon to demonstrate prohibited

<sup>20</sup> 550 F. 3d at 1178.

<sup>21</sup> 76 FR 48207 (August 8, 2011).

<sup>22</sup> CSAPR has been subject to extensive litigation, and on July 28, 2015, the D.C. Circuit issued a decision generally upholding CSAPR but remanding without vacating the CSAPR emissions budgets for a number of states. Louisiana's ozone season NO<sub>x</sub> budgets were not included in the remand. *EME Homer City Generation v. EPA*, 795 F.3d 118, 138 (D.C. Cir. 2015). On October 26, 2016, we finalized an update to CSAPR that addresses the 1997 ozone NAAQS portion of the remand as well as the CAA requirements addressing interstate transport for the 2008 ozone NAAQS. 81 FR 74504 (October 26, 2016).

interstate transport of SO<sub>2</sub> emissions were prevented.

While the rationale provided by Louisiana is not an adequate basis on its own by which the EPA can determine the approvability of the State's submission, the EPA may elect to consider additional information to assist in reaching a conclusion as to whether the submission may be approved, in whole or in part, as satisfying the Act's requirements, or does not meet the Act's requirements. Here, the EPA may consider all relevant information, or generate new data and analysis, to make an independent judgment in evaluating States' compliance with the good neighbor provision, which concerns the effects of States' emissions in other States. Therefore, the EPA considered additional available information as described below and in more detail in the TSD for this action, to determine if Louisiana's SIP complies with 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I) requirements.

#### B. EPA's Evaluation Methodology

For this CAA section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I) evaluation of the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS, the EPA conducted a WOE analysis for Prong 1 and Prong 2 separately,<sup>23</sup> evaluating available information such as air quality, emission sources, modeling and emission trends in Louisiana, and the States that border Louisiana. To identify which sources and emissions activities in Louisiana could potentially impact downwind air quality in other States with respect to the 2010 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS, the EPA used information in the EPA's National Emissions Inventory (NEI)<sup>24</sup> and Emissions Inventory System (EIS).<sup>25</sup> The NEI is a comprehensive and detailed estimate of air emissions for criteria pollutants, criteria pollutant precursors, and hazardous air pollutants from air emissions sources, updated every three years using information provided by the States and other information available to the EPA. For analyses, we largely relied on data from the 2020 NEI, because it is the most recently available, complete, and quality assured dataset. However, in evaluating emissions trends, both State-

<sup>23</sup> In *North Carolina v. EPA*, 531 F.3d at 910–911 (D.C. Cir. 2008), the D.C. Circuit explained that the regulating authority must give Prong 2 “independent significance” from Prong 1 by evaluating the impact of upwind state emissions on downwind areas that, while currently in attainment, are at risk of future nonattainment.

<sup>24</sup> EPA's NEI is available and accessible to the public at <https://www.epa.gov/air-emissions-inventories/national-emissions-inventory>.

<sup>25</sup> The EIS is EPA's database used to receive and store emissions data and generate emissions inventories. The EIS Gateway is a web-based tool developed to provide only registered EPA, State, local and Tribal users with access to emission inventory data for sources in their jurisdiction.

wide and at the facility level, the EPA also considered data from prior NEI reports and EIS queries, as part of the overall WOE analysis.

As shown in Table 1, the majority of SO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Louisiana originate from point sources. In 2020, total SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from point sources in Louisiana comprised approximately 87 percent of the total SO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the State. Non-point sources, on road and non-road emissions sources are individually much smaller also more dispersed throughout the State and are therefore unlikely to contribute to high ambient concentrations when compared to point source contributions. Further analysis<sup>26</sup> shows that facilities with reported emissions greater than 100 tons per year (tpy) represent approximately 6 percent of the total number of Louisiana SO<sub>2</sub> point sources but are responsible for 82,980 tons of SO<sub>2</sub> or 97 percent of the total 2020 SO<sub>2</sub> emissions.<sup>27</sup> Based on this analysis, the EPA focused our WOE analysis on SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from Louisiana's larger point sources (*i.e.*, point sources emitting over 100 tpy of SO<sub>2</sub>) that are located within 50 km of one or more State borders.

TABLE 1—SUMMARY OF 2020 SO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS IN LOUISIANA BY SOURCE CATEGORY

Category	2020 emissions (tpy)	Percent of total SO <sub>2</sub> emissions
Point .....	85,239	87
Nonpoint .....	12,537	13
On road .....	158	<1
Nonroad .....	10	<1
SO <sub>2</sub> Emissions Total .....	97,999	100

As described in this section, the EPA proposes that an assessment of Louisiana's satisfaction of the Prong 1 and 2 requirements under CAA section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I) for the 2010 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS may be reasonably based upon several factors. These factors include evaluation of the predicted downwind impacts projected in previous relevant modeling studies for the source and nearby areas, assessment of Louisiana's SO<sub>2</sub> point source emissions of more than 100 tpy of SO<sub>2</sub> per facility that are located within approximately 50 km of another State, assessment of other States' point sources emitting more than 100 tpy of SO<sub>2</sub> located within approximately 50 km of Louisiana, and assessment of federal regulations and SIP-approved regulations affecting

<sup>26</sup> See EPA's TSD for a more detailed discussion.

<sup>27</sup> See Table 9 in the EPA's TSD.

Louisiana's SO<sub>2</sub> sources. The EPA's evaluation is informed by all available data at the time of this rulemaking.<sup>28</sup>

The EPA notes that if this information were insufficient to draw a reasonable conclusion concerning whether Louisiana is “significantly contributing” or not, then it would not be possible to propose approval based only on this information. In other words, in general, the absence of information concerning whether interstate transport is occurring is not in itself sufficient justification for approving a good neighbor SIP submission. For example, if there were inadequate monitoring or modeling information to characterize the effects of a large, near-border source of SO<sub>2</sub> emissions, it may be appropriate to conduct, or ask the State to conduct, further analysis to better characterize that source and its effects, in order to reach a determination concerning whether the good neighbor provision is being met. *See, e.g.*, 88 FR 41344 (June 26, 2023) (proposing approval of Tennessee SO<sub>2</sub> transport SIP submission based on updated modeling conducted to better characterize emissions from the Eastman Chemical facility). In this case, the information available to the EPA, as analyzed in the accompanying TSD and summarized below, is fully sufficient to conclude that Louisiana is not and will not emit SO<sub>2</sub> pollution in violation of the good neighbor provision for the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS.

#### 1. EPA's Prong 1 Evaluation—Contribute Significantly to Nonattainment

Prong 1 of the “good neighbor” provision requires States' plans to prohibit emissions that will contribute significantly to nonattainment of the NAAQS in another State. The EPA's evaluation<sup>29</sup> of whether Louisiana has met its Prong 1 transport obligations was accomplished by considering all available information, including the following: SO<sub>2</sub> ambient air quality in Louisiana and neighboring States; SO<sub>2</sub> emissions trends for Louisiana and neighboring States; potential ambient impacts of SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from certain

<sup>28</sup> EPA notes that the evaluation of other states' satisfaction of section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I) for the 2010 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS can be informed by similar factors found in this proposed rulemaking but may not be identical to the approach taken in this or any future rulemaking for Louisiana, depending on available information and state-specific circumstances.

<sup>29</sup> A detailed review of EPA's evaluation of emissions, air monitoring data, other technical information, and rationale for proposed approval of this SIP revision as meeting CAA section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I) for the 2010 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS may be found in the TSD.

facilities<sup>30</sup> in Louisiana on neighboring States; Louisiana's SIP-approved regulations specific to SO<sub>2</sub> emissions and permit requirements; and other SIP-approved or federally enforceable regulations which may reduce SO<sub>2</sub> emissions either directly or indirectly.

Based on the EPA's analysis, we propose to determine that there are no SO<sub>2</sub> nonattainment issues in the relevant areas in other States bordering Louisiana, and as such the EPA proposes to determine that Louisiana's SIP satisfies the requirements of Prong 1 of CAA section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I). This proposed determination is based on the following considerations:

- There are no monitors recording violations of the 2010 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS located in Louisiana including within 50 km of its border. Additionally, all monitors within 50 km of the Louisiana border have design values (DV)<sup>31</sup> that are below the 75 ppb SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS. Current DVs for Louisiana's AQS SO<sub>2</sub> monitors within 50 km of another State's border have remained below the 2010 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS from 2019–2023; similarly, SO<sub>2</sub> monitors in neighboring States (Texas, Arkansas, and Mississippi) within 50 km of Louisiana have 2023 DVs (2021–2023) below the 2010 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS;

- Downward SO<sub>2</sub> emissions trends in Louisiana and its surrounding States (Texas, Arkansas, and Mississippi), when considered together with the other factors discussed as part of EPA's WOE analysis, further support that Louisiana's sources will not significantly contribute to any other States' nonattainment of the 2010 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS;

- A source-specific analyses of every Louisiana 100 tpy source located within 50 km of the State border indicates that the sources do not contribute to nonattainment in other States. These analyses draw upon available emissions data, monitoring data, air quality modeling, control retirements, wind rose data, and other relevant information to assess the likelihood of air quality impacts from these sources to areas in surrounding States. A detailed discussion of each source-specific analysis is contained in section IV.B.1 of the TSD accompanying this action. Below we cover some of the principal

<sup>30</sup>The physical properties of SO<sub>2</sub> result in relatively localized pollutant impacts near the emissions source. Therefore, the EPA selected a spatial scale with dimensions up to 50 km from point sources.

<sup>31</sup>The design value is the 3-year average of the 99th percentile 1-hour maximums at a monitor. A control strategy should be designed to bring the value to attainment of the standard.

evidence that confirms that emissions from Louisiana do not contribute to nonattainment in other States.

- The closest monitor to the Nelson facilities has consistently recorded DVs well below the standard for years 2012–2023, indicating that these facilities are not causing exceedances in Louisiana and would not cause exceedances in Texas.

- Now retired, the monitor in the vicinity of the Reynolds facility in Calcasieu Parish recorded DVs well below the standard from 2017–2020. Considering this historic air quality data with emissions trends in Calcasieu Parish (largely unchanged since 2017) support a determination that these sources are not likely to contribute to nonattainment in Texas.

- Finally, the Orange monitor, located 2 km from the border of Louisiana in Texas, has also recorded DVs below the standard from 2019–2023, further supporting a determination that emissions from Calcasieu Parish sources are not contributing to nonattainment across the border with Texas.

- For the St. Bernard Parish sources, nearby monitors (Chalmette Vista and Meraux) have consistently recorded DVs below the NAAQS. Coupling this monitored air quality information with the fact that these sources are 49 km from the State line supports a determination that emissions from these sources are not contributing to nonattainment across the border into Mississippi.

- For the sources in northwestern Louisiana, low DVs at the Shreveport monitor, coupled with predominant wind patterns that are more likely to transport emissions from these facilities to this monitor than to Texas, support that the northwestern Louisiana sources of emissions are unlikely contributing to nonattainment in Texas. Additionally, DRR modeling results for Dolet Hills Power Station and International Paper's Mansfield Mill indicate no SO<sub>2</sub> air quality violations in DeSoto Parish. When considered with the facts that Dolet Hills has since shutdown and emissions from Mansfield Mill have since decreased, the modeling results are an overestimation of current conditions, further supporting a determination that emissions from Mansfield Mill will not contribute to nonattainment in Texas. For the remainder of the northwestern Louisiana sources, wind rose data and the size and distance (18 km to 48 km) between the sources and the nearest border support a determination that these sources will not contribute to nonattainment of the NAAQS in Texas.

- For the Baton Rouge area sources, the EPA considered DRR modeling from Big Cajun II that predicted maximum concentrations below the standard within Pointe Coupee Parish. Coupling these results in combination with the fact that emissions from the sources included in the modeling have dropped 85% since the modeling was conducted supports a determination that Big Cajun II will not contribute to nonattainment of the NAAQS in Mississippi.

Additionally, two active monitors (Capitol and Port Allen) downwind of Oxbow have consistently low DVs, and given Oxbow's 46 km distance from the border, this evidence further indicates that these Baton Rouge area sources will not contribute to nonattainment of the standard in Texas.

- For the DeRidder Paper Mill, the small magnitude of the source's SO<sub>2</sub> emissions, the lack of other nearby sources, and wind rose data showing the lack of winds from the east, indicate that this source is not contributing to nonattainment of the NAAQS in Texas.

- For the Bogalusa Mill, extrapolation of PSD modeling predicts maximum impacts from the facility well below the standard, the small magnitude of the source's SO<sub>2</sub> emissions, lack of any other nearby sources, and wind rose data showing the lack of winds from the west, support the EPA's determination that this source is not contributing to nonattainment of the standard in Mississippi.

- Further there are SIP-approved and federal emissions control regulations within Louisiana that will continue to ensure that SO<sub>2</sub> emissions will be effectively controlled for existing and new sources or modifications.

Based on this evaluation, as more thoroughly discussed in our TSD for this action, the EPA proposes to find that sources within Louisiana will not significantly contribute to nonattainment of the 2010 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS in any other State.

## 2. EPA's Prong 2 Evaluation—Interference With Maintenance

Prong 2 of the "good neighbor" provision requires State plans to prohibit emissions that will interfere with maintenance of a NAAQS in another State. The EPA's evaluation of whether Louisiana has met its Prong 2 transport obligations was accomplished by considering all available information, with a focus on current air quality data, SO<sub>2</sub> emissions trends for Louisiana and neighboring States, and how existing and future sources of SO<sub>2</sub> are addressed through existing SIP-approved and federally enforceable regulations. This evaluation builds upon the analysis

conducted for significant contribution to nonattainment (Prong 1), which evaluated SO<sub>2</sub> ambient air quality in Louisiana and neighboring States and potential ambient impacts of SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from certain facilities in Louisiana on neighboring States.

Based on the EPA's analysis, we propose to find that SO<sub>2</sub> levels in neighboring States near the Louisiana border do not indicate an inability to maintain the SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS that could be attributed in part to sources in Louisiana, and as such the EPA proposes to determine that Louisiana's SIP satisfies the requirements of Prong 2 of CAA section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I). This determination is based on the following considerations:

- Current 2021–2023 DVs for SO<sub>2</sub> monitors in Louisiana within 50 km of another State's border and in neighboring States (Texas, Arkansas, and Mississippi) within 50 km of Louisiana's border are below the standard, indicating that these areas are all currently in attainment of the 2010 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS;
- State-wide emissions trends in Louisiana and surrounding States indicate generally declining SO<sub>2</sub> emissions and consequently ambient air concentrations in the relevant areas;
- Source-specific analyses show that facility-level emissions are decreasing as a result of emissions unit shutdowns and control technology installation, indicating that emissions are not anticipated to increase relative to baseline emissions;
- Current Louisiana statutes, SIP-approved measures, and federal emissions control programs control SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from certain sources within Louisiana; and
- Louisiana's SIP-approved PSD, major New Source Review (NSR) regulations and minor source NSR permit programs address future new and modified SO<sub>2</sub> sources above major and minor permitting thresholds with the intent of ensuring that the SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS will not be exceeded as a result of new

facility construction or existing facility modification within the State or in surrounding States.

Based on this evaluation, as more thoroughly discussed in our TSD for this action, the EPA proposes to find that sources within Louisiana will not interfere with maintenance of the 2010 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS in any other State.

#### IV. Proposed Action

The EPA is proposing to approve the Prong 1 and Prong 2 portions of the infrastructure SIP submission submitted by the State of Louisiana on June 4, 2013, addressing interstate transport for the 2010 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS. Based on the EPA's WOE analysis and as more thoroughly discussed in the TSD, the EPA proposes to determine that emissions from Louisiana will not contribute significantly to nonattainment in, or interfere with maintenance of, any other State with respect to the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS. We therefore propose to find that Louisiana's SIP contains adequate provisions consistent with CAA section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I).

#### V. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

Under the CAA, the Administrator is required to approve a SIP submission that complies with the provisions of the Act and applicable Federal regulations. 42 U.S.C. 7410(k); 40 CFR 52.02(a). Thus, in reviewing SIP submissions, the EPA's role is to approve State choices, provided that they meet the criteria of the CAA. Accordingly, this action merely proposes to approve State law as meeting Federal requirements and does not impose additional requirements beyond those imposed by State law. For that reason, this action:

- Is not a significant regulatory action subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Orders 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993);
- Does not impose an information collection burden under the provisions

of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*);

- Is certified as not having a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*);

- Does not contain any unfunded mandate or significantly or uniquely affect small governments, as described in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–4);

- Does not have federalism implications as specified in Executive Order 13132 (64 FR 43255, August 10, 1999);

- Is not subject to Executive Order 13045 (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997) because it approves a State program;

- Is not a significant regulatory action subject to Executive Order 13211 (66 FR 28355, May 22, 2001); and
- Is not subject to requirements of Section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (15 U.S.C. 272 note) because application of those requirements would be inconsistent with the Clean Air Act.

In addition, the SIP is not approved to apply on any Indian reservation land or in any other area where the EPA or an Indian Tribe has demonstrated that a Tribe has jurisdiction. In those areas of Indian country, the proposed rule does not have Tribal implications and will not impose substantial direct costs on Tribal governments or preempt Tribal law as specified by Executive Order 13175 (65 FR 67249, November 9, 2000).

#### List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Sulfur dioxide, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

**Authority:** 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*

Dated: March 21, 2025.

**Walter Mason,**

*Regional Administrator, Region 6.*

[FR Doc. 2025–05927 Filed 4–8–25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6560–50–P**

# Notices

## Federal Register

Vol. 90, No. 67

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Directive Publication Notice

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, Agriculture (USDA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Forest Service (Forest Service or Agency), U.S. Department of Agriculture, provides direction to employees through issuances in its Directive System, comprised of the Forest Service Manual and Forest Service Handbooks. The Agency must provide public notice of and opportunity to comment on directives that formulate standards, criteria, or guidelines applicable to Forest Service programs. Once per quarter, the Agency provides advance notice of proposed and interim directives that will be made available for public comment during the next three months; proposed and interim directives that were previously published for public comment but not yet finalized and issued; and notice of final directives issued in the last three months.

**DATES:** This notice identifies proposed and interim directives that have been published for public comment between January 1, 2025, and March 31, 2025; proposed and interim directives that were previously published for public comment but not yet finalized and issued; and final directives that have been issued since October 1, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Questions or comments may be submitted by email to the contact listed below.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

JoLynn Anderson, (971) 313-1718 or [jolynn.anderson@usda.gov](mailto:jolynn.anderson@usda.gov). Individuals who use telecommunications devices for the hearing impaired may call 711 to reach the Telecommunications Relay Service, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays. You may register to receive email alerts regarding

Forest Service directives at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/regulations-policies/national-directives>.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Proposed and Interim Directives

Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1612(a) and 36 CFR part 216, the Forest Service publishes notice of the opportunity for public comment on Agency Directives that formulate standards, criteria, and guidelines applicable to Forest Service programs. Agency procedures for providing public notice and opportunity to comment are specified in Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1109.12, Chapter 30, Providing Public Notice and Opportunity to Comment on Directives.

No Directives were published for comment between January 1, 2025, to March 31, 2025. Additionally, there are no proposed or final Directives scheduled to be published for comment in Fiscal Year 2025 Quarter 3.

The following Directives have been published in previous quarters:

#### Final Directives That Have Been Issued in Fiscal Year 2025 Quarter 1

1. FSM 2040 National Forest System Monitoring.

#### Final Directives That Have Been Issued in Fiscal Year 2025 Quarter 2

1. FSH 2209.16-chapter 10 Allotment Management Handbook;
2. FSM 3800 Landscape Scale Restoration.

**Stephen Morse,**

*Program Analyst, Policy Office, National Forest System.*

[FRC Doc. 2025-06098 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3411-15-P**

## COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

#### Notice of Public Meeting of the Montana Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

**AGENCY:** U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act, that the Montana Advisory Committee (Committee) to the U.S. Commission on

Civil Rights will hold a public business meeting via Zoom at 3 p.m. MT on Wednesday, May 21, 2025.

**DATES:** Wednesday, May 21, 2025, from 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Mountain Time.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held via Zoom Webinar.

*Registration Link (Audio/Visual):* [https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_FQ254iVVQ4GZJrXhgADgQ](https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_FQ254iVVQ4GZJrXhgADgQ).

*Join by Phone (Audio Only):* (833) 435-1820 USA Toll-Free; Meeting ID: 161 815 1574.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ana Victoria Fortes, Designated Federal Officer, at [afortes@usccr.gov](mailto:afortes@usccr.gov) or (202) 681-0857.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This committee meeting is available to the public through the registration link above. Any interested member of the public may listen to the meeting. An open comment period will be provided to allow members of the public to make a statement as time allows. Per the Federal Advisory Committee Act, public minutes of the meeting will include a list of persons who are present at the meeting. If joining via phone, callers can expect to incur regular charges for calls they initiate over wireless lines, according to their wireless plan. The Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls they initiate over landline connections to the toll-free telephone number. Closed captioning will be available for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or who have certain cognitive or learning impairments. To request additional accommodations, please email Liliana Schiller, Support Services Specialist, at [lschiller@usccr.gov](mailto:lschiller@usccr.gov) at least 10 business days prior to the meeting.

Members of the public are entitled to submit written comments; the comments must be received in the regional office within 30 days following the meeting. Written comments may be emailed to Ana Victoria Fortes at [afortes@usccr.gov](mailto:afortes@usccr.gov). Persons who desire additional information may contact the Regional Programs Coordination Unit at (202) 681-0857.

Records generated from this meeting may be inspected and reproduced at the Regional Programs Coordination Unit Office, as they become available, both before and after the meeting. Records of the meetings will be available via the

file sharing website, [www.box.com](http://www.box.com). Persons interested in the work of this Committee are directed to the Commission's website, <http://www.usccr.gov>, or may contact the Regional Programs Coordination Unit at the above phone number.

### Agenda

- I. Welcome & Roll Call
- II. Administrative Announcements
- III. Concept Stage Presentation
- IV. Discuss Topics for Study
- V. Public Comment
- VI. Next Steps
- VII. Adjournment

Dated: April 3, 2025.

**David Mussatt,**

*Supervisory Chief, Regional Programs Unit.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06032 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE P**

## COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

### Notice of Public Meeting of the Maryland Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

**AGENCY:** U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

**ACTION:** Notice of virtual business meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act, that the Maryland Advisory Committee (Committee) to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will a public meeting via Zoom. The purpose is for the committee to meet as a newly appointed committee.

**DATES:** Wednesday April 30, 2025, at 1 p.m. Eastern Time.

**ADDRESSES:**

*Registration Link (Audio/Visual):* <https://tinyurl.com/mrjhth77>.

*Join by Phone (Audio Only):* 1-833-435-1820 USA Toll Free; Webinar ID: 160 006 0777 #.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Brooke Peery, Designated Federal Officer, at [bpeery@usccr.gov](mailto:bpeery@usccr.gov) or 1-202-701-1376.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Committee meetings are available to the public through a registration link (above). Any interested members of the public may attend committee meetings. An open comment period will be provided to allow members of the public to make oral statements as time allows. Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, public minutes of each meeting will include a

list of persons who are present. If joining via phone, callers can expect to incur regular charges for calls they initiate over wireless lines, according to their wireless plan. The Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls they initiate over land-line connections to the toll-free telephone number. Closed captioning is available by selecting "CC" in the meeting platform. To request additional accommodations, please email [ebohor@usccr.gov](mailto:ebohor@usccr.gov) at least 10 business days prior to the meeting.

Members of the public are entitled to submit written comments; the comments must be received in the regional office within 30 days following the scheduled meeting. Written comments may be emailed to Evelyn Bohor at [ebohor@usccr.gov](mailto:ebohor@usccr.gov). Persons who desire additional information may contact the Regional Programs Coordination Unit at 1-202-656-8937.

Records generated from this meeting may be inspected and reproduced at the Regional Programs Coordination Unit Office, as they become available, both before and after the meeting. Records of the meetings will be available via the file sharing website, <https://tinyurl.com/mnshz8n9>. Persons interested in the work of this Committee are directed to the Commission's website, <https://www.usccr.gov>, or may contact the Regional Programs Coordination Unit at [ebohor@usccr.gov](mailto:ebohor@usccr.gov).

### Agenda

- I. Welcome & Roll Call
- II. Chair's Comments
- III. Introductions
- IV. Committee Discussion
- V. Next Steps
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Other Business
- VIII. Adjourn

Dated: April 3, 2025.

**David Mussatt,**

*Supervisory Chief, Regional Programs Unit.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06042 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[B-21-2025]

### Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) 50, Notification of Proposed Production Activity; Logitech; (Audio, Visual, and Gaming Equipment); Ontario, California

On behalf of Logitech, Arvato USA LLC submitted a notification of proposed production activity to the FTZ

Board (the Board) for its facility in Ontario, California within FTZ 50, Site 59. The notification conforming to the requirements of the Board's regulations (15 CFR 400.22) was received on April 1, 2025.

Pursuant to 15 CFR 400.14(b), FTZ production activity would be limited to the specific foreign-status material(s)/ component(s) and specific finished product(s) described in the submitted notification (summarized below) and subsequently authorized by the Board. The benefits that may stem from conducting production activity under FTZ procedures are explained in the background section of the Board's website—accessible via [www.trade.gov/ftz](http://www.trade.gov/ftz).

The proposed finished products include peripherals (audio, computer, sim racing), content creation equipment, and video conference devices (duty rates are duty-free).

The proposed foreign-status materials/components include: microphones (streaming; video conference); speakers (Bluetooth with single driver; Bluetooth with multiple drivers; personal computer; personal computer with single driver); headsets (wired; wireless); virtual reality pens; remotes (gaming; presentation); conferencing displays; desktop streaming LED lights; sim racing components (wheels; pedals); flight simulators; adaptive gaming controllers; webcams; conference webcams; video conferencing components (systems; cameras; table mounts; wall brackets; scheduler touch screen devices); USB receivers; pads (wireless charging; mouse); keyboards (wired; wireless); mouses (wired; wireless); palm rests (duty rate ranges from duty-free to 2.0%). The request indicates that certain materials/components are subject to duties under section 1702(a)(1)(B) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (section 1702), and section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 (section 301), depending on the country of origin. The applicable section 1702 and section 301 decisions require subject merchandise to be admitted to FTZs in privileged foreign status (19 CFR 146.41).

Public comment is invited from interested parties. Submissions shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary and sent to: [ftz@trade.gov](mailto:ftz@trade.gov). The closing period for their receipt is May 19, 2025.

A copy of the notification will be available for public inspection in the "Online FTZ Information System" section of the Board's website.

For further information, contact Juanita Chen at [juanita.chen@trade.gov](mailto:juanita.chen@trade.gov).

Dated: April 3, 2025.

**Elizabeth Whiteman,**

*Executive Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06057 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

[A-588-869]

#### Diffusion-Annealed, Nickel-Plated Flat-Rolled Steel Products From Japan: Continuation of Antidumping Duty Order

**AGENCY:** Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

**SUMMARY:** As a result of the determinations by the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) and the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) that revocation of the antidumping duty (AD) order on diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated flat rolled steel products (nickel-plated steel products) from Japan would likely lead to the continuation or recurrence of dumping and material injury to an industry in the United States, Commerce is publishing a notice of continuation of this AD order.

**DATES:** Applicable March 31, 2025.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lilit Astvatsatryan, AD/CVD Operations, Office IX, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-6412.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

On May 29, 2014, Commerce published in the **Federal Register** the AD order on nickel-plated steel products from Japan.<sup>1</sup> On September 3, 2024, the ITC instituted,<sup>2</sup> and Commerce initiated,<sup>3</sup> the second sunset review of the *Order*, pursuant to section 751(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act). As a result of its review, Commerce determined that revocation of the *Order* would likely lead to the continuation or recurrence of dumping and therefore, notified the ITC of the magnitude of the margins of

dumping likely to prevail should the *Order* be revoked.<sup>4</sup>

On March 31, 2025, the ITC published its determination, pursuant to sections 751(c) and 752(a) of the Act, that revocation of the *Order* would likely lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time.<sup>5</sup>

#### Scope of the Order

The diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated flat-rolled steel products included in this *Order* are flat-rolled, cold-reduced steel products, regardless of chemistry; whether or not in coils; either plated or coated with nickel or nickel-based alloys and subsequently annealed (*i.e.*, “diffusion-annealed”); whether or not painted, varnished or coated with plastics or other metallic or nonmetallic substances; and less than or equal to 2.0 mm in nominal thickness. For purposes of this *Order*, “nickel-based alloys” include all nickel alloys with other metals in which nickel accounts for at least 80 percent of the alloy by volume.

Imports of merchandise included in the scope of this *Order* are classified primarily under Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) subheadings 7212.50.0000 and 7210.90.6000, but may also be classified under HTSUS subheadings 7210.70.6090, 7212.40.1000, 7212.40.5000, 7219.90.0020, 7219.90.0025, 7219.90.0060, 7219.90.0080, 7220.90.0010, 7220.90.0015, 7225.99.0090, or 7226.99.0180. Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the scope of this *Order* is dispositive.

#### Continuation of the Order

As a result of the determinations by Commerce and the ITC that revocation of the *Order* would likely lead to continuation or recurrence of dumping and material injury to an industry in the United States, pursuant to section 751(d)(2) of the Act, Commerce hereby orders the continuation of the *Order*. U.S. Customs and Border Protection will continue to collect AD cash deposits at the rates in effect at the time of entry for all imports of subject merchandise.

The effective date of the continuation of the *Order* will be March 31, 2025.<sup>6</sup> Pursuant to section 751(c)(2) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.218(c)(2), Commerce intends to initiate the next five-year reviews of the *Order* not later than 30 days prior to fifth anniversary of the date of the last determination by the ITC.

#### Administrative Protective Order (APO)

This notice also serves as a final reminder to parties subject to an APO of their responsibility concerning the return or destruction of proprietary information disclosed under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305(a)(3), which continues to govern business proprietary information in this segment of the proceeding. Timely written notification of the return or destruction of APO materials, or conversion to judicial protective order, is hereby requested. Failure to comply with the regulations and terms of an APO is a violation which is subject to sanction.

#### Notification to Interested Parties

This five-year (sunset) review and this notice are in accordance with sections 751(c) and 751(d)(2) of the Act and published in accordance with section 777(i) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.218(f)(4).

Dated: April 2, 2025.

**Christopher Abbott,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Negotiations, performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06103 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

[A-533-924, C-533-925]

#### Melamine From India: Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Orders

**AGENCY:** Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

**SUMMARY:** Based on affirmative final determinations by the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) and the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC), Commerce is issuing antidumping duty (AD) and countervailing duty (CVD) orders on melamine from India.

**DATES:** Applicable April 9, 2025.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Myrna Lobo (AD) or Paul Kebker (CVD), AD/CVD Operations, Offices VII and IV,

<sup>1</sup> See *Diffusion-Annealed, Nickel-Plated Flat-Rolled Steel Products from Japan: Antidumping Duty Order*, 79 FR 30816 (May 29, 2014) (*Order*).

<sup>2</sup> See *Diffusion-Annealed, Nickel Plated Flat-Rolled Steel Products from Japan: Institution of a Five-Year Review*, 89 FR 71474 (September 3, 2024).

<sup>3</sup> See *Initiation of Five-Year (Sunset) Reviews*, 89 FR 71252 (September 3, 2024).

<sup>4</sup> See *Diffusion-Annealed, Nickel-Plated Flat-Rolled Steel Products from Japan: Final Results of the Expedited Second Sunset Review of the Antidumping Duty Orders*, 90 FR 1079 (January 7, 2025), and accompanying Issues and Decision Memorandum.

<sup>5</sup> See *Diffusion-Annealed, Nickel-Plated Flat-Rolled Steel Products from Japan*, 90 FR 14273 (March 31, 2025) (ITC Final Determination).

<sup>6</sup> See ITC Final Determination.

Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-2371 and (202) 482-2254, respectively.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Background**

In accordance with sections 705(d), 735(d), and 777(i) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), on February 12, 2025, Commerce published its affirmative final determination of sales at less than fair value (LTFV) from India and its affirmative final determination that countervailable subsidies are being provided to producers and exporters of melamine from India.<sup>1</sup> As part of these determinations, Commerce made affirmative critical circumstances findings for Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (GSFC) in the LTFV investigation and for GSFC and the all other producers and/or exporters in the CVD investigation.

On March 31, 2025, the ITC notified Commerce of its affirmative final determination that an industry in the United States is materially injured within the meaning of section 705(b)(1)(A)(i) of the Act.<sup>2</sup> Further, the ITC determined that critical circumstances do not exist with respect to imports of melamine from India.<sup>3</sup>

##### **Scope of the Orders**

The products covered by these orders are melamine from India. For a complete description of the scope of the orders, *see* the appendix to this notice.

##### **Antidumping Duty Order**

On March 31, 2025, in accordance with section 735(d) of the Act, the ITC notified Commerce of its final

determination that an industry in the United States is materially injured within the meaning of section 735(b)(1)(A)(i) of the Act by reason of imports of melamine that are sold in the United States at less than fair value. Therefore, in accordance with sections 735(c)(2) and 736 of the Act, Commerce is issuing this AD order. Because the ITC determined that imports of melamine from India are materially injuring a U.S. industry, unliquidated entries of such merchandise from India, entered or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, are subject to the assessment of antidumping duties.

Therefore, in accordance with section 736(a)(1) of the Act, Commerce will direct U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to assess, upon further instruction by Commerce, antidumping duties equal to the amount by which the normal value of the merchandise exceeds the export price (or constructed export price) of the merchandise, for all relevant entries of melamine from India. Antidumping duties will be assessed on unliquidated entries of melamine from India entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after September 24, 2024, the date of publication of the *AD Preliminary Determination* but will not include entries occurring after the expiration of the provisional measures period and before publication of the ITC's final injury determination, as further described below.<sup>4</sup>

##### **Critical Circumstances—AD**

With respect to the ITC's negative critical circumstances determination on imports of melamine from India, we will instruct CBP to lift the suspension of liquidation and to refund all cash deposits for estimated antidumping

duties with respect to entries of the subject merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after June 26, 2024 (*i.e.*, 90 days prior to the date of the publication of the *AD Preliminary Determination*), but before September 24, 2024, the date of publication of the *AD Preliminary Determination*.

##### **Suspension of Liquidation and Cash Deposits—AD**

Commerce intends to instruct CBP to reinstitute the suspension of liquidation of melamine from India, effective on the date of publication of the *ITC Final Determination* in the **Federal Register**, and to assess, upon further instruction by Commerce, antidumping duties on each entry of subject merchandise based on the estimated weighted-average dumping margins indicated in the table below. These instructions suspending liquidation will remain in effect until further notice. Commerce also intends to instruct CBP to require cash deposits equal to the estimated weighted-average dumping margins indicated in the table below. Accordingly, effective on the date of publication in the **Federal Register** of the notice of the ITC's final affirmative injury determination, CBP will require, at the same time as importers would normally deposit estimated customs duties on this subject merchandise, a cash deposit equal to the rates listed in the table below. The all-others rate applies to all producers and exporters not specifically listed below, as appropriate.

##### **Estimated Weighted-Average Dumping Margins**

The estimated weighted-average dumping margins are as follows:

Exporter or producer	Weighted-average dumping margin (percent)	Cash deposit rate (adjusted for subsidy offset(s)) (percent) <sup>5</sup>
Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited .....	* 632.74	626.27
All Others .....	513.28	506.81

\* Rate based on facts available with adverse inferences.

##### **Provisional Measures—AD**

Section 733(d) of the Act states that suspension of liquidation pursuant to an affirmative preliminary determination

may not remain in effect for more than four months, except where exporters representing a significant proportion of exports of the subject merchandise

request that Commerce extend the four-month period to no more than six months. Commerce published the *AD Preliminary Determination* on

<sup>1</sup> *See Melamine from India: Final Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination and Critical Circumstances Determination*, 90 FR 9413 (February 12, 2025) (*AD Final Determination*); *see also Melamine from India: Final Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value and Affirmative Determination of Critical*

*Circumstances, In Part*, 90 FR 9415 (February 12, 2025) (*CVD Final Determination*).

<sup>2</sup> *See ITC's Letter, "Notification of ITC Final Determinations," dated March 31, 2025.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *See Melamine from India: Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less Than*

*Fair Value and Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances, in Part*, 89 FR 77832 (September 24, 2024) (*AD Preliminary Determination*).

<sup>5</sup> Adjusted for export subsidies of 6.47 percent (comprised of 2.69 percent for the RoDTEP program and 3.78 percent for the DDB program) for GSFC and all others. *See CVD Final Determination.*

September 24, 2024. On October 23, 2024, Commerce extended the provisional measures from a four-month period to a period of not more than six months.<sup>6</sup>

The provisional measures period, beginning on the date of publication of the *AD Preliminary Determination*, ended on March 22, 2025. Therefore, in accordance with section 733(d) of the Act, Commerce intends to instruct CBP to terminate the suspension of liquidation and to liquidate, without regard to antidumping duties, unliquidated entries of melamine from India entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after March 23, 2025, the first day provisional measures were no longer in effect, until and through the day preceding the date of publication of the *ITC Final Determination*. Suspension of liquidation and the collection of cash deposits will resume on the date of publication of the *ITC Final Determination* in the **Federal Register**.

#### Countervailing Duty Order

As stated above, based on the above-referenced affirmative determination by the ITC that an industry in the United States is materially injured within the meaning of section 705(b)(1)(A)(i) of the Act, by reason of subsidized imports of melamine from India, in accordance with sections 705(c)(2) and 706 of the Act, Commerce is issuing this CVD order. Because the ITC determined that imports of melamine from India are materially injuring a U.S. industry, unliquidated entries of such merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption, are subject to the assessment of countervailing duties.

Therefore, in accordance with section 706(a) of the Act, Commerce will direct CBP to assess, upon further instruction by Commerce, countervailing duties on all relevant entries of melamine from India, which are entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after July 22, 2024, the date of the publication of the *CVD Preliminary Determination*,<sup>7</sup> but will not include entries occurring after the expiration of the provisional measures and before the publication in the **Federal Register** of the ITC's final injury determination

<sup>6</sup> See *Melamine from India: Postponement of Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value Investigation*, 89 FR 84533 (October 23, 2024).

<sup>7</sup> See *Melamine from India: Preliminary Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination, Preliminary Affirmative Critical Circumstances Determination, and Alignment of Final Determination With the Final Antidumping Duty Determination*, 89 FR 59055 (July 22, 2024) (CVD Preliminary Determination).

under section 705(b) of the Act, as further described in the "Provisional Measures—CVD" section of this notice.

#### Critical Circumstances—CVD

With respect to the ITC's negative critical circumstances determination on imports of melamine from India, we will instruct CBP to lift the suspension of liquidation and to refund all cash deposits for estimated countervailing duties with respect to entries of the subject merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after April 23, 2024 (i.e., 90 days prior to the date of the publication of the *CVD Preliminary Determination*), but before July 22, 2024, the date of publication of the *CVD Preliminary Determination*.

#### Suspension of Liquidation and Cash Deposits—CVD

In accordance with section 706 of the Act, Commerce intends to instruct CBP to reinstitute the suspension of liquidation of melamine from India, effective on the date of publication of the ITC's final affirmative injury determination in the **Federal Register**, and to assess, upon further instruction by Commerce, countervailing duties on each entry of subject merchandise in an amount based on the net countervailable subsidy rates below. These instructions suspending liquidation will remain in effect until further notice.

Commerce also intends, pursuant to section 706(a)(1) of the Act, to instruct CBP to require cash deposits equal to the amounts as indicated below. Accordingly, effective on the date of publication of the ITC's final affirmative injury determination in the **Federal Register**, CBP will require, at the same time as importers would normally deposit estimated customs duties on the subject merchandise, a cash deposit for each entry of subject merchandise equal to the subsidy rates listed below.<sup>8</sup> The all-others rate applies to all producers and exporters not specifically listed below, as appropriate.

#### Estimated CVD Subsidy Rates

The estimated CVD subsidy rates as published in Commerce's *CVD Final Determination* are as follows:

Exporter/producer	Subsidy rate (percent ad valorem)
Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited .....	* 276.06
All Others .....	276.06

\* Rate based on facts available with adverse inferences.

<sup>8</sup> See section 706(a)(3) of the Act.

#### Provisional Measures—CVD

Section 703(d) of the Act states that the suspension of liquidation pursuant to an affirmative preliminary determination may not remain in effect for more than four months. Commerce published the *CVD Preliminary Determination* on July 22, 2024.<sup>9</sup> As such, the four-month period beginning on the date of the publication of the *CVD Preliminary Determination* ended on November 18, 2024.

Therefore, in accordance with section 703(d) of the Act, Commerce instructed CBP to terminate the suspension of liquidation and to liquidate, without regard to countervailing duties, unliquidated entries of melamine from India entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption, on or after November 19, 2024, the first day provisional measures were no longer in effect, until and through the day preceding the date of publication of the *ITC Final Determination*. Suspension of liquidation and the collection of cash deposits will resume on the date of publication of the *ITC Final Determination* in the **Federal Register**.

#### Establishment of the Annual Inquiry Service Lists

On September 20, 2021, Commerce published the *Final Rule* in the **Federal Register**.<sup>10</sup> On September 27, 2021, Commerce also published the *Procedural Guidance* in the **Federal Register**.<sup>11</sup> The *Final Rule* and *Procedural Guidance* provide that Commerce will maintain an annual inquiry service list for each order or suspended investigation, and any interested party submitting a scope ruling application or request for circumvention inquiry shall serve a copy of the application or request on the persons on the annual inquiry service list for that order, as well as any companion order covering the same merchandise from the same country of origin.

In accordance with the *Procedural Guidance*, for orders published in the **Federal Register** after November 4, 2021, Commerce will create an annual inquiry service list segment in Commerce's online e-filing and document management system, Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Electronic Service System (ACCESS), available at <https://access.trade.gov>,

<sup>9</sup> See *CVD Preliminary Determination*.

<sup>10</sup> See *Regulations to Improve Administration and Enforcement of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Laws*, 86 FR 52300 (September 20, 2021) (*Final Rule*).

<sup>11</sup> See *Scope Ruling Application; Annual Inquiry Service List; and Informational Sessions*, 86 FR 53205 (September 27, 2021) (*Procedural Guidance*).

within five business days of publication of the order. Each annual inquiry service list will be saved in ACCESS, under each case number, and under a specific segment type called “AISL—Annual Inquiry Service List.”<sup>12</sup>

Interested parties who wish to be added to the annual inquiry service list for an order must submit an entry of appearance to the annual inquiry service list segment for the order in ACCESS within 30 days after the date of publication of the order. For ease of administration, Commerce requests that law firms with more than one attorney representing interested parties in an order designate a lead attorney to be included on the annual inquiry service list. Commerce will finalize the annual inquiry service list within five business days thereafter. As mentioned in the *Procedural Guidance*,<sup>13</sup> the new annual inquiry service list will be in place until the following year, when the *Opportunity Notice* for the anniversary month of the order is published.

Commerce may update an annual inquiry service list at any time as needed based on interested parties’ amendments to their entries of appearance to remove or otherwise modify their list of members and representatives, or to update contact information. Any changes or announcements pertaining to these procedures will be posted to the ACCESS website.

#### Special Instructions for Petitioners and Foreign Governments

In the *Final Rule*, Commerce stated that, “after an initial request and placement on the annual inquiry service list, both petitioners and foreign governments will automatically be placed on the annual inquiry service list in the years that follow.”<sup>14</sup> Accordingly, as stated above, the petitioner and the Government of India should submit their initial entries of appearance after publication of this notice in order to appear in the first annual inquiry service lists for those orders for which they qualify as an interested party. Pursuant to 19 CFR

<sup>12</sup> This segment will be combined with the ACCESS Segment Specific Information (SSI) field which will display the month in which the notice of the order or suspended investigation was published in the *Federal Register*, also known as the anniversary month. For example, for an order under case number A-000-000 that was published in the *Federal Register* in January, the relevant segment and SSI combination will appear in ACCESS as “AISL—January Anniversary.” Note that there will be only one annual inquiry service list segment per case number, and the anniversary month will be pre-populated in ACCESS.

<sup>13</sup> See *Procedural Guidance*, 86 FR at 53206.

<sup>14</sup> See *Final Rule*, 86 FR at 52335.

351.225(n)(3), the petitioner and the Government of India will not need to resubmit their entries of appearance each year to continue to be included on the annual inquiry service list.

However, the petitioner and the Government of India are responsible for making amendments to their entries of appearance during the annual update to the annual inquiry service list in accordance with the procedures described above.

#### Notification to Interested Parties

This notice constitutes the AD and CVD orders with respect to melamine from India, pursuant to sections 736(a) and 706(a) of the Act. Interested parties can find a list of AD and CVD orders currently in effect at <https://enforcement.trade.gov/stats/iastats1.html>.

These orders are issued and published in accordance with sections 736(a) and 706(a) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.211(b).

Dated: April 3, 2025.

**Christopher Abbott,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Negotiations, performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.*

#### Appendix

##### Scope of the Orders

The merchandise subject to these orders is melamine (Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) registry number 108-78-01, molecular formula C3 H6 N6). Melamine is also known as 2,4,6-triamino-s-triazine; 1,3,5-Triazine-2,4,6-triamine; Cyanurotriamide; Cyanurotriamine; Cyanuramide; and by various brand names. Melamine is a crystalline powder or granule. All melamine is covered by the scope of these orders irrespective of purity, particle size, or physical form. Melamine that has been blended with other products is included within this scope when such blends include constituent parts that have been intermingled, but that have not been chemically reacted with each other to produce a different product. For such blends, only the melamine component of the mixture is covered by the scope of these orders. Melamine that is otherwise subject to these orders is not excluded when commingled with melamine from sources not subject to these orders. Only the subject component of such commingled products is covered by the scope of these orders.

The subject merchandise is provided for in subheading 2933.61.0000 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS). Although the HTSUS subheading and CAS registry number are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the scope is dispositive.

[FR Doc. 2025-06100 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### International Trade Administration

[C-122-858]

#### Certain Softwood Lumber Products From Canada: Preliminary Results and Partial Rescission of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review; 2023

**AGENCY:** Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) preliminarily determines that countervailable subsidies were being provided to producers and exporters of certain softwood lumber products (softwood lumber) from Canada during the period of review (POR), January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. Commerce is also rescinding this review with respect to 46 companies. Interested parties are invited to comment on these preliminary results.

**DATES:** Applicable April 9, 2025.

##### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Samuel Brummitt, Kristen Johnson, and T.J. Worthington, AD/CVD Operations, Office III, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-7851, (202) 482-4793, and (202) 482-4567, respectively.

##### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

On January 3, 2018, Commerce published the countervailing duty (CVD) order on softwood lumber from Canada in the *Federal Register*.<sup>1</sup> Several interested parties requested that Commerce conduct an administrative review of the *Order* and, on March 5, 2024, Commerce published in the *Federal Register* a notice of initiation of the fifth administrative review.<sup>2</sup> On April 19, 2024, Commerce selected Canfor Corporation (Canfor) and West Fraser Mills Ltd. (West Fraser) as the mandatory respondents in the administrative review.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See *Certain Softwood Lumber Products from Canada: Amended Final Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination and Countervailing Duty Order*, 83 FR 347 (January 3, 2018) (*Order*).

<sup>2</sup> See *Initiation of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Administrative Reviews*, 89 FR 15827 (March 5, 2024) (*Initiation Notice*); see also *Initiation of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Administrative Reviews*, 89 FR 24780, 24797, 24802 (April 9, 2024), where Commerce corrected the *Initiation Notice* to remove Portbec Forest Products Ltd (aka Les Produits Forestiers Portbec Ltee) from the administrative review.

<sup>3</sup> See Memorandum, “Respondent Selection,” dated April 19, 2024.

On July 22, 2024, Commerce tolled certain deadlines in this administrative proceeding by seven days.<sup>4</sup> On September 17, 2024, Commerce extended the deadline for the preliminary results of this administrative review from October 9, 2024,<sup>5</sup> to February 6, 2025, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.213(h)(2).<sup>6</sup> Additionally, on December 9, 2024, Commerce tolled the deadline to issue the preliminary results in this administrative review by 90 days.<sup>7</sup> Accordingly, the deadline for these preliminary results is now May 7, 2025.

For a complete description of the events that followed the initiation of this review, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.<sup>8</sup> A list of topics discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum is included in Appendix I to this notice. The Preliminary Decision Memorandum is a public document and is on file electronically via Enforcement and Compliance's Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System (ACCESS). ACCESS is available to registered users at <https://access.trade.gov>. In addition, a complete version of the Preliminary Decision Memorandum can be accessed directly at <https://access.trade.gov/public/FRNoticesListLayout.aspx>.

### Scope of the Order

The products covered by this order are certain softwood lumber products from Canada. For a complete description of the scope of the *Order*, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

### Rescission of Administrative Review, in Part

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.213(d)(3), it is Commerce's practice to rescind an administrative review of a CVD order where it concludes that there were no reviewable entries of subject merchandise during the POR for an exporter or producer. Normally, upon completion of an administrative review, the suspended entries are liquidated at

<sup>4</sup> See Memorandum, "Tolling of Deadlines for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings," dated July 22, 2024.

<sup>5</sup> Inclusive of the 7-day deadline toll.

<sup>6</sup> See Memorandum, "Extension of Deadline for Preliminary Results of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review, 2023," dated September 17, 2024.

<sup>7</sup> See Memorandum, "Tolling of Deadlines for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings," dated December 9, 2024.

<sup>8</sup> See Memorandum, "Decision Memorandum for the Preliminary Results of Administrative Review of the Countervailing Duty Order on Certain Softwood Lumber Products from Canada; 2023," dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice (Preliminary Decision Memorandum).

the CVD assessment rate for the review period.<sup>9</sup> Therefore, for an administrative review to be conducted, there must be a reviewable, suspended entry that Commerce can instruct U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to liquidate at the calculated CVD assessment rate for the review period.<sup>10</sup>

Based on our analysis of CBP data and comments received from interested parties, we determine that 46 producers/exporters, for which a review had been requested, had no reviewable shipments, sales, or entries of subject merchandise during the POR. Accordingly, absent evidence of a shipment on the record, Commerce is rescinding the administrative review of the following companies, pursuant to 19 CFR 351.213(d)(3):

1. 9224-5737 Quebec Inc. (aka A.G. Bois)
2. All American Forest Products Inc.
3. Anglo-American Cedar Products, Ltd.
4. Bardobec Inc.
5. Best Quality Cedar Products Ltd.
6. Campbell River Shake & Shingle Co., Ltd.
7. CarlWood Lumber Ltd.
8. Cedar Valley Holdings Ltd.
9. Central Alberta Pallet Supply
10. Chaleur Forest Products LP
11. Coast Clear Wood Ltd.
12. Coast Mountain Cedar Products Ltd.
13. Comox Valley Shakes (2019) Ltd.
14. Coulson Manufacturing Ltd.
15. Distribution Rioux Inc.
16. Elrod Cartage Ltd.
17. Galloway Lumber Company Ltd.
18. Glandell Enterprises Inc.
19. Greenwell Resources Inc.
20. Groupe Lignarex inc.
21. Hy Mark Wood Products Inc.
22. Intertran Holdings Ltd., dba Richmond Terminal
23. Island Cedar Products Ltd
24. L'Atelier de Readaptation au travil de Beaure Inc.
25. Les Bois Traites M.G. Inc.
26. Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.
27. Pacific Pallet, Ltd.
28. Pat Power Forest Products Corporation
29. Prendiville Industries Ltd. (aka Kenora Forest Products)
30. Produits forestiers Temrex, s.e.c. (aka Temrex Forest Products LP)
31. Rayonier A.M. Canada GP
32. Rick Dubois
33. S&W Forest Products Ltd.
34. Silvaris Corporation
35. Source Forest Products
36. South Coast Reman Ltd.
37. South Fraser Container Terminals
38. Southcoast Millwork Ltd.
39. Suncoast Industries Inc.
40. Suncoh Custom Lumber Ltd.
41. Surplus G Rioux
42. Valley Cedar 2 Inc.
43. Waldun Forest Product Sales Ltd.
44. Watkins Sawmills Ltd.
45. West Coast Panel Cutters
46. Winton Homes Ltd.

<sup>9</sup> See 19 CFR 351.212(b)(2).

<sup>10</sup> See 19 CFR 351.213(d)(3).

For further information, see "Partial Rescission of Administrative Review" in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

### Methodology

Commerce is conducting this CVD administrative review in accordance with section 751(a)(1)(A) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act). For each of the subsidy programs found countervailable, Commerce preliminarily determines that there is a subsidy, *i.e.*, a financial contribution by an "authority" that confers a benefit to the recipient, and that the subsidy is specific.<sup>11</sup> For a full description of the methodology underlying our preliminary conclusions, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

### Preliminary Rate for Non-Selected Companies Under Review

There are 245 companies for which a review was requested and not rescinded but were not selected as mandatory respondents. The statute and Commerce's regulations do not directly address the establishment of rates to be applied to companies not selected for individual examination where Commerce limits its examination in an administrative review pursuant to section 777A(e)(2) of the Act. However, Commerce normally determines the rates for non-selected companies in reviews in a manner that is consistent with section 705(c)(5) of the Act, which provides instructions for calculating the all-others rate in an investigation.

Section 705(c)(5)(A)(i) of the Act instructs Commerce, as a general rule, to calculate an all-others rate equal to the weighted average of the countervailable subsidy rates established for producers and/or exporters individually examined, excluding any zero, *de minimis*, or rates based entirely on facts available. In this review, Commerce calculated individual estimated countervailable subsidy rates for Canfor and West Fraser, the mandatory respondents, that are not zero, *de minimis*, or based entirely on facts available. Therefore, we calculated a subsidy rate for the non-selected companies by weight-averaging the preliminary subsidy rates calculated for Canfor and West Fraser using each company's publicly-ranged U.S. sales value for the subject merchandise during the POR. For further information on the calculation of the non-selected rate, see "Preliminary *Ad Valorem* Rate for Non-Selected Companies under Review" in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum. For a list of the non-

<sup>11</sup> See sections 771(5)(B) and (D) of the Act regarding financial contribution; section 771(5)(E) of the Act regarding benefit; and section 771(5)(A) of the Act regarding specificity.

selected companies, *see* Appendix II to this notice.

### Preliminary Results of Review

For the period January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, we

preliminarily determine the following estimated countervailable subsidy rates:

Companies	Subsidy rate (percent <i>ad valorem</i> )
Canfor Corporation and its cross-owned affiliates <sup>12</sup> .....	11.87
West Fraser Mills Ltd. and its cross-owned affiliates <sup>13</sup> .....	16.57
Non-Selected Companies .....	14.38

### Disclosure

Commerce intends to disclose its calculations performed to interested parties for these preliminary results within five days of the date of any public announcement or, if there is no public announcement, within five days of the date of publication of this notice in accordance with 19 CFR 351.224(b).

### Public Comment

Case briefs or other written comments may be submitted to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance. Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.309(c)(1)(ii), we have modified the deadline for interested parties to submit case briefs to Commerce to no later than 21 days after the date of the publication of this notice.<sup>14</sup> Rebuttal briefs, limited to issues raised in the case briefs, may be filed not later than five days after the date for filing case briefs.<sup>15</sup> Interested parties who submit case briefs or rebuttal briefs in this proceeding must submit: (1) a table of contents listing each issue; and (2) a table of authorities.<sup>16</sup>

As provided under 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2) and (d)(2), in prior proceedings we have encouraged interested parties to provide an executive summary of their brief that should be limited to five pages total, including footnotes. In this review, we instead request that interested parties provide at the beginning of their briefs a public, executive summary for each issue raised in their briefs.<sup>17</sup> Further, we

request that interested parties limit their executive summary of each issue to no more than 450 words, not including citations. We intend to use the executive summaries as the basis of the comment summaries included in the issues and decision memorandum that will accompany the final results in this administrative review. We request that interested parties include footnotes for relevant citations in the executive summary of each issue. Note that Commerce has amended certain of its requirements pertaining to the service of documents in 19 CFR 351.303(f).<sup>18</sup>

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.310(c)(2), interested parties who wish to request a hearing, limited to issues raised in the case and rebuttal briefs, must do so within 21 days of publication of these preliminary results by submitting a written request to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance using ACCESS.<sup>19</sup> Requests should contain: (1) the party's name, address, and telephone number; (2) the number of participants and whether any participant is a foreign national; and (3) a list of the issues to be discussed. If a request for a hearing is made, Commerce will inform parties of the scheduled date for the hearing.<sup>20</sup> Parties should confirm the date and time of the hearing two days before the scheduled date. Parties are reminded that all briefs and hearing requests must be filed electronically using ACCESS and received successfully, in their entirety, by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the due date.

### Assessment Rates

In accordance with 19 CFR 351.221(b)(4)(i), Commerce has preliminarily assigned the subsidy rates as indicated above. Pursuant to section 751(a)(2)(C) of the Act, upon issuance of the final results, Commerce shall determine, and CBP shall assess, countervailing duties on all appropriate

entries covered by this review.

Commerce intends to issue assessment instructions to CBP no earlier than 41 days after the date of publication of the final results of this review in the **Federal Register**, in accordance with 19 CFR 356.8(a). If a timely summons is filed at the U.S. Court of International Trade, the assessment instructions will direct CBP not to liquidate relevant entries until the time for parties to file a request for statutory injunction has expired (*i.e.*, within 90 days of publication).

For the companies for which this review is rescinded, Commerce will instruct CBP to assess countervailing duties on all appropriate entries at a rate equal to the cash deposit of estimated countervailing duties required at the time of entry, or withdrawal from warehouse, for consumption, during the period January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.212(c)(1)(i). Commerce intends to issue rescission instructions to CBP no earlier than 41 days after the date of publication of the notice of rescission in the **Federal Register**.

### Cash Deposit Requirements

Pursuant to section 751(a)(1) of the Act, Commerce intends, upon publication of the final results, to instruct CBP to collect cash deposits of estimated countervailing duties in the amounts indicated above for each of the respective companies listed above and in Appendix II with regard to shipments of subject merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the date of publication of the final results of this review. For all non-reviewed companies, we will instruct CBP to collect cash deposits of estimated countervailing duties at the most recent company-specific or all-others rate applicable to the company, as appropriate. These cash deposit requirements, when imposed, shall remain in effect until further notice.

### Final Results of Review

Unless the deadline is extended, Commerce intends to issue the final results of this administrative review,

<sup>12</sup> Commerce finds the following companies to be cross-owned with Canfor Corporation: Canadian Forest Products, Ltd. and Canfor Wood Products Marketing, Ltd.

<sup>13</sup> Commerce finds the following companies to be cross-owned with West Fraser Mills Ltd.: Blue Ridge Lumber Inc., Manning Forest Products, Ltd., Spray Lake Sawmills (1980) Ltd., Sundre Forest Products Inc., West Fraser Alberta Holdings, Ltd., and West Fraser Timber Co., Ltd.

<sup>14</sup> See 19 CFR 351.309.

<sup>15</sup> See 19 CFR 351.309(d); *see also* *Administrative Protective Order, Service, and Other Procedures in Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings*, 88 FR 67069, 67077 (September 29, 2023) (APO and Final Service Rule).

<sup>16</sup> See 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2) and (d)(2).

<sup>17</sup> We use the term "issue" here to describe an argument that Commerce would normally address

in a comment of the Issues and Decision Memorandum.

<sup>18</sup> See APO and Final Service Rule.

<sup>19</sup> Commerce is exercising its discretion under 19 CFR 351.310(c) to alter the time limit for requesting a hearing.

<sup>20</sup> See 19 CFR 351.310(d).

including the results of its analysis of the issues raised by parties in their comments, within 120 days of publication of these preliminary results in the **Federal Register**, pursuant to section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Act.

#### Notification to Interested Parties

We are issuing and publishing these preliminary results in accordance with sections 751(a)(1) and 777(i)(1) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.221(b)(4).

Dated: April 3, 2025.

**Christopher Abbott,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Negotiations, performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.*

#### Appendix I

##### List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum

- I. Summary
- II. Background
- III. Period of Review
- IV. Partial Rescission of Administrative Review
- V. Scope of the Order
- VI. Subsidies Valuation
- VII. Analysis of Programs
- VIII. Preliminary *Ad Valorem* Rate for Non-Selected Companies Under Review
- IX. Recommendation

#### Appendix II

##### Non-Selected Companies

1. 0752615 B.C Ltd; Fraserview Remanufacturing Inc, dba Fraserview Cedar Products
2. 10104704 Manitoba Ltd O/A Woodstock Forest Products
3. 1074712 BC Ltd. (Quadra Cedar)
4. 5214875 Manitoba Ltd.; AM Lumber Brokerage
5. 54 Reman
6. Absolute Lumber Products, Ltd.
7. Adwood Manufacturing Ltd.
8. AJ Forest Products Ltd.
9. Aler Forest Products, Ltd.
10. Alpa Lumber Mills Inc.
11. Andersen Pacific Forest Products Ltd.
12. Antrim Cedar Corporation
13. Aquila Cedar Products Ltd.
14. Arbec Lumber Inc. (aka Arbec Bois Doeuvre Inc.)
15. Aspen Pacific Industries Inc.
16. Aspen Planers Ltd.
17. B&L Forest Products Ltd.
18. B.B. Pallets Inc. (aka Les Palettes B.B. Inc.)
19. Babine Forest Products Limited
20. Bakerview Forest Products Inc.
21. Barrette-Chapais Ltee
22. BarretteWood Inc.
23. Benoit & Dionne Produits Forestiers Ltee (aka Benoit & Dionne Forest Products Ltd.)
24. Blanchet Multi Concept Inc.
25. Blanchette & Blanchette Inc.
26. Bois Aise de Montreal Inc.
27. Bois Bonsai Inc.
28. Bois D'oeuvre Cedrico Inc. (aka Cedrico Lumber Inc.)
29. Bois Daaquam inc. (aka Daaquam Lumber Inc.)
30. Bois et Solutions Marketing SPEC, Inc. (aka SPEC Wood & Marketing Solution or SPEC Wood and Marketing Solutions Inc.)
31. Bois Weedon Inc.
32. Boisaco Inc.
33. Boscus Canada Inc.
34. Boucher Bros. Lumber Ltd.
35. BPWood Ltd.
36. Bramwood Forest Inc.
37. Brink Forest Products Ltd.
38. Brunswick Valley Lumber Inc.
39. Burrows Lumber (CD) Ltd., Theo A. Burrows Lumber Company Limited (aka Burrows Lumber Inc.)
40. Busque & Laflamme Inc.
41. Canadian Bavarian Millwork & Lumber Ltd.
42. Canasia Forest Industries Ltd.
43. Canyon Lumber Company, Ltd.
44. Carrier & Begin Inc.
45. Carrier Forest Products Ltd.
46. Carrier Lumber Ltd.
47. Carter Forest Products Inc.
48. Cedar Island Forest Products Ltd.
49. Cedarland Forest Products Ltd.
50. Cedarline Industries Ltd.
51. Central Cedar Ltd.
52. Central Forest Products Inc.
53. Centurion Lumber Ltd.
54. Chaleur Forest Products Inc.
55. Channel-ex Trading Corporation
56. CHAP Alliance Inc.
57. Chinook Wood Products Ltd.
58. Clair Industrial Development Corp. Ltd
59. Clermont Hamel Ltee
60. CLG Enterprises Inc.
61. CNH Products Inc.
62. Columbia River Shake & Shingle Ltd.; Teal Cedar Products Ltd., dba The Teal Jones Group
63. Commonwealth Plywood Co. Ltd.
64. Conifex Fibre Marketing Inc.
65. Cowichan Lumber Ltd.
66. CS Manufacturing Inc., dba Cedarshed
67. CWP—Montreal inc.
68. CWP Industriel Inc. (aka CWP—Industriel Inc.)
69. D & D Pallets Ltd.
70. Dakeryn Industries Ltd.
71. Decker Lake Forest Products Ltd.
72. Deep Cove Forest Products, Inc.
73. Delco Forest Products Ltd.
74. Delta Cedar Specialties Ltd.
75. Devon Lumber Co. Ltd.
76. DH Manufacturing Inc.
77. Direct Cedar Supplies Ltd.
78. Doubletree Forest Products Ltd.
79. Downie Timber Ltd.
80. Dunkley Lumber Ltd.
81. EACOM Timber Corporation
82. East Fraser Fiber Co. Ltd.
83. Edgewood Forest Products Inc.
84. ER Probyn Export Ltd.
85. Falcon Lumber Ltd.
86. Fontaine Inc.; Gestion Natanis Inc.; Les Placements Jean-Paul Fontaine Ltee; Placements Nicolas Fontaine Inc.
87. Foothills Forest Products Inc.
88. Fort St. James Forest Products Limited Partnership
89. Fraser Specialty Products Ltd.
90. FraserWood Industries Ltd.
91. Furtado Forest Products Ltd.
92. Gilbert Smith Forest Products Ltd.
93. Goldwood Industries Ltd.
94. Goodfellow Inc.
95. Gorman Bros. Lumber Ltd.
96. Greendale Industries Inc.
97. GreenFirst Forest Products (QC) Inc.
98. Griff Building Supplies Ltd.
99. Groupe Crete Chertsey Inc.
100. Groupe Crete Division St-Faustin Inc.
101. Groupe Lebel Inc.
102. H.J. Crabbe & Sons Ltd.
103. Haida Forest Products Ltd.
104. Halo Sawmill Manufacturing Limited Partnership
105. Hampton Tree Farms, LLC, dba Hampton Lumber Sales Canada
106. Horne Payne Lumber LP
107. Hudson Mitchell & Sons Lumber Inc.
108. Independent Building Materials Distribution Inc.
109. Interfor Corporation
110. Interfor Sales & Marketing Ltd.
111. Ivor Forest Products Ltd.
112. J&G Log Works Ltd.
113. J.D. Irving, Limited; Irving Paper Limited; Miramichi Timber Holdings Limited; Rothesay Paper Holdings Ltd.; St. George Pulp & Paper Limited; The New Brunswick Railway Company
114. J.H. Huscroft Ltd.
115. Jan Woodlands (2001) Inc.
116. Jasco Forest Products Ltd.
117. Jazz Forest Products Ltd.
118. Jhajj Lumber Corporation
119. Kalesnikoff Lumber Co. Ltd.
120. Kan Wood, Ltd.
121. Kebois Ltee/Ltd
122. Kelfor Industries Ltd.
123. Kermode Forest Products Ltd.
124. Keystone Timber Ltd.
125. Kings Wood Products Inc.
126. Kirkland Lake Forest Products Inc.
127. La Crete Sawmills Ltd.
128. Lafontaine Lumber Inc.
129. Langevin Forest Products Inc.
130. Lecours Lumber Co. Limited
131. Leisure Lumber Ltd.
132. Les Bardeaux Lajoie Inc.
133. Les Bois d'oeuvre Beaudoin Gauthier Inc.
134. Les Bois Martek Lumber
135. Les Chantiers de Chibougamau Ltd./Ltee
136. Les Industries P.F. Inc.
137. Les Produits Forestiers Sitka Inc. (aka Sitka Forest Products Inc.)
138. Leslie Forest Products Ltd.
139. Lignum Forest Products LLP
140. Linwood Homes Ltd.
141. Lonestar Lumber Inc.
142. Lulumco Inc.
143. Magnum Forest Products, Ltd.
144. Maibec Inc.
145. Mainland Sawmill, a division of Terminal Forest Products Ltd.
146. Manitou Forest Products Ltd.
147. Marwood Ltd.
148. Materiaux Blanchet Inc.
149. Metrie Canada Ltd.
150. Mid Valley Lumber Specialties Ltd.
151. Midway Lumber Mills Ltd.
152. Mill & Timber Products Ltd.
153. Mirax Lumber Products Ltd.
154. Mobilier Rustique (Beaute) Inc.; J.F.S.R. Inc.; Gestion C.A. Rancourt Inc.; Gestion J.F. Rancourt Inc.; Gestion Suzie Rancourt Inc.; Gestion P.H.Q. Inc.; 9331-

3419 Quebec Inc.; 9331–3468 Quebec Inc.; SPQ Inc.  
 155. Monterra Lumber Mills Limited  
 156. Morwood Forest Products Inc.  
 157. Multicedre ltée  
 158. Murray Brothers Lumber Company Ltd  
 159. Nakina Lumber Inc.  
 160. National Forest Products Ltd.  
 161. Nicholson and Cates Ltd.  
 162. NorSask Forest Products Inc.; NorSask Forest Products Limited Partnership <sup>21</sup>  
 163. North American Forest Products Ltd. (located in Abbotsford, British Columbia)  
 164. North Enderby Timber Ltd.  
 165. Northland Forest Products Ltd.  
 166. Oakwood Manufacturing, A Division of Weston Forest Products Inc.  
 167. Olympic Industries, Inc.; Olympic Industries ULC <sup>22</sup>  
 168. Oregon Canadian Forest Products Inc., dba Oregon Canadian Forest Products  
 169. Pacific Coast Cedar Products Ltd.  
 170. Pacific Lumber Remanufacturing Inc.  
 171. Pacific NorthWest Lumber Ltd.  
 172. Pacific Western Wood Works Ltd.  
 173. PalletSource Inc.  
 174. Parallel Wood Products Ltd.  
 175. Partap Forest Products Ltd.  
 176. Peak Industries (Cranbrook) Ltd.  
 177. Phoenix Forest Products Inc.  
 178. Pine Ideas Ltd.  
 179. Pioneer Pallet & Lumber Ltd.  
 180. Plaster Rock Lumber Corporation  
 181. Porcupine Wood Products Ltd.  
 182. Power Wood Corp.  
 183. Precision Cedar Products Corp.  
 184. Produits Forestiers Petit Paris Inc.  
 185. Produits Matra Inc.; Sechoirs de Beauche Inc.; Bois Ouvre de Beaucheville (1992), Inc.  
 186. Promobois G.D.S. Inc.  
 187. R.A. Green Lumber Ltd.  
 188. RBC Timber Products  
 189. Rembos Inc.  
 190. Rene Bernard inc.  
 191. Resolute FP Canada Inc.; 9192–8515

<sup>21</sup> In the *Initiation Notice*, Commerce inadvertently listed separately NorSask Forest Products Inc. and NorSask Forest Products Limited Partnership. See *Initiation Notice*, 89 at 15838. In the final results of the 2022 administrative review, Commerce listed the companies together. See *Certain Softwood Lumber Products from Canada: Final Results of the Countervailing Duty Administrative Review; 2022*, 89 FR 67062, 67065 (August 19, 2024) (*Lumber V AR5 Final Results*). To be consistent with the *Lumber V AR5 Final Results*, Commerce is listing the companies together in this notice.

<sup>22</sup> In the *Initiation Notice*, Commerce listed the following companies: Olympic Industries, Inc.; Olympic Industries Inc–Reman Code; Olympic Industries ULC; Olympic Industries ULC–Reman; and Olympic Industries ULC–Reman Code. See *Initiation Notice*, 89 at 15838. However, in the final results of the 2022 administrative review, we noted that, on March 21, 2023, Olympic Industries, Inc. and Olympic Industries ULC (collectively, Olympic) notified Commerce that Olympic Industries Inc–Reman Code, Olympic Industries ULC–Reman, and Olympic Industries ULC–Reman Code are no longer used by Olympic to export softwood lumber to the United States. We, thus, listed the company names as “Olympic Industries, Inc.; Olympic Industries ULC.” in the notice. See *Lumber V AR5 Final Results*, 89 FR at 67065.

Therefore, the companies subject to this review are Olympic Industries, Inc. and Olympic Industries ULC.

Quebec Inc.; Abitibi–Bowater Canada Inc.; Bowater Canadian Ltd.; Produits Forestiers Maurice SEC.; Resolute Forest Products Inc.  
 192. Rielly Industrial Lumber Inc.  
 193. River City Remanufacturing Inc.  
 194. Riverside Forest Products Inc.  
 195. S&R Sawmills Ltd.  
 196. San Group  
 197. San Industries Ltd.  
 198. Sawarne Lumber Co. Ltd.  
 199. Scierie St–Michel Inc.  
 200. Scierie West Brome Inc.  
 201. Scott Lumber Sales Ltd.  
 202. Shakertown Corp.  
 203. Sigurdson Forest Products Ltd.  
 204. Sinclair Group Forest Products Ltd.  
 205. Skana Forest Products Ltd.  
 206. Skeena Sawmills Ltd.  
 207. South Beach Trading Inc.  
 208. Specialiste du Bardeau de Cedre Inc. (aka SBC)  
 209. Spruceland Millworks Inc.  
 210. Star Lumber Canada Ltd.  
 211. Sundher Timber Products Inc.  
 212. Surrey Cedar Ltd.  
 213. Taan Forest Limited Partnership (aka Taan Forest Products)  
 214. Taiga Building Products Ltd.  
 215. Tall Tree Lumber Company  
 216. Tenryu Canada Corporation  
 217. Terminal Forest Products Ltd.  
 218. TG Wood Products  
 219. The Wood Source Inc.  
 220. Tolko Industries Ltd.; Tolko Marketing and Sales Ltd.; Meadow Lake OSB Limited Partnership  
 221. Top Quality Lumber Ltd.  
 222. Trans-Pacific Trading Ltd.  
 223. Triad Forest Products Ltd.  
 224. Twin Rivers Paper Co. Inc.  
 225. Tyee Timber Products Ltd.  
 226. Universal Lumber Sales Ltd.  
 227. Usine Sartigan Inc.  
 228. Vaagen Fibre Canada, ULC  
 229. Vancouver Specialty Cedar Products Ltd.  
 230. Vancouver Urban Timberworks Ltd. (aka Van Urban)  
 231. Vanderhoof Specialty Wood Products Ltd.  
 232. Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd.  
 233. Visscher Lumber Inc.  
 234. W.I. Woodtone Industries Inc.  
 235. West Bay Forest Products Ltd.  
 236. Western Forest Products Inc.  
 237. Western Lumber Sales Limited  
 238. Westminster Industries Ltd.  
 239. Weston Forest Products Inc.  
 240. Westrend Exteriors Inc.  
 241. Weyerhaeuser Co.  
 242. White River Forest Products L.P.  
 243. Woodline Forest Products Ltd.  
 244. Woodstock Forest Products  
 245. Woodtone Specialties Inc.

[FR Doc. 2025–06099 Filed 4–8–25; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration [A–580–914]

#### Certain Superabsorbent Polymers from the Republic of Korea: Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review; 2022–2023

**AGENCY:** Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) is conducting an administrative review of the antidumping duty (AD) order on certain superabsorbent polymers (SAP) from the Republic of Korea (Korea). The period of review (POR) is June 7, 2022, through November 30, 2023. Commerce preliminarily determines that sales of subject merchandise have not been made below normal value (NV) by LG Chem, Ltd. (LGC) during the POR. Interested Parties are invited to comment on these preliminary results.

**DATES:** Applicable April 9, 2025.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Charles DeFilippo, AD/CVD Operations, Office VII, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482–3797.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

On December 1, 2023, Commerce published in the **Federal Register** a notice of opportunity to request an administrative review of the AD order on SAP from Korea.<sup>1</sup> On February 8, 2024, based on timely requests for review, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.221(c)(1)(i), we initiated an administrative review of the order.<sup>2</sup> On July 22, 2024, Commerce tolled certain deadlines in this administrative proceeding by seven days.<sup>3</sup> On August 21, 2024, we extended the deadline for the preliminary results of this review to

<sup>1</sup> See *Antidumping or Countervailing Duty Order, Finding, or Suspended Investigation; Opportunity to Request Administrative Review and Join Annual Inquiry Service List*, 88 FR 83917 (December 1, 2023).

<sup>2</sup> See *Initiation of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Administrative Reviews*, 89 FR 8461 (February 8, 2024) (*Initiation Notice*); see also *Certain Superabsorbent Polymers from the Republic of Korea: Notice of Court Decision Not in Harmony with the Final Determination of Antidumping Duty Investigation; Notice of Amended Final Determination; Notice of Amended Antidumping Duty Order*, 90 FR 302 (January 3, 2025) (*Order*).

<sup>3</sup> See Memorandum, “Tolling of Deadlines for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings,” dated July 22, 2024.

January 3, 2025.<sup>4</sup> On December 9, 2024, Commerce tolled certain deadlines in this administrative proceeding by 90 days to April 3, 2025.<sup>5</sup> For a complete description of the events that followed the initiation of this review, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.<sup>6</sup>

### Scope of the Order

The merchandise subject to the *Order* is SAP from Korea. For a complete description of the scope of the *Order*, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

### Methodology

Commerce is conducting this review in accordance with section 751(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act). We calculated constructed export price in accordance with section 772 of the Act. We calculated NV in accordance with section 773 of the Act. For a full description of the methodology underlying our conclusions, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum. A list of the topics discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum is attached as an appendix to this notice. The Preliminary Decision Memorandum is a public document and is on file electronically via Enforcement and Compliance's Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System (ACCESS). ACCESS is available to registered users at <https://access.trade.gov>. In addition, a complete version of the Preliminary Decision Memorandum can be accessed directly at <https://access.trade.gov/public/FRNoticesListLayout.aspx>.

### Preliminary Results of Review

As a result of this review, we preliminarily determine that the following estimated weighted-average dumping margin exists for the period June 7, 2022, through November 30, 2023:

Exporter/producer	Weighted-average dumping margin (percent)
LG Chem, Ltd .....	0.00

<sup>4</sup> See Memorandum, "Extension of Deadline for Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review," dated August 21, 2024.

<sup>5</sup> See Memorandum, "Tolling of Deadlines for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings," dated December 9, 2024.

<sup>6</sup> See Memorandum, "Decision Memorandum for the Preliminary Results of the 2022–2023 Antidumping Duty Administrative Review on Certain Superabsorbent Polymers from the Republic of Korea," dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice (Preliminary Decision Memorandum).

### Disclosure and Public Comment

Commerce intends to disclose the calculations performed for these preliminary results to interested parties within five days of any public announcement or, if there is no public announcement, within five days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.224(b).

Case briefs or other written comments may be submitted to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance. Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.309(c)(1)(ii), we have modified the deadline for interested parties to submit case briefs to Commerce to no later than 21 days after the date of the publication of this notice.<sup>7</sup> Rebuttal briefs, limited to issues raised in the case briefs, may be filed not later than five days after the date for filing case briefs.<sup>8</sup> Interested parties who submit case briefs or rebuttal briefs in this proceeding must submit: (1) a table of contents listing each issue; and (2) a table of authorities.<sup>9</sup> All briefs must be filed electronically using ACCESS. An electronically filed document must be received successfully in its entirety in ACCESS by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the established deadline.

As provided under 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2) and (d)(2), in prior proceedings we have encouraged interested parties to provide an executive summary of their briefs that should be limited to five pages total, including footnotes. In this review, we instead request that interested parties provide at the beginning of their briefs a public, executive summary for each issue raised in their briefs.<sup>10</sup> Further, we request that interested parties limit their executive summary of each issue to no more than 450 words, not including citations. We intend to use the executive summaries as the basis of the comment summaries included in the Issues and Decision Memorandum that will accompany the final results in this administrative review. We request that interested parties include footnotes for relevant citations in the executive summary of each issue. Note that Commerce has amended certain of its

<sup>7</sup> See 19 CFR 351.309.

<sup>8</sup> See 19 CFR 351.309(d)(1); see also *Administrative Protective Order, Service, and Other Procedures in Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings*, 88 FR 67069, 67077 (September 29, 2023) (APO and Service Final Rule).

<sup>9</sup> See 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2) and (d)(2).

<sup>10</sup> We use the term "issue" here to describe an argument that Commerce would normally address in a comment of the Issues and Decision Memorandum.

requirements pertaining to the service of documents in 19 CFR 351.303(f).<sup>11</sup>

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.310(c), interested parties who wish to request a hearing must submit a written request to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance, filed electronically via ACCESS by 5 p.m. Eastern Time within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice. Requests should contain: (1) the party's name, address, and telephone number; (2) the number of participants; and (3) a list of issues to be discussed. Issues raised in the hearing will be limited to those raised in the respective case briefs. If a request for a hearing is made, parties will be notified of the time and date for the hearing.<sup>12</sup>

All submissions, including case and rebuttal briefs, as well as hearing requests, should be filed via ACCESS.<sup>13</sup> An electronically filed document must be received successfully in its entirety by ACCESS by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the established deadline.

### Assessment Rates

Upon completion of the administrative review, Commerce shall determine, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) shall assess, antidumping duties on all appropriate entries covered by this review. Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.212(b)(1), because LGC reported the entered value for all of its U.S. sales, we calculated importer-specific *ad valorem* duty assessment rates based on the ratio of the total amount of antidumping duties calculated for the examined sales to the total entered value of the sales for which entered value was reported. Where either LGC's weighted-average dumping margin is zero or *de minimis* within the meaning of 19 CFR 351.106(c), or an importer-specific rate is zero or *de minimis*, we will instruct CBP to liquidate the appropriate entries without regard to antidumping duties.

Commerce's "automatic assessment" practice will apply to entries of subject merchandise during the POR produced by LGC for which it did not know that the merchandise it sold to an intermediary (e.g., a reseller, trading company, or exporter) was destined for the United States. In such instances, we will instruct CBP to liquidate those entries at the all-others rate if there is no rate for the intermediate company(ies) involved in the transaction.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>11</sup> See APO and Service Final Rule.

<sup>12</sup> See 19 CFR 351.310(d).

<sup>13</sup> See 19 CFR 351.303.

<sup>14</sup> For a full discussion of this practice, see *Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings: Assessment of Antidumping Duties*, 68 FR 23954 (May 6, 2003).

In accordance with section 751(a)(2)(C) of the Act, the final results of this review shall be the basis for the assessment of antidumping duties on entries of merchandise covered by the final results of this review and for future deposits of estimated duties, where applicable. Commerce intends to issue assessment instructions to CBP no earlier than 35 days after the date of publication of the final results of this review in the **Federal Register**. If a timely summons is filed at the U.S. Court of International Trade, the assessment instructions will direct CBP not to liquidate relevant entries until the time for parties to file a request for a statutory injunction has expired (*i.e.*, within 90 days of publication).

#### Cash Deposit Requirements

The following deposit requirements will be effective for all shipments of the subject merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the publication date of the final results of this administrative review, as provided by section 751(a)(2)(C) of the Act: (1) the cash deposit rate for the company listed above will be that established in the final results of this review, except if the rate is less than 0.50 percent and, therefore, *de minimis* within the meaning of 19 CFR 351.106(c)(1), in which case the cash deposit rate will be zero; (2) for previously reviewed or investigated companies not covered by this review, the cash deposit will continue to be the company-specific rate published for the most recently completed segment of this proceeding in which the company participated; (3) if the exporter is not a firm covered in this review, or the less-than-fair-value (LTFV) investigation, but the manufacturer is, the cash deposit rate will be the rate established for the most recent segment for the manufacturer of the merchandise; and (4) the cash deposit rate for all other manufacturers and/or exporters will continue to be 26.05 percent, the all-others rate established in the LTFV investigation.<sup>15</sup> These deposit requirements, when imposed, shall remain in effect until further notice.

#### Final Results of Review

Unless otherwise extended, Commerce intends to issue the final results of this administrative review, including the results of its analysis of the issues raised in any written briefs, no later than 120 days after the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, pursuant to section

751(a)(3)(A) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.213(h)(1).

#### Notification to Importers

This notice also serves as a preliminary reminder to importers of their responsibility under 19 CFR 351.402(f) to file a certificate regarding the reimbursement of antidumping duties prior to liquidation of the relevant entries during this review period. Failure to comply with this requirement could result in the Commerce's presumption that reimbursement of antidumping duties occurred and the subsequent assessment of double antidumping duties.

#### Notification to Interested Parties

We are issuing and publishing these results in accordance with sections 751(a)(1) and 777(i)(1) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.213 and 351.221(b)(4).

Dated: April 2, 2025.

#### Christopher Abbott,

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Negotiations, performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.*

#### Appendix

##### List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum

- I. Summary
- II. Background
- III. Scope of the *Order*
- IV. Discussion of the Methodology
- V. Currency Conversion
- VI. Recommendation

[FR Doc. 2025-06102 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XE783]

##### Fisheries of the Gulf of America; Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR); Public Meeting; Cancellation

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of cancellation; SEDAR 98 Assessment Webinar I for Gulf of America Red Snapper.

**SUMMARY:** The SEDAR 98 assessment process for Gulf of America red snapper will consist of a Data Workshop, a series of assessment webinars, and a Review Workshop. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**DATES:** The SEDAR 98 Assessment Webinar I was to be held April 15, 2025, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., Eastern Time.

#### ADDRESSES:

**Meeting address:** The meeting will be held via webinar. The webinar is open to members of the public. Those interested in participating should contact Julie A. Neer at SEDAR (See Contact Information Below) to request an invitation providing webinar access information. Please request webinar invitations at least 24 hours in advance of each webinar.

**SEDAR address:** 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Julie A. Neer, SEDAR Coordinator; (843) 571-4366; email: [Julie.neer@safmc.net](mailto:Julie.neer@safmc.net).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting notice published on March 26, 2025 (90 FR 13734). This announces that the meeting is cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date.

On January 20, 2025, President Trump issued Executive Order 14172 to rename the Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America. Any reference to Gulf of America red snapper in SEDAR reports and other documents refers to the same species of red snapper listed in 50 CFR part 622, Appendix A, Table I (Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish).

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: April 4, 2025.

#### Rey Israel Marquez,

*Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06072 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Science Advisory Board

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda for a meeting of the Science Advisory Board (SAB). The members will discuss issues outlined in the section on Matters to be considered.

**DATES:** The meeting date is April 29, 2025. The meeting is scheduled on April 29, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). The time and the agenda topics described below are subject to change. For the latest agenda please refer to the SAB website: <https://sab.noaa.gov/current-meetings/>.

<sup>15</sup> See Order.

**ADDRESSES:** This meeting will be held virtually. The link for the webinar registration will be posted, when available, on the SAB website: <https://sab.noaa.gov/current-meetings/>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Casey Stewart, Executive Director, SSMC3, Room 11360, 1315 East-West Hwy., Silver Spring, MD 20910; Phone Number: 240-381-0833; Email: [noaa.scienceadvisoryboard@noaa.gov](mailto:noaa.scienceadvisoryboard@noaa.gov); or visit the SAB website at <https://sab.noaa.gov/current-meetings/>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB) was established by a Decision Memorandum dated September 25, 1997, and is the only Federal Advisory Committee with responsibility to advise the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere on strategies for research, education, and application of science to operations and information services. SAB activities and advice provide necessary input to ensure that National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) science programs are of the highest quality and provide optimal support to resource management.

*Status:* The April 29, 2025 meeting will be open to public participation with a 15-minute public comment period at 4:45 p.m. EDT on April 29, 2025. The SAB expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted verbal or written statements. In general, each individual or group making a verbal presentation will be limited to a total time of three minutes. Written comments for the April 29, 2025 meeting should be received by the SAB Executive Director's Office ([noaa.scienceadvisoryboard@noaa.gov](mailto:noaa.scienceadvisoryboard@noaa.gov)) by April 22, 2025 to provide sufficient time for SAB review. Written comments received by the SAB Executive Director after these dates will be distributed to the SAB, but may not be reviewed prior to the meeting date.

**Special Accommodations:** Requests for special accommodations may be directed to the Executive Director no later than 12:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) on April 14, 2025.

**Matters To Be Considered:** The meeting on April 29, 2025 will include, but is not limited to, the following topics: (1) the SAB Consent Calendar, (2) Working Group Updates, (3) updates from NOAA leadership and (4) discussion of current and/or future matters regarding the Board's work plan. Meeting materials, including work products, will also be available on the SAB website: <https://sab.noaa.gov/>

[currentmeetings/current-meeting-documents/](#).

**David Holst,**

*Chief Financial Officer/Administrative Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06059 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-KD-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**[Docket No.: ED-2025-SCC-0013]**

**Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act State Plan Guide**

**AGENCY:** Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE), Department of Education (ED).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Department is proposing a revision of a currently approved information collection request (ICR).

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before June 9, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** To access and review all the documents related to the information collection listed in this notice, please use <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching the Docket ID number ED-2025-SCC-0013. Comments submitted in response to this notice should be submitted electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> by selecting the Docket ID number or via postal mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery. If the *regulations.gov* site is not available to the public for any reason, the Department will temporarily accept comments at *ICDocketMgr@ed.gov*.

Please include the docket ID number and the title of the information collection request when requesting documents or submitting comments. Please note that comments submitted after the comment period will not be accepted. Written requests for information or comments submitted by postal mail or delivery should be addressed to the Division of Academic and Technical Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, LBJ, Room 4A192, Washington, DC 20202-1200.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Adam Flynn-Tabloff, (202) 245-7405.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department, in accordance with the

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the Department's information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. The Department is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

**Title of Collection:** Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act State Plan Guide.

**OMB Control Number:** 1830-0029.

**Type of Review:** A revision of a currently approved ICR.

**Respondents/Affected Public:** State, Local, and Tribal Governments.

**Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:** 54.

**Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:** 900.

**Abstract:** This information collection is used by the Department to request State Plans and annual revisions under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins V). We are proposing to reinstate the previously approved version of this collection. Doing so will eliminate the requirement that eligible agencies and eligible recipients use numerator and denominator specifications recently established by the Department to set State determined performance levels for the indicators of performance under Perkins V.

**Ross Santy,**

*Chief Data Officer, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06040 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

[Docket No.: ED-2025-SCC-0014]

**Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Consolidated Annual Report (CAR) for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006****AGENCY:** Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE), Department of Education (ED).**ACTION:** Notice.**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Department is proposing a revision of a currently approved information collection request (ICR).**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before June 9, 2025.**ADDRESSES:** To access and review all the documents related to the information collection listed in this notice, please use <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching the Docket ID number ED-2025-SCC-0014. Comments submitted in response to this notice should be submitted electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> by selecting the Docket ID number or via postal mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery. If the *regulations.gov* site is not available to the public for any reason, the Department will temporarily accept comments at *ICDocketMgr@ed.gov*. Please include the docket ID number and the title of the information collection request when requesting documents or submitting comments. Please note that comments submitted after the comment period will not be accepted. Written requests for information or comments submitted by postal mail or delivery should be addressed to the Division of Academic and Technical Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, LBJ, Room 4A192, Washington, DC 20202-1200.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Adam Flynn-Tabloff, (202) 245-7405.**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the

Department's information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. The Department is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

**Title of Collection:** Consolidated Annual Report (CAR) for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.

**OMB Control Number:** 1830-0569.

**Type of Review:** Revision of a currently approved ICR.

**Respondents/Affected Public:** State, Local, and Tribal Governments.

**Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:** 54.

**Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:** 12,636.

**Abstract:** This information collection is used by the Department to request Consolidated Annual Reports (CARs) under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins V). We are proposing to reinstate the previously approved version of this collection. Doing so will eliminate the requirements that eligible agencies and eligible recipients respond to several additional narrative items and use numerator and denominator specifications recently established by the Department to report data for the indicators of performance under Perkins V.

**Ross Santy,**

*Chief Data Officer, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06039 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Agency Information Collection Extension****AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Energy.**ACTION:** Notice of request for comments.**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy (DOE), pursuant to the Paperwork

Reduction Act of 1995, intends to extend for three years, an information collection request with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

**DATES:** Comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before June 9, 2025. If you anticipate any difficulty in submitting comments within that period, contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section as soon as possible.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments may be sent to Beth Kelly, Deputy Assistant General Counsel, by email at *beth.kelly@hq.doe.gov*.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Beth Kelly, Deputy Assistant General Counsel, (202) 246-6500, or *beth.kelly@hq.doe.gov*.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the extended collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

This information collection request contains:

(1) **OMB No.:** 1910-5115;

(2) **Information Collection Request Titled:** Contractor Legal Management Requirements;

(3) **Type of Review:** extension;

(4) **Purpose:** the information collection to be extended has been and will be used to form the basis for DOE actions on requests from the contractors for reimbursement of litigation and other legal expenses. The information collected related to annual legal budget, staffing and resource plans, and initiation or settlement of defensive or offensive litigation is and will be similarly used;

(5) **Annual Estimated Number of Respondents:** 45;

(6) **Annual Estimated Number of Total Responses:** 154;

(7) **Annual Estimated Number of Burden Hours:** 1,150;

(8) **Annual Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping Cost Burden:** 0.

**Statutory Authority:** Section 161 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, 42 U.S.C. 2201, the Department of Energy

Organization Act, 42 U.S.C. 7101, *et seq.*, and the National Nuclear Security Administration Act, 50 U.S.C. 2401, *et seq.*

### **Signing Authority**

This document of the Department of Energy was signed on April 3, 2025, by David R. Taggart, Acting General Counsel, pursuant to delegated authority from the Secretary of Energy. That document with the original signature and date is maintained by DOE. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, the undersigned DOE Federal Register Liaison Officer has been authorized to sign and submit the document in electronic format for publication, as an official document of the Department of Energy. This administrative process in no way alters the legal effect of this document upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

Signed in Washington, DC, on April 4, 2025.

**Trenea V. Garrett,**

*Federal Register Liaison Officer, U.S. Department of Energy.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06064 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

### **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

#### **Combined Notice of Filings #1**

Take notice that the Commission received the following electric corporate filings:

*Docket Numbers: EC25-73-000.*

*Applicants: Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp. (“AQN”), Starboard Value LP.*

*Description: Joint Application for Authorization Under Section 203 of the Federal Power Act of Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp., et al.*

*Filed Date: 4/1/25.*

*Accession Number: 20250401-5616.*

*Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 4/22/25.*

*Docket Numbers: EC25-74-000.*

*Applicants: LWP Lessee, LLC, F8 Renewables CAMN Funding, LLC, TAQA US Lakefield Holdings, LLC.*

*Description: Joint Application for Authorization Under Section 203 of the Federal Power Act of LWP Lessee, LLC, et al.*

*Filed Date: 3/28/25.*

*Accession Number: 20250328-5462.*

*Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 4/18/25.*

*Docket Numbers: EC25-75-000.*

*Applicants: Silicon Ranch Corporation, Hattiesburg Farm, LLC,*

*Lancaster Solar LLC, Russellville Solar LLC, SR Ailey, LLC, SR Arlington II, LLC, SR Baxley, LLC, SR Bell Buckle, LLC, SR Canadaville, LLC, SR Canadaville Lessee, LLC, SR Cedar Springs, LLC, SR Clay, LLC, SR DeSoto I, LLC, SR DeSoto I Lessee, LLC, SR DeSoto II, LLC, SR DeSoto III, LLC, SR DeSoto III Lessee, LLC, SR Georgetown, LLC, SR Georgia Portfolio I MT, LLC, SR Hazlehurst III, LLC, SR Lambert I, LLC, SR Lambert II, LLC, SR Lumpkin, LLC, SR McKellar, LLC, SR McKellar Lessee, LLC, SR McNeal, LLC, SR Meridian III, LLC, SR Millington, LLC, SR Perry, LLC, SR Snipesville, LLC, SR Snipesville II, LLC, SR Snipesville III, LLC, SR South Loving LLC, SR Toombs, LLC, SR Toombs Lessee, LLC, SR Turkey Creek, LLC, SR Georgia Portfolio II Lessee, LLC, AIP Yosemite Holding (US) LP, SR Terrell, LLC.*

*Description: Application for Authorization Under Section 203 of the Federal Power Act of Silicon Ranch Corporation.*

*Filed Date: 4/3/25.*

*Accession Number: 20250403-5116.*

*Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 4/24/25.*

*Take notice that the Commission received the following exempt wholesale generator filings:*

*Docket Numbers: EG25-274-000.*

*Applicants: Ninnescah Flats Solar, LLC.*

*Description: Ninnescah Flats Solar, LLC submits Notice of Self-Certification of Exempt Wholesale Generator Status.*

*Filed Date: 4/3/25.*

*Accession Number: 20250403-5058.*

*Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 4/24/25.*

*Docket Numbers: EG25-275-000.*

*Applicants: Blevins Storage, LLC.*

*Description: Blevins Storage, LLC submits Notice of Self-Certification of Exempt Wholesale Generator Status.*

*Filed Date: 4/3/25.*

*Accession Number: 20250403-5074.*

*Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 4/24/25.*

*Docket Numbers: EG25-276-000.*

*Applicants: Blevins Solar, LLC.*

*Description: Blevins Solar, LLC submits Notice of Self-Certification of Exempt Wholesale Generator Status.*

*Filed Date: 4/3/25.*

*Accession Number: 20250403-5108.*

*Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 4/24/25.*

*Take notice that the Commission received the following Complaints and Compliance filings in EL Dockets:*

*Docket Numbers: EL25-72-000.*

*Applicants: Theresa Ghiorzi and Alfred T. Ghiorzi v. PJM Interconnection, LLC.*

*Description: Complaint of Theresa Ghiorzi and Alfred T. Ghiorzi v. PJM Interconnection, LLC.*

*Filed Date: 4/3/25.*

*Accession Number: 20250403-5030.*

*Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 4/23/25.*

*Take notice that the Commission received the following electric rate filings:*

*Docket Numbers: ER10-2964-016.*

*Applicants: Selkirk Cogen Partners, L.P.*

*Description: Notice of Non-Material Change in Status of Selkirk Cogen Partners, L.P.*

*Filed Date: 3/5/25.*

*Accession Number: 20250305-5287.*

*Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 4/24/25.*

*Docket Numbers: ER25-848-002.*

*Applicants: Merced BESS, LLC.*

*Description: Tariff Amendment: Merced BESS LLC MBR Tariff to be effective 1/10/2025.*

*Filed Date: 4/3/25.*

*Accession Number: 20250403-5000.*

*Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 4/24/25.*

*Docket Numbers: ER25-1864-001.*

*Applicants: Public Service Company of New Mexico.*

*Description: Tariff Amendment: Amendment to Effective Date to be effective 3/14/2025.*

*Filed Date: 4/3/25.*

*Accession Number: 20250403-5097.*

*Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 4/24/25.*

*Docket Numbers: ER25-1865-000.*

*Applicants: Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo).*

*Description: Formula Rate Charges and Transmission Formula Rate Charges for 2024 Post-Retirement Benefits Other than Pensions of Public Service Company of Colorado.*

*Filed Date: 4/1/25.*

*Accession Number: 20250401-5617.*

*Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 4/22/25.*

*Docket Numbers: ER25-1866-000.*

*Applicants: Public Service Company of New Mexico.*

*Description: Annual Filing of Post-Employment Benefits Other than Pensions for 2025 of Public Service Company of New Mexico.*

*Filed Date: 4/1/25.*

*Accession Number: 20250401-5621.*

*Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 4/22/25.*

*Docket Numbers: ER25-1867-000.*

*Applicants: Black Hills Power, Inc.*

*Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing: Hughes Transmission Interconnection Agreement to be effective 6/3/2025.*

*Filed Date: 4/3/25.*

*Accession Number: 20250403-5085.*

*Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 4/24/25.*

*Docket Numbers: ER25-1868-000.*

*Applicants: Portland General Electric Company.*

*Description: § 205(d) Rate Filing: Revisions to Portland General Elec. OATT to Implement EDAM to be effective 6/2/2025.*

<p><i>Filed Date:</i> 4/3/25.  <i>Accession Number:</i> 20250403–5095.  <i>Comment Date:</i> 5 p.m. ET 4/24/25.  <i>Docket Numbers:</i> ER25–1869–000.  <i>Applicants:</i> PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.  <i>Description:</i> § 205(d) Rate Filing; Original NSA, SA No. 7635; Queue No. AF2–134 to be effective 6/3/2025.  <i>Filed Date:</i> 4/3/25.  <i>Accession Number:</i> 20250403–5099.  <i>Comment Date:</i> 5 p.m. ET 4/24/25.  <i>Docket Numbers:</i> ER25–1870–000.  <i>Applicants:</i> AEP Texas Inc.  <i>Description:</i> § 205(d) Rate Filing; AEPTEX–Gunnar Reliability Project Amend Generation Interconnection Agreement to be effective 3/21/2025.  <i>Filed Date:</i> 4/3/25.  <i>Accession Number:</i> 20250403–5115.  <i>Comment Date:</i> 5 p.m. ET 4/24/25.  <i>Docket Numbers:</i> ER25–1871–000.  <i>Applicants:</i> Hawks Nest Hydro LLC.  <i>Description:</i> Initial Rate Filing; Amended and Restated Shared Facilities Agreement to be effective 4/4/2025.  <i>Filed Date:</i> 4/3/25.  <i>Accession Number:</i> 20250403–5120.  <i>Comment Date:</i> 5 p.m. ET 4/24/25.  <i>Docket Numbers:</i> ER25–1872–000.  <i>Applicants:</i> FRP Caldwell Solar, LLC.  <i>Description:</i> § 205(d) Rate Filing; Application for Market-Based Rate Authorization—FRP Caldwell Solar, LLC to be effective 6/3/2025.  <i>Filed Date:</i> 4/3/25.  <i>Accession Number:</i> 20250403–5142.  <i>Comment Date:</i> 5 p.m. ET 4/24/25.  <i>Docket Numbers:</i> ER25–1873–000.  <i>Applicants:</i> FRP Forest Trail Solar, LLC.  <i>Description:</i> § 205(d) Rate Filing; Application for MBR Authorization—FRP Forest Trail Solar, LLC to be effective 6/3/2025.  <i>Filed Date:</i> 4/3/25.  <i>Accession Number:</i> 20250403–5144.  <i>Comment Date:</i> 5 p.m. ET 4/24/25.  <i>Docket Numbers:</i> ER25–1874–000.  <i>Applicants:</i> FRP Miller Solar, LLC.  <i>Description:</i> § 205(d) Rate Filing; Application for Market-Based Rate Authorization—FRP Miller Solar, LLC to be effective 6/3/2025.  <i>Filed Date:</i> 4/3/25.  <i>Accession Number:</i> 20250403–5145.  <i>Comment Date:</i> 5 p.m. ET 4/24/25.  <p>The filings are accessible in the Commission's eLibrary system (<a href="https://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/search/fercsearch.asp">https://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/search/fercsearch.asp</a>) by querying the docket number.</p> <p>Any person desiring to intervene, to protest, or to answer a complaint in any of the above proceedings must file in accordance with Rules 211, 214, or 206 of the Commission's Regulations (18</p> </p>	<p>CFR 385.211, 385.214, or 385.206) on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on the specified comment date. Protests may be considered, but intervention is necessary to become a party to the proceeding.</p> <p>eFiling is encouraged. More detailed information relating to filing requirements, interventions, protests, service, and qualifying facilities filings can be found at: <a href="http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling/filing-req.pdf">http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling/filing-req.pdf</a>. For other information, call (866) 208–3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502–8659.</p> <p>The Commission's Office of Public Participation (OPP) supports meaningful public engagement and participation in Commission proceedings. OPP can help members of the public, including landowners, community organizations, Tribal members and others, access publicly available information and navigate Commission processes. For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, the public is encouraged to contact OPP at (202) 502–6595 or <a href="mailto:OPP@ferc.gov">OPP@ferc.gov</a>.</p> <p>Dated: April 3, 2025.</p> <p><b>Carlos D. Clay,</b>  <i>Deputy Secretary.</i></p> <p>[FR Doc. 2025–06081 Filed 4–8–25; 8:45 am]  <b>BILLING CODE 6717–01–P</b></p>	<p>Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process, the Commission takes into account concerns the public may have about proposals and the environmental impacts that could result from its action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. This gathering of public input is referred to as "scoping." The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the environmental document on the important environmental issues. Additional information about the Commission's NEPA process is described below in the <i>NEPA Process and Environmental Document</i> section of this notice.</p> <p>By this notice, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of issues to address in the environmental document. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please submit your comments so that the Commission receives them in Washington, DC, on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on May 5, 2025. Comments may be submitted in written or oral form. Further details on how to submit comments are provided in the <i>Public Participation</i> section of this notice.</p> <p>Your comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. Your input will help the Commission staff determine what issues they need to evaluate in the environmental document. Commission staff will consider all written or oral comments during the preparation of the environmental document.</p> <p>If you submitted comments on this project to the Commission <i>before</i> the opening of this docket on January 6, 2025, you will need to file those comments in Docket No. PF25–4–000 to ensure they are considered.</p> <p>This notice is being sent to the Commission's current environmental mailing list for this project. State and local government representatives should notify their constituents of this planned project and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.</p> <p>If you are a landowner receiving this notice, a pipeline company representative may contact you about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the planned facilities. The company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable easement agreement. You are not required to enter into an agreement. However, if the Commission approves the project, the Natural Gas Act conveys the right of eminent domain to the company. Therefore, if you and the</p>
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company do not reach an easement agreement, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings in court. In such instances, compensation would be determined by a judge in accordance with state law. The Commission does not subsequently grant, exercise, or oversee the exercise of that eminent domain authority. The courts have exclusive authority to handle eminent domain cases; the Commission has no jurisdiction over these matters.

A fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled “An Interstate Natural Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need To Know?” addresses typically asked questions, including the use of eminent domain and how to participate in the Commission’s proceedings. This fact sheet along with other landowner topics of interest are available for viewing on the FERC website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) under the Natural Gas, Landowner Topics link.

## Public Participation

There are four methods you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. Please carefully follow these instructions so that your comments are properly recorded. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has staff available to assist you at (866) 208-3676 or [FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov).

(1) You can file your comments electronically using the *eComment* feature, which is located on the Commission’s website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) under the link to FERC Online. Using *eComment* is an easy method for submitting brief, text-only comments on a project;

(2) You can file your comments electronically by using the *eFiling* feature, which is located on the Commission’s website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) under the link to FERC Online. With *eFiling*, you can provide comments in a variety of formats by attaching them as a file with your submission. New

*eFiling* users must first create an account by clicking on “eRegister.” You will be asked to select the type of filing you are making; a comment on a particular project is considered a “Comment on a Filing”; or

(3) You can file a paper copy of your comments by mailing them to the Commission. Be sure to reference the project docket number (PF25-4-000) on your letter. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852.

(4) In lieu of sending written comments, the Commission invites you to attend the public scoping session its staff will conduct in the project area, scheduled as follows:

Date and time	Location
Wednesday, April 23, 2025; 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. EDT .....	Brookside Golf Club, 11 Brigadoone Road, Bourne, MA 02532, (508) 743-4653.

The primary goal of these scoping sessions is to have you identify the specific environmental issues and concerns that should be considered in the environmental document. Individual oral comments will be taken on a one-on-one basis with a court reporter. This format is designed to receive the maximum amount of oral comments in a convenient way during the timeframe allotted.

The scoping session is scheduled from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time. You may arrive at any time after 6:00 p.m. There will not be a formal presentation by Commission staff when the session opens. If you wish to speak, the Commission staff will hand out numbers in the order of your arrival. Comments will be taken until 8:00 p.m. However, if no additional numbers have been handed out and all individuals who wish to provide comments have had an opportunity to do so, staff may conclude the session at 7:30 p.m. Please see appendix 1 for additional information on the session format and conduct.<sup>1</sup>

Your scoping comments will be recorded by a court reporter (with FERC staff or representative present) and become part of the public record for this proceeding. Transcripts will be publicly available on FERC’s eLibrary system (see the last page of this notice for instructions on using eLibrary). If a significant number of people are interested in providing oral comments in the one-on-one settings, a time limit of 5 minutes may be implemented for each commentator.

It is important to note that the Commission provides equal consideration to all comments received, whether filed in written form or provided orally at a scoping session. Although there will not be a formal presentation, Commission staff will be available throughout the scoping session to answer your questions about the environmental review process. Representatives from Algonquin will also be present to answer project-specific questions.

*It is important to note that the Commission provides equal consideration to all comments received, whether filed in written form or provided orally at the scoping session.*

Additionally, the Commission offers a free service called eSubscription, which

makes it easy to stay informed of all issuances and submittals regarding the dockets/projects to which you subscribe. These instant email notifications are the fastest way to receive notification and provide a link to the document files which can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings. Go to <https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/overview> to register for eSubscription.

The Commission’s Office of Public Participation (OPP) supports meaningful public engagement and participation in Commission proceedings. OPP can help members of the public, including landowners, community organizations, Tribal members and others, access publicly available information and navigate Commission processes. For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, the public is encouraged to contact OPP at (202) 502-6595 or [OPP@ferc.gov](mailto:OPP@ferc.gov).

## Summary of the Planned Project

Algonquin plans to modify its existing interstate natural gas pipeline system facilities within the Town of Bourne, Barnstable County, Massachusetts, to accommodate the planned replacement of the Bourne Bridge and Sagamore Bridge by the Cape Cod Canal Bridges

<sup>1</sup> The appendices referenced in this notice will not appear in the **Federal Register**. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail and are available at [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov) using the link called “eLibrary.” For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the last page of this notice. For assistance, contact FERC at

[FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or call toll free, (886) 208-3676 or TTY (202) 502-8659.

Program.<sup>2</sup> According to Algonquin, the purpose of the Project is to accommodate the replacement of the Bourne Bridge and Sagamore Bridge while continuing to provide uninterrupted natural gas service to the National Grid distribution system on both sides of the Cape Cod Canal.

The Cape Cod Canal Bridge Relocation Project (Project) would consist of the following facilities and activities:

- removal/relocation of approximately 1.14 miles of existing 8-inch- and 18-inch-diameter pipelines adjacent to the existing Sagamore and Bourne Bridges;
- removal and relocation of two existing mainland meter and regulating (M&R) stations—Sagamore and Bourne;
- installation of two new M&R stations—Pave Paws Road and Bourne Rotary; and
- installation approximately 3.4 miles of 16-inch-diameter and approximately 2.2 miles of 18-inch-diameter pipeline to replace National Grid's existing pipelines currently attached to the existing Bourne and Sagamore Bridges.

The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 2.

#### Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the planned facilities would disturb about 73 acres of land for the aboveground facilities and the pipeline. Following construction, Algonquin would maintain about 21 acres for permanent operation of the project's facilities; the remaining acreage would be restored and revert to former uses. Algonquin is designing the Project pipeline facilities with collocation with existing utility and road rights-of-way as a primary siting factor.

#### NEPA Process and the Environmental Document

Any environmental document issued by Commission staff will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the planned project under the relevant general resource areas:

- geology and soils;
- water resources and wetlands;
- vegetation and wildlife;
- threatened and endangered species;
- cultural resources;
- land use;

<sup>2</sup> The Cape Cod Canal Bridges Program is being undertaken by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to improve cross-canal mobility and accessibility between Cape Cod and mainland Massachusetts and to address the increasing maintenance needs and functional obsolescence of the aging Sagamore and Bourne Highway Bridges (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/program-background-cape-cod-bridges-program>).

- air quality and noise; and
- reliability and safety.

Commission staff will also evaluate reasonable alternatives to the planned project or portions of the project and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas. Your comments will help Commission staff identify and focus on the issues that might have an effect on the human environment and potentially eliminate others from further study and discussion in the environmental document.

Although no formal application has been filed, Commission staff have already initiated a NEPA review under the Commission's pre-filing process. The purpose of the pre-filing process is to encourage early involvement of interested stakeholders and to identify and resolve issues before the Commission receives an application. As part of the pre-filing review, Commission staff will contact federal and state agencies to discuss their involvement in the scoping process and the preparation of the environmental document.

If a formal application is filed, Commission staff will then determine whether to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EA or the EIS will present Commission staff's independent analysis of the environmental issues. If Commission staff prepares an EA, a *Notice of Schedule for the Preparation of an Environmental Assessment* will be issued. The EA may be issued for an allotted public comment period. The Commission would consider timely comments on the EA before making its determination on the proposed project. If Commission staff prepares an EIS, a *Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS/Notice of Schedule* will be issued once an application is filed, which will open an additional public comment period. Staff will then prepare a draft EIS that will be issued for public comment. Commission staff will consider all timely comments received during the comment period on the draft EIS, and revise the document, as necessary, before issuing a final EIS. Any EA or draft and final EIS will be available in electronic format in the public record through eLibrary<sup>3</sup> and the Commission's natural gas

environmental documents web page (<https://www.ferc.gov/industries-data/natural-gas/environment/environmental-documents>). If eSubscribed, you will receive instant

<sup>3</sup> For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the last page of this notice.

email notification when the environmental document is issued.

With this notice, the Commission is asking agencies with jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise with respect to the environmental issues related to this project to formally cooperate in the preparation of the environmental document.<sup>4</sup> Agencies that would like to request cooperating agency status should follow the instructions for filing comments provided under the *Public Participation* section of this notice. Currently, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Massachusetts Army National Guard have expressed their intention to participate as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the environmental document to satisfy their NEPA responsibilities related to this project or to provide special expertise on environmental issues related to this project.

#### Consultation Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

In accordance with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's implementing regulations for section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Commission is using this notice to initiate consultation with the applicable State Historic Preservation Office(s), and to solicit their views and those of other government agencies, interested Indian tribes, and the public on the project's potential effects on historic properties.<sup>5</sup> The environmental document for this project will document our findings on the impacts on historic properties and summarize the status of consultations under section 106.

#### Environmental Mailing List

The environmental mailing list includes federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American Tribes; other interested parties; and local libraries and newspapers. This list also includes all affected landowners (as defined in the Commission's regulations) who are potential right-of-way grantors, whose property may be used temporarily for project purposes, or who own homes

<sup>4</sup> Cooperating agency responsibilities are addressed in Section 107(a)(3) of NEPA (42 U.S. Code § 4336(a)(3)).

<sup>5</sup> The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regulations are at Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 800. Those regulations define historic properties as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

within certain distances of aboveground facilities, and anyone who submits comments on the project and includes a mailing address with their comments. Commission staff will update the environmental mailing list as the analysis proceeds to ensure that Commission notices related to this environmental review are sent to all individuals, organizations, and government entities interested in and/or potentially affected by the planned project.

*If you need to make changes to your name/address, or if you would like to remove your name from the mailing list, please complete one of the following steps:*

(1) Send an email to [GasProjectAddressChange@ferc.gov](mailto:GasProjectAddressChange@ferc.gov) stating your request. You must include the docket number PF25-4-000 in your request. If you are requesting a change to your address, please be sure to include your name and the correct address. If you are requesting to delete your address from the mailing list, please include your name and address as it appeared on this notice. *This email address is unable to accept comments.*

OR

(2) Return the attached “Mailing List Update Form” (appendix 3).

#### Becoming an Intervenor

Once Algonquin files its application with the Commission, you may want to become an “intervenor” which is an official party to the Commission’s proceeding. Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission’s decision and be heard by the courts if they choose to appeal the Commission’s final ruling. An intervenor formally participates in the proceeding by filing a request to intervene pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.214). Motions to intervene are more fully described at <https://www.ferc.gov/how-intervene>. Please note that the Commission will not accept requests for intervenor status at this time. You must wait until the Commission receives a formal application for the project, after which the Commission will issue a public notice that establishes an intervention deadline.

#### Additional Information

Additional information about the project is available from the Commission’s Office of External Affairs, at (866) 208-FERC, or on the FERC website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) using the eLibrary link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on “General Search” and enter the

docket number in the “Docket Number” field. Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of all formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

Public sessions or site visits will be posted on the Commission’s calendar located at <https://www.ferc.gov/news-events/events> along with other related information.

Dated: April 3, 2025.

**Debbie-Anne A. Reese,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06071 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

##### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

**[Docket No. RM19-12-000]**

#### Revisions to the Filing Process for Commission Forms; Notice of FERC Form No. 60 Taxonomy Update

Notice is hereby given that, on April 2, 2025, the eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL) taxonomies, validation rules, and rendering files needed to file the 2024 FERC Form No. 60<sup>1</sup> were restored to Version 2024-04-01.<sup>2</sup> Version 2024-04-01 is now available for FERC Form No. 60 and is required for the 2024 FERC Form No. 60, currently due on May 1, 2025. The Version 2025-04-01 taxonomies, validation rules, and rendering files for FERC Form No. 60, which were published on March 27, 2025, have been removed from the eForms system because Version 2025-04-01 inadvertently contained updates required by Order No. 898,<sup>3</sup> which do not apply to this year’s annual FERC Form No. 60 filing. Version 2025-04-01 and the accompanying Order No. 898 updates will be made available in time

<sup>1</sup> The Commission adopted the XBRL process for filing these forms in Order No. 859. *Revisions to the Filing Process for Comm’n Forms*, Order No. 859, 167 FERC ¶ 61,241 (2019).

<sup>2</sup> The Commission adopted the final XBRL taxonomies, protocols, implementation guide, and other supporting documents, and established the implementation schedule for filing the Commission Forms following a technical conference in this proceeding. *Revisions to the Filing Process for Comm’n Forms*, 172 FERC ¶ 61,059 (2020).

<sup>3</sup> *Acct. & Reporting Treatment of Certain Renewable Energy Assets*, Order No. 898, 183 FERC ¶ 61,205 (2023).

for the 2025 FERC Form No. 60 annual filings, currently due on May 1, 2026.

This notice does not change any details regarding the implementation of Version 2025-04-01 taxonomies, validation rules, and rendering files for FERC Form Nos. 1, 1-F, 2, 2-A, 3-Q electric, 3-Q natural gas, 6, 6-Q and 714, which are currently available for download in the eForms portal’s Taxonomy History page at <https://ecollection.ferc.gov/taxonomyHistory>.

Dated: April 3, 2025.

**Carlos D. Clay,**  
*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06080 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

##### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

#### Combined Notice of Filings

##### Filings Instituting Proceedings

*Docket Numbers:* AC25-61-000.

*Applicants:* Bridger Pipeline LLC.

*Description:* Bridger Pipeline LLC submits request for approval of proposed accounting journal entry re acquisition on 5/7/2024 of Bayou Midstream Bakken, LLC, and certain subsidiaries.

*Filed Date:* 4/3/25.

*Accession Number:* 20250403-5110.

*Comment Date:* 5 p.m. ET 4/24/25.

*Docket Numbers:* AC25-62-000.

*Applicants:* Valero Energy Corporation.

*Description:* Valero Energy

Corporation, et al. submit request for approval of proposed journal entry to use FERC Account No. 705, Prior Period Adjustment, etc.

*Filed Date:* 4/3/25.

*Accession Number:* 20250403-5111.

*Comment Date:* 5 p.m. ET 4/24/25.

Take notice that the Commission has received the following Natural Gas Pipeline Rate and Refund Report filings:

*Docket Numbers:* RP25-813-000.

*Applicants:* National Grid LNG, LLC.

*Description:* Compliance filing: 2025-04-02 Order 587-AA Tariff Compliance Filing Adopting NAESB WGQ Version 4.0 to be effective 8/1/2025.

*Filed Date:* 4/2/25.

*Accession Number:* 20250402-5183.

*Comment Date:* 5 p.m. ET 4/14/25.

Any person desiring to intervene, to protest, or to answer a complaint in any of the above proceedings must file in accordance with Rules 211, 214, or 206 of the Commission’s Regulations (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214, or 385.206) on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on the

specified comment date. Protests may be considered, but intervention is necessary to become a party to the proceeding.

#### Filings in Existing Proceedings

*Docket Numbers:* RP25-417-001.

*Applicants:* Florida Gas Transmission Company, LLC.

*Description:* Compliance filing: NAESB Version 4.0 Compliance Filing—Corrected to be effective 8/1/2025.

*Filed Date:* 4/3/25.

*Accession Number:* 20250403-5052.

*Comment Date:* 5 p.m. ET 4/15/25.

*Docket Numbers:* RP25-485-001.

*Applicants:* Transwestern Pipeline Company, LLC.

*Description:* Compliance filing: NAESB 4.0 Compliance—Corrected to be effective 8/1/2025.

*Filed Date:* 4/3/25.

*Accession Number:* 20250403-5084.

*Comment Date:* 5 p.m. ET 4/15/25.

Any person desiring to protest in any of the above proceedings must file in accordance with Rule 211 of the Commission's Regulations (18 CFR 385.211) on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on the specified comment date.

The filings are accessible in the Commission's eLibrary system (<https://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/search/fercgensearch.asp>) by querying the docket number.

eFiling is encouraged. More detailed information relating to filing requirements, interventions, protests, service, and qualifying facilities filings can be found at: <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling/filing-req.pdf>. For other information, call (866) 208-3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502-8659.

The Commission's Office of Public Participation (OPP) supports meaningful public engagement and participation in Commission proceedings. OPP can help members of the public, including landowners, community organizations, Tribal members and others, access publicly available information and navigate Commission processes. For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, the public is encouraged to contact OPP at (202) 502-6595 or *OPP@ferc.gov*.

Dated: April 3, 2025.

**Carlos D. Clay,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06083 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

##### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 372-101]

##### Notice of Application of Transfer of License and Soliciting Comments, Motions To Intervene, and Protests: Southern California Edison Company; Lower Tule Hydro, LLC

On March 3, 2025, Southern California Edison Company (transferor) and Lower Tule Hydro, LLC (transferee) filed an application for a transfer of license of the 2.52-megawatt Lower Tule River Hydroelectric Project No. 372. The project is located on the Middle Fork Tuolumne River in Tulare County, California and occupies federal land within the Sequoia National Forest administered by the U.S. Forest Service.

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 801, the applicants seek Commission approval to transfer the license for the project from Southern California Edison Company to Lower Tule Hydro, LLC. The transferee will be required by the Commission to comply with all the requirements of the license as though it were the original licensee.

*Applicants Contacts:* (For transferor) Wayne Allen, Southern California Edison, 2244 Walnut Grove Avenue, Rosemead, CA 91770, (626) 302-9741, *wayne.allen@sce.com*.

(For transferee) Ted S. Sorenson, PE, Sorenson Engineering, Inc., 711 E Turtle Point Drive, Ivins, UT 84738, (208) 589-6908, *ted.sorensonhydro.com*.

*FERC Contact:* Steven Sachs, Phone: (202) 502-8666, Email: *Steven.Sachs@ferc.gov*.

*Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, and protests:* May 5, 2025. The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments, motions to intervene, and protests using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at *FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov*, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY).

In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to, Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier

must be addressed to, Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-372-101. Comments emailed to Commission staff are not considered part of the Commission record.

The Commission's Office of Public Participation (OPP) supports meaningful public engagement and participation in Commission proceedings. OPP can help members of the public, including landowners, community organizations, Tribal members, and others, access publicly available information and navigate Commission processes. For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, the public is encouraged to contact OPP at (202) 502-6595 or *OPP@ferc.gov*.

Dated: April 3, 2025.

**Debbie-Anne A. Reese,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06069 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

##### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. AD25-7-000]

##### Meeting the Challenge of Resource Adequacy in Regional Transmission Organization and Independent System Operator Regions; Supplemental Notice of Commissioner-Led Technical Conference

As announced in the February 20, 2025 Notice in this proceeding, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) will convene a Commissioner-led technical conference in the above-referenced proceeding. The two-day technical conference will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, and Thursday, June 5, 2025, in the Kevin J. McIntyre Commission Meeting Room at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426.

The purpose of this technical conference is to discuss generic issues related to resource adequacy constructs, including the roles of capacity markets in the Regional Transmission Organization (RTO)/Independent System Operator (ISO) regions that utilize them and alternative constructs in RTO/ISO regions without capacity markets. The conference will start with a panel discussion on resource

adequacy challenges across RTO/ISO regions, including regional differences. The remainder of the first day will include three panels specific to PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. (PJM) that will explore PJM's resource adequacy challenge, PJM states' perspectives, and additional perspectives on PJM's path forward. The second day will start with two panels specific to Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO) that will explore MISO's resource adequacy challenge and perspectives on MISO's path forward. The remainder of the second day will include one panel to explore the resource adequacy challenge in ISO New England Inc. (ISO-NE) and New York Independent System Operator, Inc. (NYISO) and a final panel on the resource adequacy challenge in California Independent System Operator Corporation (CAISO) and Southwest Power Pool (SPP). The preliminary agenda for this conference is attached to this Supplemental Notice and provides more detail for each panel.

The Commission does not intend to discuss at this technical conference any specific proceeding pending before the Commission. The Commission will issue a further supplemental notice before the technical conference that will include a list of related proceedings that are pending before the Commission at the time of the technical conference and any revisions to the attached agenda.

All panelists must submit pre-filed statements outlining their views on the topics of the technical conference, which may address some or all of the questions associated with their panel that are most pertinent to them, and may also address related issues. Panelists must submit a pre-filed statement no later than Friday, May 16, 2025. Commission staff will post these statements on the FERC technical conference web page prior to the conference and in eLibrary. With the exception of opening statements on Panel 1, which may be delivered orally, all other panels will proceed immediately to questions from the Chairman and Commissioners.

All interested persons are invited to file pre-technical conference comments in eLibrary on the issues of the conference, including the questions listed in the attached agenda. Commenters need not answer all the questions but are encouraged to organize responses using the numbering and sequencing in the attached agenda.

The technical conference will be open to the public. Advance registration is not required, and there is no fee for attendance. Information will also be posted on the Calendar of Events on the

Commission's website, [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov), prior to the event. To stay apprised of issuances in this docket, there is an "eSubscription" link on the Commission's website that enables subscribers to receive email notification when a document is added to a subscribed docket(s).

The technical conference will be transcribed and webcast. Transcripts will be available for a fee from Ace Reporting (202-347-3700). A link to the webcast of this event will be available in the Commission Calendar of Events at [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov). The Commission provides technical support for the free webcasts. Please call 202-502-8680 or email [customer@ferc.gov](mailto:customer@ferc.gov) if you have any questions.

Commission technical conferences are accessible under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For accessibility accommodations, please send an email to [accessibility@ferc.gov](mailto:accessibility@ferc.gov) or call toll free 1-866-208-3372 (voice) or 202-208-8659 (TTY) or send a fax to 202-208-2106 with the required accommodations.

For more information about this technical conference, please contact Tim Bialecki at [timothy.bialecki@ferc.gov](mailto:timothy.bialecki@ferc.gov) or 202-502-8403. For legal information, please contact Nathan Lobel at [nathan.lobel@ferc.gov](mailto:nathan.lobel@ferc.gov) or 202-502-8456. For information related to logistics, please contact Sarah McKinley at [sarah.mckinley@ferc.gov](mailto:sarah.mckinley@ferc.gov) or 202-502-8368.

Dated: April 3, 2025.

**Carlos D. Clay,**  
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2025-06082 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 15359-001]

#### Notice of Application Tendered for Filing With the Commission and Soliciting Additional Study Requests and Establishing Procedural Schedule for Relicensing and a Deadline for Submission of Final Amendments; Stone Ridge Hydro, LLC

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection.

*Type of Application:* New Major License.

*Project No.:* 15359-001.

*Date Filed:* March 21, 2025.

*a. Applicant:* Stone Ridge Hydro, LLC (Stone Ridge).

*b. Name of Project:* Herkimer Hydroelectric Project (Herkimer Project or project).

*c. Location:* On West Canada Creek in Herkimer County, New York.

*d. Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act 16 U.S.C. 791(a)-825(r).

*e. Applicant Contact:* Peter J. Blanchfield, Chief Executive Officer, Stone Ridge Hydro, LLC, 16 Harrogate Road, New Hartford, NY 13413, Phone: (650) 644-6003, Email: [pblanchfield@stoneridgehydro.com](mailto:pblanchfield@stoneridgehydro.com); Paul V. Nolan, Regulatory Consultant, 5515 17th Street North, Arlington, VA 22205-2722, Phone: (703) 587-5895, Email: [pvnpyndiver@gmail.com](mailto:pvnpyndiver@gmail.com).

*f. FERC Contact:* Jody Callihan at (202) 502-8278, or [jody.callihan@ferc.gov](mailto:jody.callihan@ferc.gov).

*g. Cooperating agencies:* Federal, state, local, and Tribal agencies with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues that wish to cooperate in the preparation of the environmental document should follow the instructions for filing such requests described in item l below. Cooperating agencies should note the Commission's policy that agencies that cooperate in the preparation of the environmental document cannot also intervene. See 94 FERC ¶ 61,076 (2001).

*h. Pursuant to section 4.32(b)(7) of 18 CFR of the Commission's regulations, if any resource agency, Indian Tribe, or person believes that an additional scientific study should be conducted in order to form an adequate factual basis for a complete analysis of the application on its merit, the resource agency, Indian Tribe, or person must file a request for a study with the Commission not later than 60 days from the date of filing of the application, and serve a copy of the request on the applicant.*

*i. Deadline for filing additional study requests and requests for cooperating agency status: May 20, 2025.*

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file additional study requests and requests for cooperating agency status using the Commission's eFiling system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOnline.aspx>. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier

must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. All filings must clearly identify the project name and docket number on the first page: Herkimer Hydroelectric Project (P-15359-001).

j. The application is not ready for environmental analysis at this time.

k. *The Herkimer Project consists of the following existing facilities:* (1) a timber crib dam with a 9-foot-high, 95-foot-long east spillway section reaching a crest elevation of 420 feet mean sea level (msl), a 12-foot-high, 65-foot-long west spillway section reaching a crest elevation of 419.2 feet msl, and a 20-foot-long crest gate section with a sill elevation of 415 feet msl; (2) an impoundment with a surface area of 19 acres and a storage capacity of 163 acre-feet at a normal water surface elevation of 420.5 feet msl; (3) timber flashboards; (4) a forebay, varying in length and about 80 feet wide—the east side of the forebay structure includes an 80-kilowatt (kW) minimum flow turbine-generator unit followed by a 60-foot-long auxiliary spillway with a crest elevation of 421 feet msl; (5) four turbine-generator units with a capacity of 400 kW each downstream of the forebay; (6) a reinforced concrete and steel powerhouse/electrical building containing switchgear; (7) a 200-foot-long transmission line; and (8) appurtenant facilities.

The project has not operated since 2006 and some of the facilities noted above are in a deteriorated condition. For instance, the license application states the project's crest gate and slide gate are both inoperable and in need of repair. Stone Ridge proposes to rehabilitate the project and operate it in a similar manner to the prior project at the site (FERC No. 9709); specifically, in a run-of-river mode, with a continuous minimum flow release of 160 cubic feet per second into West Canada Creek. Stone Ridge is currently conducting environmental studies to help it develop and finalize a set of proposed protection, mitigation, and enhancement (PM&E) measures to supplement the license application. Stone Ridge estimates the rehabilitated project would have an annual generation capacity of 6,500–7,000 megawatt-hours.

l. A copy of the application can be viewed on the Commission's website at <http://www.ferc.gov>, using the “eLibrary” link. Enter the docket number, excluding the last three digits in the docket number field, to access the document (P-15359). For assistance, contact FERC at *FERCOnlineSupport@*

*ferc.gov*, or call toll-free, (866) 208–3676 or (202) 502–8659 (TTY).

You may also register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/subscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

The Commission's Office of Public Participation (OPP) supports meaningful public engagement and participation in Commission proceedings. OPP can help members of the public, including landowners, community organizations, Tribal members and others, access publicly available information and navigate Commission processes. For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, the public is encouraged to contact OPP at (202) 502–6595 or *OPP@ferc.gov*.

m. *Procedural schedule and final amendments:* The application will be processed according to the following preliminary schedule. Revisions to the schedule will be made as appropriate.

Milestone	Target date
Issue Deficiency Letter (if necessary).	May 2025.
Request Additional Information.	May 2025.
Issue Acceptance Letter .....	September 2025.
Issue Scoping Document 1 for comments.	October 2025.
Issue Scoping Document 2 (if necessary).	December 2025.
Issue Notice of Ready for Environmental Analysis.	December 2025.

Final amendments to the application must be filed with the Commission no later than 30 days from the issuance date of the notice of ready for environmental analysis.

Dated: April 3, 2025.

**Debbie-Anne A. Reese,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2025–06073 Filed 4–8–25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

**[Project No. 1121–135]**

### Pacific Gas and Electric Company; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission or FERC)

regulations, 18 CFR part 380, Commission staff reviewed Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) application for an amendment to the license of the Battle Creek Hydroelectric Project No. 1121 to support a new Phase 2 of the Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project (Restoration Project) and have prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed amendment.<sup>1</sup> The Restoration Project is a collaborative effort to restore fish habitat on Battle Creek and some of its tributaries. The new Phase 2 amendment requires the removal of the South Diversion Dam, Soap Creek Feeder Diversion Dam, Lower Ripley Creek Feeder Diversion Dam, and Coleman Diversion Dam, but does not include the tailrace connector tunnel from South Powerhouse to Inskip Canal as originally proposed as part of the Restoration Project. The project is located on Battle Creek, and North Fork and South Fork Battle Creek in Shasta and Tehama counties, California. The project occupies federal lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

The EA contains Commission staff's analysis of the potential environmental effects of not constructing the tailrace connector and any changes that have occurred since it was originally evaluated in a 2005 Environmental Impact Statement, and concludes that the proposed amendment, with appropriate environmental protective measures, would not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

The EA may be viewed on the Commission's website at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the “elibrary” link. Enter the docket number (P-1121) in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at *FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov* or toll-free at 1–866–208–3676, or for TTY, (202) 502–8659.

You may also register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/subscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

All comments must be filed by May 5, 2025.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/>

<sup>1</sup> The unique identification number for documents relating to this environmental review is EAXX–019–20–000–1741169216.

*efiling.asp*. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support. In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-1121-135.

The Commission's Office of Public Participation (OPP) supports meaningful public engagement and participation in Commission proceedings. OPP can help members of the public, including landowners, Tribal members, and others access publicly available information and navigate Commission processes. For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, the public is encouraged to contact OPP at (202) 502-6595 or [OPP@ferc.gov](mailto:OPP@ferc.gov).

For further information, contact Rebecca Martin at 202-502-6012 or [Rebecca.Martin@ferc.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Martin@ferc.gov).

Dated: April 3, 2025.

**Debbie-Anne A. Reese,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2025-06074 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6712-01-P**

## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

**[OMB 3060-0626; FR ID 288668]**

### Information Collection Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission Under Delegated Authority

**AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, and as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collections. Comments are requested concerning:

whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection burden on small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees.

The FCC may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the PRA that does not display a valid OMB control number.

**DATES:** Written PRA comments should be submitted on or before June 9, 2025. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below as soon as possible.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all PRA comments to Cathy Williams, FCC, via email to [PRA@fcc.gov](mailto:PRA@fcc.gov) and to [Cathy.Williams@fcc.gov](mailto:Cathy.Williams@fcc.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For additional information about the information collection, contact Cathy Williams at (202) 418-2918.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*OMB Control No.:* 3060-0626.

*Title:* Section 90.483, Permissible Methods and Requirements of Interconnecting Private and Public Systems of Communications.

*Form No.:* N/A.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Respondents:* Business of other for-profit entities.

*Number of Respondents and Responses:* 100 respondents; 100 responses.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 1 hour.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion reporting requirements; Third party disclosure requirement.

*Obligation To Respond:* Required to obtain or retain benefits. The statutory authority for this collection of information is contained in sections 4(i), 11, 303(g), 303(r), and 332(c)(7) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 154(i), 161, 303(g), 303(r), 332(c)(7).

*Total Annual Burden:* 100 hours.

*Annual Cost Burden:* No cost.

*Needs and Uses:* When a frequency is shared by more than one system, automatic monitoring equipment must

be installed at the base station to prevent activation of the transmitter when signals of co-channel stations are present and activation would interfere with communications in progress. Licensees may operate without the monitoring equipment if they have obtained the consent of all co-channel licensees located within a 120 kilometer (75 mile) radius of the interconnected base station transmitter. A statement must be submitted to the Commission indicating that all co-channel licensees have consented to operate without the monitoring equipment. This information is necessary to ensure that licensees comply with the Commission's technical and operational rules, and to prevent activation of the transmitter when signals of co-channel stations are present and could possibly interfere with communications in process.

Federal Communications Commission.

**Marlene Dortch,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2025-06096 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6712-01-P**

## FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

### Change in Bank Control Notices; Acquisitions of Shares of a Bank or Bank Holding Company

The notificants listed below have applied under the Change in Bank Control Act (Act) (12 U.S.C. 1817(j)) and § 225.41 of the Board's Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.41) to acquire shares of a bank or bank holding company. The factors that are considered in acting on the applications are set forth in paragraph 7 of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(j)(7)).

The public portions of the applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, if any, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank(s) indicated below and at the offices of the Board of Governors. This information may also be obtained on an expedited basis, upon request, by contacting the appropriate Federal Reserve Bank and from the Board's Freedom of Information Office at <https://www.federalreserve.gov/foia/request.htm>. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in paragraph 7 of the Act.

Comments received are subject to public disclosure. In general, comments received will be made available without change and will not be modified to remove personal or business information including confidential, contact, or other identifying

information. Comments should not include any information such as confidential information that would not be appropriate for public disclosure.

Comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors, Ann E. Misback, Secretary of the Board, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20551–0001, not later than April 24, 2025.

*A. Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago* (Colette A. Fried, Assistant Vice President), 230 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60690–1414. Comments can also be sent electronically to [Comments.applications@chi.frb.org](mailto:Comments.applications@chi.frb.org):

*1. Monica Anderegg, individually and as trustee of the Charles L. Sarazine Family Trust for Monica Anderegg, all of Edina, Minnesota; Lisa Elsenbast, individually and as trustee of the Charles L. Sarazine Family Trust for Lisa Elsenbast, all of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Annette Sarazine-Jensen, individually and as trustee of the Charles L. Sarazine Family Trust for Annette Sarazine-Jensen, all of Gretna, Nebraska; Julia T. Sarazine, Thomas Gorey, both of Chicago, Illinois; Frank Elsenbast, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Monte Jensen, Gretna, Nebraska; Rachel S. Jensen-Blackwell, Seward, Nebraska; and Reid C. Jensen, Fridley, Minnesota; to join the Sarazine Family Control Group, a group acting in concert, to retain voting shares of Emmetsburg Bank Shares, Inc., and thereby indirectly retain voting shares of Iowa Trust and Savings Bank, both of Emmetsburg, Iowa.*

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

**Michele Taylor Fennell,**  
*Associate Secretary of the Board.*

[FR Doc. 2025–06078 Filed 4–8–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

## GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

[OMB Control No. 3090–0297; Docket No. 2025–0001; Sequence No. 7]

### Information Collection; Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Agency Service Delivery

**AGENCY:** General Services Administration (GSA).

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act, the Regulatory Secretariat Division will be

submitting to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request to review and approve an extension of a previously approved information collection requirement regarding the Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Agency Service Delivery.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before June 9, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments identified by Information Collection 3090–0297 via <https://www.regulations.gov>. Submit comments via the Federal eRulemaking portal by searching for “Information Collection 3090–0297, Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Agency Service Delivery.” Select the link “Submit a Comment” that corresponds with “Information Collection 3090–0297, Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Agency Service Delivery.” Follow the instructions provided at the “Submit a Comment” screen. Please include your name, company name (if any), and “Information Collection 3090–0297” on your attached document.

**Instructions:** Please submit comments only and cite Information Collection 3090–0297, Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Agency Service Delivery, in all correspondence related to this collection. Comments received generally will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal and/or business confidential information provided. To confirm receipt of your comment(s), please check [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), approximately two-to-three days after submission to verify posting.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Camille Tucker, Office of Governmentwide Policy, GSA, at 202–255–1648, or via email at [customer.experience@gsa.gov](mailto:customer.experience@gsa.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### A. Purpose

The information collection activity will garner qualitative customer and stakeholder feedback in an efficient, timely manner. By qualitative feedback we mean information that provides useful insights on perceptions and opinions, but are not statistical surveys that yield quantitative results that can be generalized to the population of study.

This feedback will provide insights into customer or stakeholder perceptions, experiences and expectations, provide an early warning of issues with service, or focus attention

on areas where communication, training or changes in operations might improve delivery of products or services. These collections will allow for ongoing, collaborative and actionable communications between the Agency and its customers and stakeholders. It will also allow feedback to contribute directly to the improvement of program management.

Feedback collected under this generic clearance will provide useful information, but it will not yield data that can be generalized to the overall population. This type of generic clearance for qualitative information will not be used for quantitative information collections that are designed to yield reliably actionable results, such as monitoring trends over time or documenting program performance.

Such data uses require more rigorous designs that address: the target population to which generalizations will be made, the sampling frame, the sample design (including stratification and clustering), the precision requirements or power calculations that justify the proposed sample size, the expected response rate, methods for assessing potential non-response bias, the protocols for data collection, and any testing procedures that were or will be undertaken prior fielding the study.

Depending on the degree of influence the results are likely to have, such collections may still be eligible for submission for other generic mechanisms that are designed to yield quantitative results.

#### B. Annual Reporting Burden

*Respondents:* 1,010,650.

*Responses per Respondent:* ~1.

*Total Annual Responses:* 1,010,650.

*Hours per response:* ~.063445 hours.

*Total Burden hours:* 128,120.

#### C. Public Comments

Public comments are particularly invited on: Whether this collection of information is necessary and whether it will have practical utility; whether our estimate of the public burden of this collection of information is accurate and based on valid assumptions and methodology; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.

##### *Obtaining Copies of Proposals:*

Requesters may obtain a copy of the information collection documents from the GSA Regulatory Secretariat Division, by calling 202–501–4755 or emailing [GSARegSec@gsa.gov](mailto:GSARegSec@gsa.gov). Please cite OMB Control No. 3090–0297, Generic Clearance for the Collection of

Qualitative Feedback on Agency Service Delivery, in all correspondence.

**Lois Mandell,**  
Director, Regulatory Secretariat Division,  
General Services Administration.

[FR Doc. 2025-06029 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820-34-P

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. FDA-2025-N-0515]

#### Determination That FLUMADINE (Rimantadine Hydrochloride) Tablet, 100 Milligrams, Was Not Withdrawn From Sale for Reasons of Safety or Effectiveness

**AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA, the Agency, or we) has determined that FLUMADINE (rimantadine hydrochloride) tablet, 100 milligrams (mg), was not withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness. This determination means that FDA will not begin procedures to withdraw approval of abbreviated new drug applications (ANDAs) that refer to this drug product, and it will allow FDA to continue to approve ANDAs that refer to the product as long as they meet relevant legal and regulatory requirements.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Awo Archampong-Gray, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Bldg. 51, Rm. 6243, Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002, 301-796-0110, [Awo.Archampong-Gray@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Awo.Archampong-Gray@fda.hhs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 505(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) (21 U.S.C. 355(j)) allows the submission of an ANDA to market a generic version of a previously approved drug product. To obtain approval, the ANDA applicant must show, among other things, that the generic drug product: (1) has the same active ingredient(s), dosage form, route of administration, strength, conditions of use, and (with certain exceptions) labeling as the listed drug, which is a version of the drug that was previously approved, and (2) is bioequivalent to the listed drug. ANDA applicants do not have to repeat the extensive clinical testing otherwise necessary to gain approval of a new drug application (NDA).

Section 505(j)(7) of the FD&C Act requires FDA to publish a list of all approved drugs. FDA publishes this list as part of the “Approved Drug Products With Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations,” which is generally known as the “Orange Book.” Under FDA regulations, a drug is removed from the list if the Agency withdraws or suspends approval of the drug’s NDA or ANDA for reasons of safety or effectiveness, or if FDA determines that the listed drug was withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness (21 CFR 314.162).

Under § 314.161(a) (21 CFR 314.161(a)), the Agency must determine whether a listed drug was withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness: (1) before an ANDA that refers to that listed drug may be approved, (2) whenever a listed drug is voluntarily withdrawn from sale and ANDAs that refer to the listed drug have been approved, and (3) when a person petitions for such a determination under 21 CFR 10.25(a) and 10.30. Section 314.161(d) provides that if FDA determines that a listed drug was withdrawn from sale for safety or effectiveness reasons, the Agency will initiate proceedings that could result in the withdrawal of approval of the ANDAs that refer to the listed drug.

FLUMADINE (rimantadine hydrochloride) tablet, 100 mg, is the subject of NDA 019649, held by Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Inc. (Sun Pharma), and initially approved on September 17, 1993. FLUMADINE is indicated for the prophylaxis and treatment of illness caused by various strains of influenza A virus in adults (17 years and older) and for prophylaxis against influenza A virus in children (1 year to 16 years of age).

In a letter dated November 27, 2023, Sun Pharma notified FDA that FLUMADINE (rimantadine hydrochloride) tablet, 100 mg, was being discontinued, and FDA moved the drug product to the “Discontinued Drug Product List” section of the Orange Book.

After reviewing Agency records and based on the information we have at this time, FDA has determined under § 314.161 that FLUMADINE (rimantadine hydrochloride) tablet, 100 mg, was not withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness. We have carefully reviewed our files for records concerning the withdrawal of FLUMADINE (rimantadine hydrochloride) tablet, 100 mg, from sale. We have also independently evaluated relevant literature and data for possible postmarketing adverse events. We have reviewed the available evidence and

determined that this drug product was not withdrawn for sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness.<sup>1</sup>

Accordingly, the Agency will continue to list FLUMADINE (rimantadine hydrochloride) tablet, 100 mg, in the “Discontinued Drug Product List” section of the Orange Book. The “Discontinued Drug Product List” identifies, among other items, drug products that have been discontinued from marketing for reasons other than safety or effectiveness. FDA will not begin procedures to withdraw approval of approved ANDAs that refer to FLUMADINE. Additional ANDAs that refer to FLUMADINE (rimantadine hydrochloride) tablet, 100 mg, may be approved by the Agency if they comply with relevant legal and regulatory requirements. If FDA determines that labeling for this drug product should be revised to meet current standards, the Agency will advise ANDA applicants to submit such labeling.

Dated: March 28, 2025.

**P. Ritu Nalubola,**  
Associate Commissioner for Policy.

[FR Doc. 2025-06050 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4164-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. FDA-2021-P-0168]

#### Growing, Harvesting, Processing, and Distribution of Poppy Seeds—Industry Practices Related to Opiate Alkaloids; Request for Information; Extension of Comment Period

**AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice; request for information; extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA or we) is extending the comment period for a request for information on industry practices related to poppy seeds, such as information about growing, harvesting, processing, and distribution of poppy seeds, including industry practices to

<sup>1</sup> Due to high levels of adamantane resistance among circulating influenza A viruses, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention currently states on its website that adamantanes (amantadine and rimantadine) are not recommended for antiviral treatment or chemoprophylaxis of currently circulating influenza A virus strains. Consistent with this, the current label for FLUMADINE (rimantadine hydrochloride), 100 mg tablet, was revised to caution prescribers to consider available information on influenza drug susceptibility patterns and treatment effects when deciding whether to use FLUMADINE.

reduce the opiate alkaloid content of poppy seeds. We are taking this action in response to requests for an extension to allow interested persons additional time to submit comments. We intend to use the information to help determine what type(s) of actions, if any, we should take to help ensure that poppy seed products do not pose a health risk when consumed.

**DATES:** FDA is extending the comment period on the notice published January 15, 2025 (90 FR 3873). Either electronic or written comments on the notice must be submitted by June 16, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments and information as follows. Please note that late, untimely filed comments will not be considered. The <https://www.regulations.gov> electronic filing system will accept comments until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time at the end of June 9, 2025. Comments received by mail/hand delivery/courier (for written/paper submissions) will be considered timely if they are received on or before that date.

#### Electronic Submissions

Submit electronic comments in the following way:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Comments submitted electronically, including attachments, to <https://www.regulations.gov> will be posted to the docket unchanged. Because your comment will be made public, you are solely responsible for ensuring that your comment does not include any confidential information that you or a third party may not wish to be posted, such as medical information, your or anyone else's Social Security number, or confidential business information, such as a manufacturing process. Please note that if you include your name, contact information, or other information that identifies you in the body of your comments, that information will be posted on <https://www.regulations.gov>.

- If you want to submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made available to the public, submit the comment as a written/paper submission and in the manner detailed (see "Written/Paper Submissions" and "Instructions").

#### Written/Paper Submissions

Submit written/paper submissions as follows:

- **Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier (for written/paper submissions):** Dockets Management Staff (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.

- For written/paper comments submitted to the Dockets Management Staff, FDA will post your comment, as well as any attachments, except for information submitted, marked and identified, as confidential, if submitted as detailed in "Instructions."

**Instructions:** All submissions received must include the Docket No. FDA-2021-P-0168 for "Growing, Harvesting, Processing, and Distribution of Poppy Seeds—Industry Practices Related to Opiate Alkaloids; Request for Information." Received comments, those filed in a timely manner (see **ADDRESSES**), will be placed in the docket and, except for those submitted as "Confidential Submissions," publicly viewable at <https://www.regulations.gov> or at the Dockets Management Staff between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, 240-402-7500.

- **Confidential Submissions**—To submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made publicly available, submit your comments only as a written/paper submission. You should submit two copies total. One copy will include the information you claim to be confidential with a heading or cover note that states "THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION." We will review this copy, including the claimed confidential information, in our consideration of comments. The second copy, which will have the claimed confidential information redacted/blacked out, will be available for public viewing and posted on <https://www.regulations.gov>. Submit both copies to the Dockets Management Staff. If you do not wish your name and contact information to be made publicly available, you can provide this information on the cover sheet and not in the body of your comments and you must identify this information as "confidential." Any information marked as "confidential" will not be disclosed except in accordance with 21 CFR 10.20 and other applicable disclosure law. For more information about FDA's posting of comments to public dockets, see 80 FR 56469, September 18, 2015, or access the information at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2015-09-18/pdf/2015-23389.pdf>.

**Docket:** For access to the docket to read background documents or the electronic and written/paper comments received, go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and insert the docket number, found in brackets in the heading of this document, into the "Search" box and follow the prompts and/or go to the Dockets Management Staff, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852, 240-402-7500.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jesse Lunzer, Office of Food Chemical Safety, Dietary Supplements, and Innovation, Human Foods Program, Food and Drug Administration, 5001 Campus Dr., College Park, MD 20740, 240-402-2879.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In the **Federal Register** of January 15, 2025 (90 FR 3873), we published a notice requesting information on industry practices related to poppy seeds, such as information about growing, harvesting, processing, and distribution of poppy seeds, including industry practices to reduce the opiate alkaloid content of poppy seeds. We intend to use the information to help determine what type(s) of actions, if any, we should take to help ensure that poppy seed products do not pose a health risk when consumed. We provided a 90-day comment period for the request for information.

We have received requests for a 90-day extension of the comment period. In general, the requests explained that industry needed more time to collect, review, and summarize the information requested for the global supply chain.

We have considered the requests and are extending the comment period for an additional 60 days. We believe that this extension will allow adequate time for interested persons to submit comments.

Dated: March 28, 2025.

**P. Ritu Nalubola,**

*Associate Commissioner for Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06049 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4164-01-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

##### Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. FDA-2017-N-5925]

#### 21st Century Cures Act: Annual Compilation of Notices of Updates From the Susceptibility Test Interpretive Criteria Web Page; Request for Comments

**AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA, the Agency, or we) is announcing the availability of the Agency's annual compilation of notices of updates to the Agency's Susceptibility Test Interpretive Criteria web page. The Agency established the Susceptibility Test Interpretive Criteria web page on December 13, 2017, and

since establishment has provided updates to both the format of the web pages and the susceptibility test interpretive criteria identified and recognized by FDA on the web pages. FDA is publishing this notice in accordance with procedures established by the 21st Century Cures Act (Cures Act).

**DATES:** This notice is published in the **Federal Register** on April 9, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit either electronic or written comments and information as follows:

#### *Electronic Submissions*

Submit electronic comments in the following way:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Comments submitted electronically, including attachments, to <https://www.regulations.gov> will be posted to the docket unchanged. Because your comment will be made public, you are solely responsible for ensuring that your comment does not include any confidential information that you or a third party may not wish to be posted, such as medical information, your or anyone else's Social Security number, or confidential business information, such as a manufacturing process. Please note that if you include your name, contact information, or other information that identifies you in the body of your comments, that information will be posted on <https://www.regulations.gov>.

- If you want to submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made available to the public, submit the comment as a written/paper submission and in the manner detailed below (see "Written/Paper Submissions" and "Instructions").

#### *Written/Paper Submissions*

Submit written/paper submissions as follows:

- *Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier (for written/paper submissions):* Dockets Management Staff (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.

- For written/paper comments submitted to the Dockets Management Staff, FDA will post your comment, as well as any attachments, except for information submitted, marked and identified, as confidential, if submitted as detailed in "Instructions."

*Instructions:* All submissions received must include the Docket No. FDA-2017-N-5925 for "Susceptibility Test Interpretive Criteria Recognized and Listed on the Susceptibility Test

Interpretive web page; Request for Comments." Received comments will be placed in the docket and, except for those submitted as "Confidential Submissions," publicly viewable at <https://www.regulations.gov> or at the Dockets Management Staff between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, 240-402-7500.

- Confidential Submissions—To submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made publicly available, submit your comments only as a written/paper submission. You should submit two copies total. One copy will include the information you claim to be confidential with a heading or cover note that states "THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION." The Agency will review this copy, including the claimed confidential information, in its consideration of comments. The second copy, which will have the claimed confidential information redacted/blacked out, will be available for public viewing and posted on <https://www.regulations.gov>. Submit both copies to the Dockets Management Staff. If you do not wish your name and contact information to be made publicly available, you can provide this information on the cover sheet and not in the body of your comments and you must identify this information as "confidential." Any information marked as "confidential" will not be disclosed except in accordance with 21 CFR 10.20 and other applicable disclosure law. For more information about FDA's posting of comments to public dockets, see 80 FR 56469, September 18, 2015, or access the information at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2015-09-18/pdf/2015-23389.pdf>.

*Docket:* For access to the docket to read background documents or the electronic and written/paper comments received, go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and insert the docket number, found in brackets in the heading of this document, into the "Search" box and follow the prompts and/or go to the Dockets Management Staff, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852, 240-402-7500.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Deborah Kim, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Bldg. 22, Rm. 6349, Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002, 301-796-9053, [Deborah.Wang@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Deborah.Wang@fda.hhs.gov).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **I. Background**

Section 511A of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) (21

U.S.C. 360a-2), as added by section 3044 of the Cures Act (Pub. L. 114-255), was signed into law on December 13, 2016. This provision clarified FDA's authority to identify and efficiently update susceptibility test interpretive criteria, including through the recognition by FDA of standards established by standards development organizations (SDOs). It also clarified that sponsors of antimicrobial susceptibility testing devices may rely on listed susceptibility test interpretive criteria to support premarket authorization of their devices, provided they meet certain conditions, which allows for a more streamlined process for incorporating up-to-date information into such devices.

In the **Federal Register** notice of December 13, 2017 (82 FR 58617), FDA announced the establishment of the Susceptibility Test Interpretive Criteria web page. This web page recognizes susceptibility test interpretive criteria established by an SDO that fulfills the requirements under section 511A(b)(2)(A) of the FD&C Act; identifies when FDA does not recognize, in whole or in part, susceptibility test interpretive criteria established by an SDO; and lists susceptibility test interpretive criteria identified by FDA outside the SDO process. The susceptibility test interpretive criteria listed by FDA on the Susceptibility Test Interpretive Criteria web page is deemed to be recognized as a standard under section 514(c)(1) of the FD&C Act (21 U.S.C. 360d(c)(1)). The Susceptibility Test Interpretive Criteria web page can be found at <https://www.fda.gov/STIC>.

On March 1, 2018, FDA published a notice in the **Federal Register** (83 FR 8883) requesting comments on FDA's initial susceptibility test interpretive criteria recognition and listing determinations on the Susceptibility Test Interpretive Criteria web page (<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/03/01/2018-04175/susceptibility-test-interpretive-criteria-recognized-and-listed-on-the-susceptibility-test>). FDA may consider information provided by interested third parties as a basis for evaluating new or updated interpretive criteria standards (section 511A(c)(2)(B) of the FD&C Act); third parties should submit any information they wish to convey to the Agency to Docket No. FDA-2017-N-5925. If comments are received, FDA will review those comments and will make, as appropriate, updates to the recognized standards or susceptibility test interpretive criteria.

At least every 6 months after the establishment of the Susceptibility Test Interpretive Criteria web page, FDA is

required, as appropriate to: (1) publish on that web page a notice recognizing new or updated susceptibility test interpretive criteria standards, or recognizing or declining to recognize parts of standards; (2) withdraw recognition of susceptibility test interpretive criteria standards, or parts of standards; and (3) make any other necessary updates to the lists published on the Susceptibility Test Interpretive Criteria web page (section 511A(c)(1)(A) of the FD&C Act). FDA has provided notices of updates on the Susceptibility Test Interpretive Criteria web page, which can be found here: <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/development-resources/notice-updates>. Interested parties may also sign up to receive emails informing them of these updates as they occur by using the link provided either on the main Susceptibility Test

Interpretive Criteria web page (<https://www.fda.gov/STIC>) or on the updates page.

Once a year, FDA is required to compile the new notices published on the Susceptibility Test Interpretive Criteria web page, publish them in the **Federal Register**, and provide for public comment (see section 511A(c)(3) of the FD&C Act). This **Federal Register** notice satisfies that requirement. If comments are received, FDA will review them and make updates to the recognized standards or susceptibility test interpretive criteria as needed.

## II. Annual Compilation of Notices, 2024: Susceptibility Test Interpretive Criteria Web Page

### A. Updates to Standards Recognition

As of May 28, 2024, the following standards are no longer recognized:

“Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI). Performance Standards for Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing, 33rd ed. CLSI supplement M100. Wayne, PA: Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute; 2023.”

As of May 28, 2024, with certain exceptions, FDA recognizes the standard published in: “Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI). Performance Standards for Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing, 34th ed. CLSI supplement M100. Wayne, PA: Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute; 2024.”

### B. Updates by Drug

TABLE 1—NOTICES OF UPDATES TO RECOGNIZED OR UPDATED SUSCEPTIBILITY TEST INTERPRETIVE CRITERIA (STIC) BY DRUG <sup>1</sup>

Drug	Route of administration	Action taken	Therapeutic category	Date
Cefepime and Enmetazobactam ....	Injection .....	FDA identified STIC (MIC and disk diffusion) for Enterobacteriales and <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> .	Antibacterial ....	2/22/2024
Cefiderocol .....	Injection .....	FDA recognizes M100 MIC standard and identifies disk diffusion STIC for <i>Stenotrophomonas maltophilia</i> . Rationale available at <a href="https://www.fda.gov/drugs/development-resources/fda-rationale-recognition-decision-cefiderocol">https://www.fda.gov/drugs/development-resources/fda-rationale-recognition-decision-cefiderocol</a> .	Antibacterial ....	11/12/2024
Ceftaroline fosamil .....	Injection .....	FDA recognizes the M100 standard (MIC and disk diffusion) for <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> . Rationale available at <a href="https://www.fda.gov/drugs/development-resources/fda-rationale-recognition-decision-ceftaroline-fosamil-0">https://www.fda.gov/drugs/development-resources/fda-rationale-recognition-decision-ceftaroline-fosamil-0</a> .	Antibacterial ....	6/25/2024
Ceftazidime .....	Injection .....	FDA concurs with CLSI to remove STIC (MIC) for <i>S. maltophilia</i> . Rationale available at <a href="https://www.fda.gov/drugs/development-resources/rationale-fdas-position-ceftazidime-breakpoints-against-stenotrophomonas-maltophilia">https://www.fda.gov/drugs/development-resources/rationale-fdas-position-ceftazidime-breakpoints-against-stenotrophomonas-maltophilia</a> .	Antibacterial ....	5/15/2024
Ceftobiprole medocaril sodium .....	Injection .....	FDA identified STIC for <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i> , and Enterobacteriales (MIC and disk diffusion), and for <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> , <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> and <i>H. parainfluenzae</i> (MIC).	Antibacterial ....	4/03/2024
Daptomycin .....	Injection .....	FDA recognizes M100 standard (MIC) for <i>Enterococcus faecium</i> and <i>Enterococcus</i> spp. other than <i>E. faecium</i> . Rationale available at <a href="https://www.fda.gov/drugs/development-resources/fda-rationale-recognition-decision-daptomycin-0">https://www.fda.gov/drugs/development-resources/fda-rationale-recognition-decision-daptomycin-0</a> .	Antibacterial ....	8/2/2024
Linezolid .....	Oral, Injection .....	FDA recognizes M100 (disk diffusion) standard for <i>S. aureus</i> .....	Antibacterial ....	5/28/2024
Piperacillin and Tazobactam .....	Injection .....	FDA has updated STIC (MIC and disk diffusion) for <i>P. aeruginosa</i> . FDA identified a susceptible-dose dependent breakpoint. FDA does not recognize M100 standard for susceptible, intermediate, and resistance breakpoints. Rationale available at <a href="https://www.fda.gov/drugs/development-resources/fda-rationale-piperacillin-tazobactam-breakpoints-pseudomonas-aeruginosa">https://www.fda.gov/drugs/development-resources/fda-rationale-piperacillin-tazobactam-breakpoints-pseudomonas-aeruginosa</a> .	Antibacterial ....	3/22/2024
Pivmecillinam .....	Oral .....	FDA recognizes M100 standard (MIC and disk diffusion) for Enterobacteriales.	Antibacterial ....	4/24/2024
Sulopenem etzadroxil and probenecid.	Oral .....	FDA identified STIC (MIC and disk diffusion) for Enterobacteriales .....	Antibacterial ....	10/25/2024
Tedizolid phosphate .....	Oral, injection .....	FDA recognizes M100 (disk diffusion) standard for <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>Streptococcus</i> spp. beta-hemolytic group, and <i>Streptococcus</i> spp. viridans group.	Antibacterial ....	5/28/2024

<sup>1</sup> M100 standard in the table refers to CLSI Performance Standards for Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing, 34th ed. CLSI supplement M100; 2024.

Dated: March 31, 2025.

P. Ritu Nalubola,

Associate Commissioner for Policy.

[FR Doc. 2025-06048 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4164-01-P

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES****Food and Drug Administration**

[Docket No. FDA-2025-N-0473]

**GE HealthCare, et al.; Withdrawal of Approval of 18 New Drug Applications****AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.**ACTION:** Notice.**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA or Agency) is withdrawing approval of 18 new drug

applications (NDAs) from multiple applicants. The applicants notified the Agency in writing that the drug products were no longer marketed and requested that the approval of the applications be withdrawn.

**DATES:** Approval is withdrawn as of May 9, 2025.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kimberly Lehrfeld, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Bldg. 51, Rm. 6226, Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002, 301-

796-3137, *Kimberly.Lehrfeld@fda.hhs.gov*.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The applicants listed in table 1 have informed FDA that these drug products are no longer marketed and have requested that FDA withdraw approval of the applications under the process in § 314.150(c) (21 CFR 314.150(c)). The applicants have also, by their requests, waived their opportunity for a hearing. Withdrawal of approval of an application or abbreviated application under § 314.150(c) is without prejudice to refiling.

TABLE 1—NDAS FOR WHICH APPROVAL IS WITHDRAWN

Application No.	Drug	Applicant
NDA 011386 .....	Hypaque (diatrizoate sodium) for solution, 100%. Hypaque (diatrizoate sodium) solution, 40%.	GE HealthCare, 251 Locke Dr., Marlborough, MA 01752.
NDA 017944 .....	MPI DMSA Kidney Reagent (technetium Tc 99m succimer kit), injectable.	Do.
NDA 018045 .....	Emcyt (estramustine phosphate sodium) capsule, equivalent to (EQ) 140 milligrams (mg) phosphate.	Pfizer Inc., 66 Hudson Blvd. East, New York, NY 10001.
NDA 018141 .....	Technetium Tc 99m MPI MDP (technetium Tc-99m medronate kit), injectable.	GE HealthCare.
NDA 019697 .....	Ortho Tri-Cyclen (ethynodiol diacetate and norgestimate, 0.035 mg/0.180 mg; ethynodiol diacetate and norgestimate, 0.035 mg/0.215 mg; ethynodiol diacetate and norgestimate, 0.035 mg/0.250 mg) tablets.	Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 1125 Trenton-Harbourton Rd., Titusville, NJ 08560.
NDA 019862 .....	Indiclor (indium In-111 chloride) injectable, 2 millicurie/0.2 milliliters (mL).	GE HealthCare.
NDA 019937 .....	Adenocard (adenosine) injectable, 3 mg/mL .....	Astellas Pharma US, Inc., 1 Astellas Way, Northbrook, IL 60062.
NDA 020357 .....	Glucophage (metformin hydrochloride (HCl) tablets, 500 mg, 625 mg, 750 mg, 850 mg, and 1 g.	EMD Serono, Inc., 200 Pier 4 Blvd., Suite 300, Boston, MA 02210.
NDA 020489 .....	Androderm (testosterone) extended-release transdermal film, 1 mg/24 hours (h), 2.5 mg/24 h, 4 mg/24 h, and 5 mg/24 h.	AbbVie Inc., 1 N Waukegan Rd., North Chicago, IL 60064.
NDA 020613 .....	Alphagan (brimonidine tartrate) solution/drops, 0.2% .....	Allergan, Inc., 2525 Dupont Dr., Irvine, CA 92612.
NDA 021145 .....	Vaniqa (eflornithine HCl) cream, 13.9% .....	AbbVie Inc.
NDA 021202 .....	Glucophage XR (metformin HCl), extended-release tablets, 500 mg and 750 mg.	EMD Serono, Inc.
NDA 021565 .....	Elestat (epinastine HCl) ophthalmic solution/drops, 0.05% .....	Allergan, Inc.
NDA 021756 .....	Macugen (pegaptanib sodium) intravitreal injectable, EQ 0.3 mg acid/0.09 mL.	Bausch & Lomb Inc., 400 Somerset Corporate Blvd., Bridgewater, NJ 08807.
NDA 201152 .....	Viramune XR (nevirapine) extended-release tablets, 100 mg and 400 mg.	Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 900 Ridgebury Road, P.O. Box 368, Ridgefield, CT 06877.
NDA 203585 .....	Synribo (omacetaxine mepesuccinate) powder for subcutaneous injection, 3.5 mg/vial.	Teva Pharmaceuticals GmbH, C/O Teva Branded Pharmaceuticals Products R&D, 145 Brandywine Parkway, West Chester, PA 19380.
NDA 208424 .....	GoNitro (nitroglycerin) sublingual powder, 0.4 mg/packet .....	G. Pohl-Boskamp GmbH & Co. KG, C/O Allegis Pharmaceuticals, LLC, 276 Nissan Parkway F100, Canton, MS 39046.
NDA 212121 .....	Potassium Phosphates (potassium phosphate, dibasic and potassium phosphate, monobasic) solution, 4.5 g/15 mL (300 mg/mL), and 2.65 g/15 mL (175 mg/mL).	CMP Development LLC, 8026 East Marlboro Rd., Farmville, NC 27828.

Therefore, approval of the applications listed in table 1, and all amendments and supplements thereto, is hereby withdrawn as of May 9, 2025. Approval of each entire application is withdrawn, including any strengths and dosage forms included in the application but inadvertently missing from table 1. Introduction or delivery for introduction into interstate commerce of products listed in table 1 without an

approved NDA violates sections 505(a) and 301(d) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(a) and 331(d)). Drug products that are listed in table 1 that are in inventory on May 9, 2025 may continue to be dispensed until the inventories have been depleted or the drug products have reached their expiration dates or otherwise become violative, whichever occurs first.

Dated: March 31, 2025.

**P. Ritu Nalubola,**

*Associate Commissioner for Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06045 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4164-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES****Food and Drug Administration**

[Docket No. FDA-2024-D-5376]

**Type VII Veterinary Master File for Research and Development and Risk Reviews; Draft Guidance for Industry; Reopening of the Comment Period****AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.**ACTION:** Notice of availability; reopening of the comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA or the Agency) is reopening the comment period for the notice announcing the availability of a draft guidance for industry (GFI) that appeared in the **Federal Register** of January 7, 2025. In that notice, FDA requested comments on draft GFI #260 entitled “Type VII Veterinary Master File for Research and Development and Risk Reviews.” The Agency is taking this action in response to a request for an extension to allow interested persons additional time to submit comments before the agency begins work on the final version of the guidance.

**DATES:** FDA is reopening the comment period on the notice of availability published January 7, 2025 (90 FR 1143). Submit either electronic or written comments by June 9, 2025 to ensure that the Agency considers your comments on this draft guidance before it begins work on the final version of the guidance.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on any guidance at any time as follows:

*Electronic Submissions*

Submit electronic comments in the following way:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Comments submitted electronically, including attachments, to <https://www.regulations.gov> will be posted to the docket unchanged. Because your comment will be made public, you are solely responsible for ensuring that your comment does not include any confidential information that you or a third party may not wish to be posted, such as medical information, your or anyone else's Social Security number, or confidential business information, such as a manufacturing process. Please note that if you include your name, contact information, or other information that identifies you in the body of your comments, that information will be posted on <https://www.regulations.gov>.

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do not wish to be made available to the public, submit the comment as a written/paper submission and in the manner detailed (see “Written/Paper Submissions” and “Instructions”).

*Written/Paper Submissions*

Submit written/paper submissions as follows:

- *Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier (for written/paper submissions):* Dockets Management Staff (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.
- For written/paper comments submitted to the Dockets Management Staff, FDA will post your comment, as well as any attachments, except for information submitted, marked and identified, as confidential, if submitted as detailed in “Instructions.”

**Instructions:** All submissions received must include the Docket No. FDA-2024-D-5376 for “Type VII Veterinary Master File for Research and Development and Risk Reviews.” Received comments will be placed in the docket and, except for those submitted as “Confidential Submissions,” publicly viewable at <https://www.regulations.gov> or at the Dockets Management Staff between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, 240-402-7500.

- **Confidential Submissions**—To submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made publicly available, submit your comments only as a written/paper submission. You should submit two copies total. One copy will include the information you claim to be confidential with a heading or cover note that states “THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.” The Agency will review this copy, including the claimed confidential information, in its consideration of comments. The second copy, which will have the claimed confidential information redacted/blacked out, will be available for public viewing and posted on <https://www.regulations.gov>. Submit both copies to the Dockets Management Staff. If you do not wish your name and contact information to be made publicly available, you can provide this information on the cover sheet and not in the body of your comments and you must identify this information as “confidential.” Any information marked as “confidential” will not be disclosed except in accordance with 21 CFR 10.20 and other applicable disclosure law. For more information about FDA’s posting of comments to public dockets, see 80 FR 56469, September 18, 2015, or access the information at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2015-09-18/pdf/2015-23389.pdf>.

[www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2015-09-18/pdf/2015-23389.pdf](https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2015-09-18/pdf/2015-23389.pdf).

**Docket:** For access to the docket to read background documents or the electronic and written/paper comments received, go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and insert the docket number, found in brackets in the heading of this document, into the “Search” box and follow the prompts and/or go to the Dockets Management Staff, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852, 240-402-7500.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Lynne Boxer, Center for Veterinary Medicine, Food and Drug, Food and Drug Administration, 7500 Standish Pl., Rockville, MD 20855, 240-402-0611, [lynne.boxer@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:lynne.boxer@fda.hhs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In the **Federal Register** of January 7, 2025, FDA published a notice announcing the availability of a draft GFI entitled “Type VII Veterinary Master File for Research and Development and Risk Reviews.” Interested persons were originally given until March 10, 2025, to comment on the draft guidance.

The Agency received a request for a 60-day extension of the comment period for the draft guidance. The requestor indicated they needed more time to complete development of comments to submit in response to the draft guidance. FDA has considered the request and is reopening the comment period for the draft guidance for 60 days until June 9, 2025. The Agency believes that a 60-day reopening of the comment period allows adequate time for interested persons to submit comments to ensure that the agency can consider the comments on this draft guidance before it begins work on the final version of the guidance.

Dated: March 28, 2025.

**P. Ritu Nalubola,**

*Associate Commissioner for Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06047 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4164-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES****Food and Drug Administration**

[Docket No. FDA-2024-P-5232]

**Determination That ETHYOL (Amifostine) for Injection, 500 Milligrams/Vial, Was Not Withdrawn From Sale for Reasons of Safety or Effectiveness****AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA, the Agency, or we) has determined that ETHYOL (amifostine) for injection, 500 milligrams (mg)/vial, was not withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness. This determination means that FDA will not begin procedures to withdraw approval of abbreviated new drug applications (ANDAs) that refer to this drug product, and it will allow FDA to continue to approve ANDAs that refer to the product as long as they meet relevant legal and regulatory requirements.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Helen Ryan, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Bldg. 51, Rm. 6206, Silver Spring, MD 20993–0002, 301–796–1328, [helen.ryan@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:helen.ryan@fda.hhs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 505(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) (21 U.S.C. 355(j)) allows the submission of an ANDA to market a generic version of a previously approved drug product. To obtain approval, the ANDA applicant must show, among other things, that the generic drug product: (1) has the same active ingredient(s), dosage form, route of administration, strength, conditions of use, and (with certain exceptions) labeling as the listed drug, which is a version of the drug that was previously approved, and (2) is bioequivalent to the listed drug. ANDA applicants do not have to repeat the extensive clinical testing otherwise necessary to gain approval of a new drug application (NDA).

Section 505(j)(7) of the FD&C Act requires FDA to publish a list of all approved drugs. FDA publishes this list as part of the “Approved Drug Products With Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations,” which is known generally as the “Orange Book.” Under FDA regulations, drugs are removed from the list if the Agency withdraws or suspends approval of the drug’s NDA or ANDA for reasons of safety or effectiveness or if FDA determines that the listed drug was withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness (21 CFR 314.162).

A person may petition the Agency to determine, or the Agency may determine on its own initiative, whether a listed drug was withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness. This determination may be made at any time after the drug has been withdrawn from sale, but must be made prior to approving an ANDA that refers to the listed drug (§ 314.161 (21 CFR 314.161)).

FDA may not approve an ANDA that does not refer to a listed drug.

ETHYOL (amifostine) for injection, 500 mg/vial, is the subject of NDA 020221, held by Cosette Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and initially approved on December 8, 1995. ETHYOL is a cytoprotective agent indicated for reduction of cumulative renal toxicity associated with repeated administration of cisplatin in patients with advanced ovarian cancer. ETHYOL is also indicated for reduction of the incidence of moderate to severe xerostomia in patients undergoing post-operative radiation treatment for head and neck cancer, where the radiation port includes a substantial portion of the parotid glands.

ETHYOL (amifostine) for injection, 500 mg/vial, is currently listed in the “Discontinued Drug Product List” section of the Orange Book.

Seacross Pharma USA, Inc. submitted a citizen petition dated November 5, 2024 (Docket No. FDA–2024–P–5232), under 21 CFR 10.30, requesting that the Agency determine whether ETHYOL (amifostine) for injection, 500 mg/vial, was withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness.

After considering the citizen petition and reviewing Agency records and based on the information we have at this time, FDA has determined under § 314.161 that ETHYOL (amifostine) for injection, 500 mg/vial, was not withdrawn for reasons of safety or effectiveness. The petitioner has identified no data or other information suggesting that this drug product was withdrawn for reasons of safety or effectiveness. We have carefully reviewed our files for records concerning the withdrawal of ETHYOL (amifostine) for injection, 500 mg/vial, from sale. We have also independently evaluated relevant literature and data for possible postmarketing adverse events. We have found no information that would indicate that this drug product was withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness.

Accordingly, the Agency will continue to list ETHYOL (amifostine) for injection, 500 mg/vial, in the “Discontinued Drug Product List” section of the Orange Book. The “Discontinued Drug Product List” delineates, among other items, drug products that have been discontinued from marketing for reasons other than safety or effectiveness. FDA will not begin procedures to withdraw approval of approved ANDAs that refer to this drug product. Additional ANDAs for this drug product may also be approved by the Agency as long as they meet all other legal and regulatory requirements

for the approval of ANDAs. If FDA determines that labeling for this drug product should be revised to meet current standards, the Agency will advise ANDA applicants to submit such labeling.

Dated: March 31, 2025.

**P. Ritu Nalubola,**

*Associate Commissioner for Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2025–06044 Filed 4–8–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4164–01–P

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. FDA–2024–P–4158]

**Determination That DECADRON (Dexamethasone Sodium Phosphate) Solution/Drops, Equivalent to 0.1 Percent Phosphate, Was Not Withdrawn From Sale for Reasons of Safety or Effectiveness**

**AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA, Agency, or we) has determined that DECADRON (dexamethasone sodium phosphate) solution/drops, equivalent to (EQ) 0.1 percent phosphate, was not withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness. This determination means that FDA will not begin procedures to withdraw approval of abbreviated new drug applications (ANDAs) that refer to this drug product, and it will allow FDA to continue to approve ANDAs that refer to the product as long as they meet relevant legal and regulatory requirements.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Michelle Weiner, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Bldg. 51, Rm. 6208, Silver Spring, MD 20993–0002, 240–402–0374, [michelle.weiner@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:michelle.weiner@fda.hhs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 505(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) (21 U.S.C. 355(j)) allows the submission of an ANDA to market a generic version of a previously approved drug product. To obtain approval, the ANDA applicant must show, among other things, that the generic drug product: (1) has the same active ingredient(s), dosage form, route of administration, strength, conditions of use, and (with certain exceptions) labeling as the listed drug, which is a version of the drug that was previously approved, and (2) is bioequivalent to the listed drug.

listed drug. ANDA applicants do not have to repeat the extensive clinical testing otherwise necessary to gain approval of a new drug application (NDA).

Section 505(j)(7) of the FD&C Act requires FDA to publish a list of all approved drugs. FDA publishes this list as part of the “Approved Drug Products With Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations,” which is known generally as the “Orange Book.” Under FDA regulations, drugs are removed from the list if the Agency withdraws or suspends approval of the drug’s NDA or ANDA for reasons of safety or effectiveness or if FDA determines that the listed drug was withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness (21 CFR 314.162).

A person may petition the Agency to determine, or the Agency may determine on its own initiative, whether a listed drug was withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness. This determination may be made at any time after the drug has been withdrawn from sale but must be made prior to approving an ANDA that refers to the listed drug (§ 314.161 (21 CFR 314.161)). FDA may not approve an ANDA that does not refer to a listed drug.

DECADRON (dexamethasone sodium phosphate) solution/drops, EQ 0.1 percent phosphate, is the subject of NDA 011984, held by Merck and Co., Inc., and initially approved on September 2, 1959. DECADRON is indicated for the treatment of the following conditions: Ophthalmic: Steroid responsive inflammatory conditions of the palpebral and bulbar conjunctiva, cornea, and anterior segment of the globe, such as allergic conjunctivitis, acne rosacea, superficial punctate keratitis, herpes zoster keratitis, iritis, cyclitis, selected infective conjunctivitis when the inherent hazard of steroid use is accepted to obtain an advisable diminution in edema and inflammation; corneal injury from chemical or thermal burns, or penetration of foreign bodies; and Otic: Steroid responsive inflammatory conditions of the external auditory meatus, such as allergic otitis externa, selected purulent and nonpurulent infective otitis externa when the hazard of steroid use is accepted to obtain an advisable diminution in edema and inflammation.

DECADRON (dexamethasone sodium phosphate) solution/drops, EQ 0.1 percent phosphate, is currently listed in the “Discontinued Drug Product List” section of the Orange Book.

Odin Pharmaceuticals, LLC, submitted a citizen petition dated August 30, 2024 (Docket No. FDA-

2024-P-4158), under 21 CFR 10.30, requesting that the Agency determine whether DECADRON (dexamethasone sodium phosphate) solution/drops, EQ 0.1 percent phosphate, was withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness.

After considering the citizen petition and reviewing Agency records and based on the information we have at this time, FDA has determined under § 314.161 that DECADRON (dexamethasone sodium phosphate) solution/drops, EQ 0.1 percent phosphate, was not withdrawn for reasons of safety or effectiveness. The petitioner has identified no data or other information suggesting that DECADRON (dexamethasone sodium phosphate) solution/drops, EQ 0.1 percent phosphate, was withdrawn for reasons of safety or effectiveness. We have carefully reviewed our files for records concerning the withdrawal of DECADRON (dexamethasone sodium phosphate), solution/drops, EQ 0.1 percent phosphate, from sale. We have also independently evaluated relevant literature and data for possible postmarketing adverse events. We have found no information that would indicate that this drug product was withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness.

Accordingly, the Agency will continue to list DECADRON (dexamethasone sodium phosphate) solution/drops, EQ 0.1 percent phosphate, in the “Discontinued Drug Product List” section of the Orange Book. The “Discontinued Drug Product List” delineates, among other items, drug products that have been discontinued from marketing for reasons other than safety or effectiveness. FDA will not begin procedures to withdraw approval of approved ANDAs that refer to this drug product. Additional ANDAs for this drug product may also be approved by the Agency as long as they meet all other legal and regulatory requirements for the approval of ANDAs. If FDA determines that labeling for this drug product should be revised to meet current standards, the Agency will advise ANDA applicants to submit such labeling.

Dated: March 31, 2025.

**P. Ritu Nalubola,**

*Associate Commissioner for Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06046 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4164-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. FDA-2024-P-4293]

### Determination That NASCOBAL (Cyanocobalamin) Nasal Spray, 0.5 Milligram/Spray, Was Not Withdrawn From Sale for Reasons of Safety or Effectiveness

**AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA, Agency, or we) has determined that NASCOBAL (cyanocobalamin) nasal spray, 0.5 milligram (mg)/spray, was not withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness. This determination means that FDA will not begin procedures to withdraw approval of abbreviated new drug applications (ANDAs) that refer to this drug product, and it will allow FDA to continue to approve ANDAs that refer to the product as long as they meet relevant legal and regulatory requirements.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Helen Ryan, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Bldg. 51, Rm. 6206, Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002, 301-796-1328, [helen.ryan@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:helen.ryan@fda.hhs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 505(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) (21 U.S.C. 355(j)) allows the submission of an ANDA to market a generic version of a previously approved drug product. To obtain approval, the ANDA applicant must show, among other things, that the generic drug product: (1) has the same active ingredient(s), dosage form, route of administration, strength, conditions of use, and (with certain exceptions) labeling as the listed drug, which is a version of the drug that was previously approved, and (2) is bioequivalent to the listed drug. ANDA applicants do not have to repeat the extensive clinical testing otherwise necessary to gain approval of a new drug application (NDA).

Section 505(j)(7) of the FD&C Act requires FDA to publish a list of all approved drugs. FDA publishes this list as part of the “Approved Drug Products With Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations,” which is known generally as the “Orange Book.” Under FDA regulations, drugs are removed from the list if the Agency withdraws or suspends approval of the drug’s NDA or

ANDA for reasons of safety or effectiveness or if FDA determines that the listed drug was withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness (21 CFR 314.162).

A person may petition the Agency to determine, or the Agency may determine on its own initiative, whether a listed drug was withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness. This determination may be made at any time after the drug has been withdrawn from sale but must be made prior to approving an ANDA that refers to the listed drug (§ 314.161 (21 CFR 314.161)). FDA may not approve an ANDA that does not refer to a listed drug.

NASCOBAL (cyanocobalamin) nasal spray, 0.5 mg/spray, is the subject of NDA 021642, held by Endo Operations Ltd., and initially approved on January 31, 2005. NASCOBAL is a vitamin B12 indicated for vitamin B12 maintenance therapy in adult patients with pernicious anemia who are in remission following intramuscular vitamin B12 therapy and who have no nervous system involvement; treatment of adult patients with dietary, drug-induced, or malabsorption-related vitamin B12 deficiency not due to pernicious anemia; and prevention of vitamin B12 deficiency in adult patients with vitamin B12 requirements in excess of normal.

In a letter dated July 26, 2024, Endo Operations Ltd. notified FDA that NASCOBAL (cyanocobalamin) nasal spray, 0.5 mg/spray, was being discontinued, and FDA moved the drug product to the “Discontinued Drug Product List” section of the Orange Book.

Robert van Osdel submitted a citizen petition dated September 7, 2024 (Docket No. FDA-2024-P-4293), under 21 CFR 10.30, requesting that the Agency determine whether NASCOBAL (cyanocobalamin) nasal spray, 0.5 mg/spray, was withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness.

After considering the citizen petition and reviewing Agency records and based on the information we have at this time, FDA has determined under § 314.161 that NASCOBAL (cyanocobalamin) nasal spray, 0.5 mg/spray, was not withdrawn for reasons of safety or effectiveness. The petitioner has identified no data or other information suggesting that this drug product was withdrawn for reasons of safety or effectiveness. We have carefully reviewed our files for records concerning the withdrawal of NASCOBAL (cyanocobalamin) nasal spray, 0.5 mg/spray, from sale. We have also independently evaluated relevant literature and data for possible

postmarketing adverse events. We have found no information that would indicate that this drug product was withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness.

Accordingly, the Agency will continue to list NASCOBAL (cyanocobalamin) nasal spray, 0.5 mg/spray, in the “Discontinued Drug Product List” section of the Orange Book. The “Discontinued Drug Product List” delineates, among other items, drug products that have been discontinued from marketing for reasons other than safety or effectiveness. FDA will not begin procedures to withdraw approval of approved ANDAs that refer to this drug product. Additional ANDAs for this drug product may also be approved by the Agency as long as they meet all other legal and regulatory requirements for the approval of ANDAs. If FDA determines that labeling for this drug product should be revised to meet current standards, the Agency will advise ANDA applicants to submit such labeling.

Dated: March 31, 2025.

**P. Ritu Nalubola,**  
Associate Commissioner for Policy.  
[FR Doc. 2025-06043 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 4164-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. FDA-2025-N-0129]

### Electronic Study Data Submission; Data Standards; Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium Dataset-JavaScript Object Notation; Request for Comments

**AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA or Agency) is exploring Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium (CDISC) Dataset-JavaScript Object Notation (Dataset-JSON) version 1.1 as a new exchange standard, with the long-term potential to replace Statistical Analysis System (SAS) version 5 XPORT Transport Format (XPT), for submission of electronic study data to the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) and the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER). FDA is requesting comments on whether to accept Dataset-JSON to exchange electronic study data as part of regulatory applications in the future. In

particular, FDA is requesting feedback on the risks and benefits of industry adopting Dataset-JSON as a new exchange standard for submitting electronic study data to FDA and any integration challenges with existing tools and systems.

**DATES:** Either electronic or written comments must be submitted by June 9, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments as follows. Please note that late, untimely filed comments will not be considered. The <https://www.regulations.gov> electronic filing system will accept comments until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time at the end of June 9, 2025. Comments received by mail/hand delivery/courier (for written/paper submissions) will be considered timely if they are received on or before that date.

### Electronic Submissions

Submit electronic comments in the following way:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Comments submitted electronically, including attachments, to <https://www.regulations.gov> will be posted to the docket unchanged. Because your comment will be made public, you are solely responsible for ensuring that your comment does not include any confidential information that you or a third party may not wish to be posted, such as medical information, your or anyone else's Social Security number, or confidential business information, such as a manufacturing process. Please note that if you include your name, contact information, or other information that identifies you in the body of your comments, that information will be posted on <https://www.regulations.gov>.

- If you want to submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made available to the public, submit the comment as a written/paper submission and in the manner detailed (see “Written/Paper Submissions” and “Instructions”).

### Written/Paper Submissions

Submit written/paper submissions as follows:

- **Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier (for written/paper submissions):** Dockets Management Staff (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.
- For written/paper comments submitted to the Dockets Management Staff, FDA will post your comment, as well as any attachments, except for information submitted, marked and

identified, as confidential, if submitted as detailed in "Instructions."

**Instructions:** All submissions received must include the Docket No. FDA-2025-N-0129 for "Electronic Study Data Submission; Data Standards; Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium Dataset-JavaScript Object Notation; Request for Comments." Received comments, those filed in a timely manner (see **ADDRESSES**), will be placed in the docket and, except for those submitted as "Confidential Submissions," publicly viewable at <https://www.regulations.gov> or at the Dockets Management Staff between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, 240-402-7500.

- Confidential Submissions—To submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made publicly available, submit your comments only as a written/paper submission. You should submit two copies total. One copy will include the information you claim to be confidential with a heading or cover note that states "THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION." The Agency will review this copy, including the claimed confidential information, in its consideration of comments. The second copy, which will have the claimed confidential information redacted/blacked out, will be available for public viewing and posted on <https://www.regulations.gov>. Submit both copies to the Dockets Management Staff. If you do not wish your name and contact information to be made publicly available, you can provide this information on the cover sheet and not in the body of your comments and you must identify this information as "confidential." Any information marked as "confidential" will not be disclosed except in accordance with 21 CFR 10.20 and other applicable disclosure law. For more information about FDA's posting of comments to public dockets, see 80 FR 56469, September 18, 2015, or access the information at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2015-09-18/pdf/2015-23389.pdf>.

**Docket:** For access to the docket to read background documents or the electronic and written/paper comments received, go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and insert the docket number, found in brackets in the heading of this document, into the "Search" box and follow the prompts and/or go to the Dockets Management Staff, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852, 240-402-7500.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Chenoa Conley, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and

Drug Administration, *Chenoa.Conley@fda.hhs.gov*, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Bldg. 32, Rm. 3158, Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002, 301-796-0035; or James Myers, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, *James.Myers@fda.hhs.gov*, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Bldg. 71, Rm. 7301, Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002, 240-402-7911.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### **Background**

In recent years, JSON has become a universal format within the global web and is the preferred choice for a variety of publicly available web services. While JSON is a standard for data exchange, Dataset-JSON is a JSON-based schema specifically designed for exchanging tabular datasets that is based on CDISC Dataset-JSON version 1.0 with enhancements, including smaller file sizes, additional metadata, and simpler processing. CDISC Dataset-JSON supports file and Application Programming Interface based data exchange, is widely supported across technologies, and can link to Define-XML for additional metadata.

In 2022, the Agency completed a high-level assessment on the costs and benefits of a potential transition to a modern data exchange format. Options evaluated included SAS version 8 XPT, Extensible Markup Language, and JSON. The assessment findings were based on a weighted evaluation of Agency requirements, which indicated JSON as the optimal modern format with the potential to serve as a replacement to SAS version 5 XPT. From September 2023 to April 2024, FDA collaborated with the CDISC and Pharmaceutical Users Software Exchange (PHUSE) to execute a pilot that tested the feasibility of using CDISC Dataset-JSON as a transport format for study data submitted with regulatory applications. The CDISC-PHUSE pilot results demonstrated that CDISC Dataset-JSON has the potential to serve as a transport file for study data. For additional information on the CDISC-PHUSE pilot titled "Dataset-JSON as an Alternative Transport Format for Regulatory Submissions: Final Pilot Report" can be found at: <https://phuse.s3.eu-central-1.amazonaws.com/Deliverables/Optimizing+the+Use+of+Data+Standards/WP-88+Dataset-JSON+Report.pdf>.

JSON has become ubiquitous on the web and is the most commonly used format to represent Health Level Seven/Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resource, the standard specified for the use of electronic healthcare records by the Assistant Secretary for Technology

Policy and Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.

Through this notice, FDA is requesting comments from industry on adoption risks and benefits and any integration challenges with existing tools and systems associated with the use of Dataset-JSON to exchange electronic study data as part of regulatory applications. A future transition to Dataset-JSON is being considered to improve the Agency's ability to receive and process regulatory submission information and ensure alignment with the FDA's Data Modernization Action Plan. More information about the FDA Data Modernization Action Plan can be found at: <https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/reports/data-modernization-action-plan>. FDA understands that any potential change to the current regulatory submission requirements could have a significant impact on the industry. As such, the Agency is open to future engagements with industry and vendors through further testing initiatives utilizing CDISC Dataset-JSON.

If the Agency makes the decision to adopt Dataset-JSON as the new format for electronic submissions in the future, the Agency intends to do so in accordance with the final guidance titled "Providing Regulatory Submissions in Electronic Format—Standardized Study Data" (available at: <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/providing-regulatory-submissions-electronic-format-standardized-study-data>), which implements electronic submission requirements of section 745A(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379k-1(a)) for study data contained in new drug applications, abbreviated new drug applications, biologics license applications, and investigational new drug applications submitted to CDER or CBER by specifying the format for electronic submissions.

Dated: March 28, 2025.

**P. Ritu Nalubola,**

*Associate Commissioner for Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06051 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4164-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES****Food and Drug Administration**

[Docket No. FDA-2024-N-5964]

**Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc., et al.; Withdrawal of Approval of 23 Abbreviated New Drug Applications; Correction**

**AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice; correction.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is correcting a notice that appeared in the **Federal Register** on January 15, 2025. The document announced the withdrawal of approval of 23 abbreviated new drug applications (ANDAs) from multiple applicants, withdrawn as of February 14, 2025. The document indicated that FDA was withdrawing approval of the ANDA 209325 for miglustat capsule, 100 milligrams, held by Breckenridge Pharmaceutical, Inc., 15 Massirio Dr., Suite 201, Berlin, CT 06037. Before FDA withdrew the approval of this ANDA, Breckenridge Pharmaceutical, Inc. informed FDA that they did not want the approval of the ANDA withdrawn. Because Breckenridge Pharmaceutical, Inc., timely requested that approval of ANDA 209325 not be withdrawn, the approval is still in effect. This notice corrects this error.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Martha Nguyen, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Bldg. 75, Rm. 1676, Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002, 301-796-3471, [Martha.Nguyen@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Martha.Nguyen@fda.hhs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Correction**

In the **Federal Register** of Wednesday, January 15, 2025 (90 FR 3876), appearing on page 3877 in FR Doc. 2025-00742, the following correction is made:

On page 3877, in the table, the entry for ANDA 209325 is removed.

Dated: March 31, 2025.

**P. Ritu Nalubola,**

*Associate Commissioner for Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06052 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4164-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES****Food and Drug Administration**

[Docket No. FDA-2025-P-0100]

**Determination That VIBRAMYCIN (Doxycycline) for Oral Suspension, Equivalent 25 Milligrams Base/5 Milliliter, Was Not Withdrawn From Sale for Reasons of Safety or Effectiveness**

**AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA, Agency, or we) has determined that VIBRAMYCIN (doxycycline) for oral suspension, equivalent (EQ) 25 milligrams (mg) base/5 milliliters (mL), was not withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness. This determination means that FDA will not begin procedures to withdraw approval of abbreviated new drug applications (ANDAs) that refer to this drug product, and it will allow FDA to continue to approve ANDAs that refer to the product as long as they meet relevant legal and regulatory requirements.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Madeleine Giaquinto, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Bldg. 51, Rm. 6219, Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002, 240-863-8976, [Madeleine.Giaquinto@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Madeleine.Giaquinto@fda.hhs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 505(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) (21 U.S.C. 355(j)) allows the submission of an ANDA to market a generic version of a previously approved drug product. To obtain approval, the ANDA applicant must show, among other things, that the generic drug product: (1) has the same active ingredient(s), dosage form, route of administration, strength, conditions of use, and (with certain exceptions) labeling as the listed drug, which is a version of the drug that was previously approved, and (2) is bioequivalent to the listed drug. ANDA applicants do not have to repeat the extensive clinical testing otherwise necessary to gain approval of a new drug application (NDA).

Section 505(j)(7) of the FD&C Act requires FDA to publish a list of all approved drugs. FDA publishes this list as part of the “Approved Drug Products With Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations,” which is known generally as the “Orange Book.” Under FDA

regulations, drugs are removed from the list if the Agency withdraws or suspends approval of the drug’s NDA or ANDA for reasons of safety or effectiveness or if FDA determines that the listed drug was withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness (21 CFR 314.162).

A person may petition the Agency to determine, or the Agency may determine on its own initiative, whether a listed drug was withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness. This determination may be made at any time after the drug has been withdrawn from sale but must be made prior to approving an ANDA that refers to the listed drug (§ 314.161 (21 CFR 314.161)). FDA may not approve an ANDA that does not refer to a listed drug.

VIBRAMYCIN (doxycycline) for oral suspension, EQ 25 mg base/5 mL, is the subject of NDA 050006, held by Pfizer Inc., and initially approved on December 6, 1967. VIBRAMYCIN is indicated for the treatment of infections as specified in its labeling.

VIBRAMYCIN (doxycycline) for oral suspension, EQ 25 mg base/5 mL, is currently listed in the “Discontinued Drug Product List” section of the Orange Book.

Strides Pharma Inc., submitted a citizen petition dated January 8, 2025 (Docket No. FDA-2025-P-0100), under 21 CFR 10.30, requesting that the Agency determine whether VIBRAMYCIN (doxycycline) for oral suspension, EQ 25 mg base/5 mL, was withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness.

After considering the citizen petition and reviewing Agency records and based on the information we have at this time, FDA has determined under § 314.161 that VIBRAMYCIN (doxycycline) for oral suspension, EQ 25 mg base/5 mL, was not withdrawn for reasons of safety or effectiveness. The petitioner has identified no data or other information suggesting that VIBRAMYCIN (doxycycline) for oral suspension, EQ 25 mg base/5 mL, was withdrawn for reasons of safety or effectiveness. We have carefully reviewed our files for records concerning the withdrawal of VIBRAMYCIN (doxycycline) for oral suspension, EQ 25 mg base/5 mL, from sale. We have also independently evaluated relevant literature and data for possible postmarketing adverse events. We have found no information that would indicate that this drug product was withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness.

Accordingly, the Agency will continue to list VIBRAMYCIN (doxycycline) for oral suspension, EQ 25

mg base/5 mL, in the “Discontinued Drug Product List” section of the Orange Book. The “Discontinued Drug Product List” delineates, among other items, drug products that have been discontinued from marketing for reasons other than safety or effectiveness. FDA will not begin procedures to withdraw approval of approved ANDAs that refer to this drug product. Additional ANDAs for this drug product may also be approved by the Agency as long as they meet all other legal and regulatory requirements for the approval of ANDAs. If FDA determines that labeling for this drug product should be revised to meet current standards, the Agency will advise ANDA applicants to submit such labeling.

Dated: March 31, 2025.

**P. Ritu Nalubola,**

*Associate Commissioner for Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06053 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4164-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke; Notice of Closed Meetings

Pursuant to section 1009 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of the following meetings.

The meetings will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant and cooperative agreement applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

*Name of Committee:* National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Special Emphasis Panel; Novel Preclinical models of Neuro-HIV.

*Date:* May 8–9, 2025.

*Time:* 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Address:* National Institutes of Health, Neuroscience Center, 6001 Executive Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20852.

*Meeting Format:* Virtual Meeting.

*Contact Person:* Surojeet Sengupta, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Scientific Review Branch, Division of Extramural Activities, NINDS/NIH/DHHS, 6001 Executive

Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-496-9223, [surojeet.sengupta@nih.gov](mailto:surojeet.sengupta@nih.gov).

*Name of Committee:* National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Special Emphasis Panel; Optimization of Genome Editing Therapeutics for ADRD (U01) Review.

*Date:* May 12, 2025.

*Time:* 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate cooperative agreement applications.

*Address:* National Institutes of Health, Neuroscience Center, 6001 Executive Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20852.

*Meeting Format:* Virtual Meeting.

*Contact Person:* Eric S. Tucker, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Scientific Review Branch, Division of Extramural Activities, NINDS/NIH/DHHS, 6001 Executive Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-827-0799, [eric.tucker@nih.gov](mailto:eric.tucker@nih.gov).

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.853, Clinical Research Related to Neurological Disorders; 93.854, Biological Basis Research in the Neurosciences, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

*Date:* April 4, 2025.

**David W. Freeman,**

*Supervisory Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06090 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### Center for Scientific Review; Notice of Closed Meetings

Pursuant to section 1009 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of the following meetings.

The meetings will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

*Name of Committee:* Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; PAR Panel; Academic-Industrial Partnerships for Translation of Technologies.

*Date:* June 4–5, 2025.

*Time:* 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Address:* National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

*Meeting Format:* Virtual Meeting.

*Contact Person:* Jennifer Ann Sanders, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 496-3553, [jennifer.sanders@nih.gov](mailto:jennifer.sanders@nih.gov).

*Name of Committee:* Emerging Technologies and Training Neurosciences Integrated Review Group; Molecular Neurogenetics Study Section.

*Date:* June 5–6, 2025.

*Time:* 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Address:* National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

*Meeting Format:* Virtual Meeting.

*Contact Person:* Mary G. Schueler, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5214, MSC 7846, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-915-6301, [marygs@csr.nih.gov](mailto:marygs@csr.nih.gov).

*Name of Committee:* Vascular and Hematology Integrated Review Group; Atherosclerosis and Vascular Inflammation Study Section.

*Date:* June 5–6, 2025.

*Time:* 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Address:* National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

*Meeting Format:* Virtual Meeting.

*Contact Person:* Natalia Komissarova, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5207, MSC 7846, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1206, [komissar@mail.nih.gov](mailto:komissar@mail.nih.gov).

*Name of Committee:* Applied Therapeutics for Cancer Integrated Review Group; Radiation Therapeutics and Biology Study Section.

*Date:* June 9–10, 2025.

*Time:* 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Address:* National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

*Meeting Format:* Virtual Meeting.

*Contact Person:* Bo Hong, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 6194, MSC 7804, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-996-6208, [hongb@csr.nih.gov](mailto:hongb@csr.nih.gov).

*Name of Committee:* Cell Biology Integrated Review Group; Development—2 Study Section.

*Date:* June 9–10, 2025.

*Time:* 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Address:* National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

*Meeting Format:* Virtual Meeting.

*Contact Person:* Rass M. Shayiq, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 2182, MSC 7818, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-2359, [shayiqr@csr.nih.gov](mailto:shayiqr@csr.nih.gov).

*Name of Committee:* Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Neuroscience Integrated Review Group; Molecular and Cellular Neuropharmacology Study Section.

*Date:* June 10–11, 2025.

*Time:* 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Address:* National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

*Meeting Format:* Virtual Meeting.

*Contact Person:* Vanessa S. Boyce, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Rm. 4185, MSC 7850, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 402–3726, [boycevs@csr.nih.gov](mailto:boycevs@csr.nih.gov).

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.306, Comparative Medicine; 93.333, Clinical Research, 93.306, 93.333, 93.337, 93.393–93.396, 93.837–93.844, 93.846–93.878, 93.892, 93.893, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: April 4, 2025.

**David W. Freeman,**

*Supervisory Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2025–06087 Filed 4–8–25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140–01–P**

would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

*Name of Committee:* National Advisory Council on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

*Date:* May 13, 2025.

*Closed:* 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Open:* 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

*Agenda:* Presentations and other business of the Council.

*Address:* National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, 6700B Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817.

*Meeting Format:* Virtual Meeting.

*Contact Person:* Philippe Marmillot, Ph.D., Executive Secretary, NIAAA, National Advisory Council, Director, Office of Extramural Activities, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, 6700B Rockledge Drive, Room 2118, National Institutes of Health Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 443–2861, [marmillotp@mail.nih.gov](mailto:marmillotp@mail.nih.gov).

*Name of Committee:* National Advisory Council on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, National Cancer Advisory Board, and National Advisory Council on Drug Abuse.

*Date:* May 14, 2025.

*Open:* 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

*Agenda:* Presentation of NIAAA and NIDA Director's Update, Scientific Reports, and other topics within the scope of the Collaborative Research on Addiction at NIH (CRAN).

*Address:* National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, 6700B Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817.

*Meeting Format:* Virtual Meeting.

*Contact Person:* Philippe Marmillot, Ph.D., Executive Secretary, NIAAA, National Advisory Council, Director, Office of Extramural Activities, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, 6700B Rockledge Drive, Room 2118, National Institutes of Health Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 443–2861, [marmillotp@mail.nih.gov](mailto:marmillotp@mail.nih.gov).

Paulette S. Gray, Ph.D., Director, Division of Extramural Activities, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, 9609 Medical Center Drive, Room 7W444, Bethesda, MD 20892, (240) 276–6340, [grayp@dear.nci.nih.gov](mailto:grayp@dear.nci.nih.gov).

Susan R.B. Weiss, Ph.D., Director, Division of Extramural Research, Office of the Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health, Three White Flint North, Room 09D08, 1601 Lansdowne Street, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 443–6480, [sweiss@nidia.nih.gov](mailto:sweiss@nidia.nih.gov).

Any interested person may file written comments with the committee by forwarding the statement to the Contact Person listed on this notice. The statement should include the name, address, telephone number and when applicable, the business or professional affiliation of the interested person.

Information is also available on the Institute's/Center's home page: <http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/AboutNIAAA/AdvisoryCouncil/Pages/default.aspx>, where an agenda and any additional information for the meeting will be posted when available.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.273, Alcohol Research Programs, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: April 4, 2025.

**David W. Freeman,**

*Supervisory Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2025–06091 Filed 4–8–25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### Center for Scientific Review; Amended Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given of a change in the meeting of the Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel, Topics in Neurobehavior, Neuropsychology and Neurodevelopment, April 29, 2025, 09:30 a.m. to April 30, 2025, 07:00 p.m., National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD, 20892 which was published in the **Federal Register** on March 19, 2025, 90 FR 12738, Doc No 2025–04598.

This meeting is being amended to change the contact person from Sulagna Banerjee to Dario Dieguez, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD, 20892, [dario.dieguez@nih.gov](mailto:dario.dieguez@nih.gov). The meeting is closed to the public.

Dated: April 4, 2025.

**David W. Freeman,**

*Supervisory Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2025–06093 Filed 4–8–25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities; Amended Notice of Closed Meeting

Notice is hereby given of a change in the meeting of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities Special Emphasis Panel, April 21, 2025, 8:00 a.m. to April 25, 2025, 10:00 p.m., National Institutes of Health, NIMHD, DEM II, Suite 800, 6707 Democracy Boulevard, Bethesda, MD, 20892 which was published in the **Federal Register** on March 18, 2025, FR Doc 2025–04407, 90 FR 12544.

This meeting notice is being amended to change the meeting dates from April 21, 2025, 8:00 a.m. to April 25, 2025, 10:00 p.m. to June 23, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to section 1009 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of a meeting of the National Advisory Council on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

This will be a virtual meeting and will be open to the public as indicated below, with attendance limited to space available. Individuals who plan to view the virtual meeting and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should notify the Contact Person listed below in advance of the meeting. The meeting can be accessed from the NIH Videocast at the following link: <https://videocast.nih.gov/>.

A portion of this meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which

to June 27, 2025, 6:00 p.m. The meeting is closed to the public.

Dated: April 4, 2025.

**David W. Freeman,**

*Supervisory Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06092 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140-01-P**

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**National Institutes of Health**

**National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; Notice of Meeting**

Pursuant to section 1009 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of a meeting of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Advisory Council.

The meeting will be held virtually and is open to the public as indicated below. Individuals who plan to attend the virtual meeting and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should notify the Contact Person listed below in advance of the meeting. The open session will be videocast and can be accessed from the NIH Videocasting and Podcast website <http://videocast.nih.gov/> or <https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/about/advisory-and-peer-review-committees/advisory-council>.

*Name of Committee:* National Heart, Lung, and Blood Advisory Council.

*Date:* June 11, 2025.

*Open:* 10:20 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*Agenda:* To discuss program policies and issues.

*Place:* National Institutes of Health, Rockledge I, 6705 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

*Meeting Format:* Virtual Meeting.

*Virtual Access:* The meeting will be videocast and can be accessed from the NIH Videocast. <http://videocast.nih.gov/> or <https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/about/advisory-and-peer-review-committees/advisory-council>. Please note, the link to the videocast meeting will be posted within a week of the meeting date.

*Contact Person:* Charisee Lamar, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.R.T., Director, Division of Extramural Research Activities, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health, 6705 Rockledge Drive, Room 207-C, Bethesda, MD 20892-7924, (301) 827-5517, [lamarc@mail.nih.gov](mailto:lamarc@mail.nih.gov).

Any member of the public interested in presenting oral comments to the committee may notify the Contact Person listed on this notice at least 10 days in advance of the meeting. Interested individuals and representatives of organizations may submit a letter of intent, a brief description of the organization represented, and a short description of the oral presentation. Only one

representative of an organization may be allowed to present oral comments and if accepted by the committee, presentations may be limited to five minutes. Both printed and electronic copies are requested for the record. In addition, any interested person may file written comments with the committee by forwarding their statement to the Contact Person listed on this notice. The statement should include the name, address, telephone number and when applicable, the business or professional affiliation of the interested person.

In the interest of security, NIH has procedures at <https://www.nih.gov/about-nih/visitor-information/campus-access-security> for entrance into on-campus and off-campus facilities. All visitor vehicles, including taxicabs, hotel, and airport shuttles will be inspected before being allowed on campus. Visitors attending a meeting on campus or at an off-campus Federal facility will be asked to show one form of identification (for example, a government-issued photo ID, driver's license, or passport) and to state the purpose of their visit.

Information is also available on the Institute's/Center's home page: <https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/about/advisory-and-peer-review-committees/advisory-council> where an agenda and any additional information for the meeting will be posted when available. (Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.233, National Center for Sleep Disorders Research; 93.837, Heart and Vascular Diseases Research; 93.838, Lung Diseases Research; 93.839, Blood Diseases and Resources Research, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: April 4, 2025.

**David W. Freeman,**

*Supervisory Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06089 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140-01-P**

Dated: April 4, 2025.

**David W. Freeman,**

*Supervisory Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06086 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140-01-P**

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**National Institutes of Health**

**National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities; Notice of Closed Meetings**

Pursuant to section 1009 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of the following meetings.

The meetings will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

*Name of Committee:* National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities Special Emphasis Panel; Environmental Health Disparities Centers (P50) Clinical Trial Optional.

*Date:* June 3-5, 2025.

*Time:* 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Address:* National Institutes of Health, NIMHD, DEM II, Suite 800, 6707 Democracy Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20892.

*Meeting Format:* Virtual Meeting.

*Contact Person:* Maryline Laude, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Scientific Review Branch, Office of Extramural Research Administration, National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, National Institutes of Health, 6707 Democracy Blvd., Suite 800, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 451-9536, [mlaudesharp@mail.nih.gov](mailto:mlaudesharp@mail.nih.gov).

*Name of Committee:* National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities Special Emphasis Panel; Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Training Program.

*Date:* June 18, 2025.

*Time:* 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Address:* National Institutes of Health, NIMHD, DEM II, Suite 800, 6707 Democracy Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20892.

*Meeting Format:* Virtual Meeting.

*Contact Person:* Karen Nieves Lugo, MPH, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Scientific Review Branch, Office of Extramural Research Administration, National Institute

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**National Institutes of Health**

**Center for Scientific Review; Amended Notice of Meeting**

Notice is hereby given of a change in the meeting of the Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel, Fellowships: Brain Disorders and Related Neurosciences, April 24, 2025, 9:30 a.m. to April 25, 2025, 7 p.m., National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892 which was published in the **Federal Register** on March 21, 2025, 90 FR 13379, Doc No 2025-04888.

This meeting is being amended to change the contact person from Sulanga Banerjee to Nilkantha Sen, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, [nilkantha.sen@nih.gov](mailto:nilkantha.sen@nih.gov). The meeting is closed to the public.

on Minority Health and Health Disparities, National Institutes of Health, 6707 Democracy Blvd., Suite 800, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 480-4727, [karen.nieveslugo@nih.gov](mailto:karen.nieveslugo@nih.gov).

Dated: April 4, 2025.

**David W. Freeman,**  
Supervisory Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 2025-06088 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### National Human Genome Research Institute; Amended Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given of a change in the meeting of the National Human Genome Research Institute Special Emphasis Panel, April 22, 2025, 1 p.m. to April 22, 2025, 5 p.m., NHGRI, 6700B Rockledge Dr., Bethesda, MD 20817 which was published in the **Federal Register** on March 28, 2025, 90 FR 14144.

Amend to change Scientific Review Officer due to staffing changes. The meeting is closed to the public.

Dated: April 3, 2025.

**David W. Freeman,**  
Supervisory Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 2025-06065 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Reclamation

[RR85800000, XXXR4524KK, RX.4888TINE.1320000; OMB Control Number 1006-1032]

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Technical Service Center Summer Intern Program Application

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), are proposing to renew an information collection with revisions.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before June 9, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments on this information collection request (ICR) by mail to Jessica Torrey, Supervisory

Civil Engineer, Denver Federal Center, PO Box 25007, MS 86-68540, Denver, CO 80225; or by email to [jtorrey@usbr.gov](mailto:jtorrey@usbr.gov). Please reference OMB Control Number 1006-1032 in the subject line of your comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request additional information about this ICR, contact Jessica Torrey by email at [jtorrey@usbr.gov](mailto:jtorrey@usbr.gov), or by telephone at (303) 445-2376. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), all information collections require approval under the PRA. We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

As part of our continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burdens, we invite the public and other Federal agencies to comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following:

(1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;

(2) The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) How might the agency minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of response.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of

public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Abstract:** The principal purpose for collecting the requested information is to recruit eligible students to participate in Reclamation's Technical Service Center Summer Intern Program. General contact information will be collected along with information on academic standing and areas/fields of interest. Respondents are also asked to submit an interest letter and resume. Revisions to this collection will be made to include additional options for respondents' areas of interest and work location preferences.

**Title of Collection:** Technical Service Center Summer Intern Program Application.

**OMB Control Number:** 1006-0032.

**Form Numbers:** 7-3000.

**Type of Review:** Revision of a currently approved information collection.

**Respondents/Affected Public:** Students interested in internships at Reclamation.

**Total Estimated Number of Annual Respondents:** 200.

**Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:** 200.

**Estimated Completion Time per Response:** 140 minutes.

**Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:** 467 hours.

**Respondent's Obligation:** Required to obtain or retain a benefit.

**Frequency of Collection:** Annually.

**Total Estimated Annual Non-hour Burden Cost:** \$0.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The authority for this action is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

**Katie Bartojay,**

Director, Technical Service Center.

[FR Doc. 2025-06095 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4332-90-P**

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

[NARA-2025-021]

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed extension request.

**SUMMARY:** We are proposing to request an extension from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) of two currently approved information collections. The first information collection is used by former Federal civilian employees or other authorized individuals to request information from or copies of documents in Official Personnel Files (OPF) or Employee Medical Files (EMF). The second information collection is used to connect veterans and Schedule A-eligible applicants with an opportunity for noncompetitive employment. Information will be collected from people who are interested in these opportunities to consider them for the positions and match them with possible jobs. The collection includes approval of a form, NARA Employment Interest Questionnaire, NA Form 3102. We invite you to comment on these information collections up for renewal.

**DATES:** We must receive written comments on or before June 9, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to Paperwork Reduction Act Comments (MP), Room 4100; National Archives and Records Administration; 8601 Adelphi Road; College Park, MD 20740-6001, or email them to [kellie.shipley@nara.gov](mailto:kellie.shipley@nara.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kellie Shipley, Paperwork Reduction Act Officer, by email at [kellie.shipley@nara.gov](mailto:kellie.shipley@nara.gov) or by telephone at 301.837.0685 with requests for additional information or copies of the proposed information collection and supporting statement.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), we invite the public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed information collections. If you have comments or suggestions, they should address one or more of the following points: (a) whether the proposed information collection is necessary for NARA to properly perform its functions; (b) our estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection and its accuracy; (c) ways we could enhance the quality, utility, and

clarity of the information we collect; (d) ways we could minimize the burden on respondents of collecting the information, including through information technology; and (e) whether the collection affects small businesses.

We will summarize any comments you submit and include the summary in our request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

In this notice, we solicit comments concerning the following information collections:

1. **Title:** Requests for Civilian Service Records.

*OMB number:* 3095-0037.

*Agency form number:* NA Form 13022, Returned Request, NA Form 13068, Walk-In Request for OPM Records or Information.

*Type of review:* Regular.

*Affected public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated number of respondents:* 10,429.

*Estimated time per response:* 5 minutes.

*Frequency of response:* On occasion.

*Estimated total annual burden hours:* 869 hours.

**Abstract:** In accordance with rules issued by the Office of Personnel Management, the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) administers Official Personnel Folders (OPF) and Employee Medical Folders (EMF) of former Federal civilian employees. When former Federal civilian employees and other authorized individuals request information from or copies of documents in OPF or EMF, they must provide in their requests certain information about the employee and the nature of the request so that we can determine whether they are authorized to receive the information and so that we can find the correct records. The NA Form 13022, Returned Request Form, is used to request additional information about the former Federal employee. The NA Form 13064, Reply to Request Involving Relief Agencies, is used to request additional information about the former relief agency employee. The NA Form 13068, Walk-In Request for OPM Records or Information, is used by members of the public, with proper authorization, to request a copy of a personnel or medical record.

2. **Title:** Schedule A and Veterans Recruitment Initiative.

*OMB number:* 3095-0075.

*Agency form number:* NA Form 3102, NARA Employment Interest Questionnaire.

*Type of review:* Regular.

*Affected public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated number of respondents:* 300.

*Estimated time per response:* 5 minutes.

*Frequency of response:* On occasion.

*Estimated total annual burden hours:* 25 hours.

**Abstract:** This recruitment initiative connects people who are veterans or are Schedule A-eligible with non-competitive employment opportunities within our agency. The Special Program Placement Coordinator (SPPC) serves as a liaison between the applicant and NARA managers and supervisors to find viable employment opportunities for applicants.

SPPC has developed a Resume Repository (retained in a spreadsheet) to store resumes of qualified individuals who may meet our hiring needs. The Repository helps our agency find highly motivated veterans and Schedule A candidates who are eager to demonstrate their abilities in the workplace through excepted service positions, which could become permanent positions after trial period requirements have been met.

We collect the information for the Repository through an online form, NARA Employment Interest Questionnaire, NA Form 3102, which includes the following information for each individual: Applicant name, email address, phone number, types of positions applicant is interested in (may be multiple areas of interest), applicant's desired location(s), and minimum starting grade level applicant is willing to accept.

We enter the collected information from the questionnaire into the Repository spreadsheet, which managers and supervisors can use to sort and filter by position(s) of interest and/or duty location. We include resumes and cover letters as a link beside each candidate's entry so managers can view them and consider the candidate when looking for an employee. Managers have unlimited access to the Repository information and resumes to select qualified applicants to fill vacancies through a direct, non-competitive hire.

The Schedule A and veterans recruitment questionnaire link will be listed in our agency's information on the OPM website, in information provided by other agencies and organizations with similar programs, and on various pages of our agency's website at [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov) (<http://www.archives.gov>).

Candidates must be U.S. citizens, eligible veterans, or be eligible under the Schedule A hiring authority.

**Gulam Shakir,**

*Acting Executive for Information Services/CIO.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06075 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7515-01-P**

**NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT CORPORATION**

**Sunshine Act Meetings**

**TIME AND DATE:** 1:30 p.m., Monday, April 14, 2025.

**PLACE:** via ZOOM.

**STATUS:** Parts of this meeting will be open to the public. The rest of the meeting will be closed to the public.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:** Special Board of Directors meeting.

The General Counsel of the Corporation has certified that in her opinion, one or more of the exemptions set forth in the Government in the Sunshine Act, 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(2) permit closure of the following portion(s) of this meeting:

- Executive (Closed) Session

**Agenda**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Sunshine Act Approval of Executive (Closed) Session
- III. Executive Session: FY25 All-Sources Budget
- IV. Discussion Session: FY25 All-Sources Budget
- V. Action Item: Approval of FY25 All-Sources Budget

**PORTIONS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

Everything except the Executive (Closed) Session.

**PORTIONS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC:**

Executive (Closed) Session.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Jenna Sylvester, Paralegal, (202) 568-2560; *jsylvester@nrc.gov*.

**Jenna Sylvester,**

*Paralegal.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06163 Filed 4-7-25; 4:15 pm]

**BILLING CODE 7570-01-P**

**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**[NRC-2025-0010]**

**State of Connecticut: NRC Staff Assessment of a Proposed Agreement Between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the State of Connecticut**

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Proposed state agreement; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** As required by section 274e. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (AEA), the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) is publishing the proposed Agreement for public comment (Appendix A). The NRC is also publishing the summary of a draft assessment by the NRC staff of the State of Connecticut's regulatory program. Comments are requested on the proposed Agreement and its effect on public health and safety. Comments are also requested on the draft staff assessment, the adequacy of the State of Connecticut's program, and the adequacy of the staffing of the State's program, as discussed in this document.

**DATES:** Submit comments by April 18, 2025. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the Commission is able to ensure consideration only for comments received on or before this date.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods; however, the NRC encourages electronic comment submission through the Federal rulemaking website:

- *Federal rulemaking website:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2025-0010. Address questions about Docket IDs in *Regulations.gov* to Bridget Curran; telephone: 301-415-1003; email: *Bridget.Curran@nrc.gov*. For technical questions, contact the individuals listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.

- *Mail comments to:* Office of Administration, Mail Stop: TWFN-7-A60M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, ATTN: Program Management, Announcements and Editing Staff.

For additional direction on obtaining information and submitting comments, see "Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments" in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Duncan White, Office of Nuclear

Material Safety and Safeguards; telephone: 301-415-2598; email: *Duncan.White@nrc.gov* or Huda Akhavannik, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards; telephone: 301-415-5253; email: *Huda.Akhavannik@nrc.gov*. Both are staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments**

*A. Obtaining Information*

Please refer to Docket ID NRC-2025-0010 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information for this action. You may obtain publicly available information related to this action by any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking Website:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2025-0010.

- *NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):* You may obtain publicly available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select "Begin Web-based ADAMS Search." For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, at 301-415-4737, or by email to *PDR.Resource@nrc.gov*. For the convenience of the reader, instructions about obtaining materials referenced in this document are provided in the "Availability of Documents" section.

- *NRC's PDR:* The PDR, where you may examine and order copies of publicly available documents, is open by appointment. To make an appointment to visit the PDR, please send an email to *PDR.Resource@nrc.gov* or call 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. eastern time (ET), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

*B. Submitting Comments*

The NRC encourages electronic comment submission through the Federal rulemaking website (<https://www.regulations.gov>). Please include Docket ID NRC-2025-0010 in your comment submission.

The NRC cautions you not to include identifying or contact information that you do not want to be publicly disclosed in your comment submission. The NRC will post all comment submissions at <https://www.regulations.gov> as well as enter the comment submissions into ADAMS. The NRC does not routinely edit

comment submissions to remove identifying or contact information.

If you are requesting or aggregating comments from other persons for submission to the NRC, then you should inform those persons not to include identifying or contact information that they do not want to be publicly disclosed in their comment submission. Your request should state that the NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove such information before making the comment submissions available to the public or entering the comment into ADAMS.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** By letter dated October 31, 2024, Governor Ned Lamont of the State of Connecticut requested that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) enter into an Agreement with the State of Connecticut as authorized by Section 274b. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (AEA). Under the proposed Agreement, the Commission would discontinue, and the State of Connecticut would assume, regulatory authority over certain types of byproduct materials as defined in the AEA, source material, and special nuclear material in quantities not sufficient to form a critical mass.

## II. Additional Information on Agreements Entered Under Section 274 of the AEA

Under the proposed Agreement, the NRC would discontinue its authority over 104 licenses and would transfer its regulatory authority over those licenses to the State of Connecticut. The NRC periodically reviews the performance of the Agreement States to assure compliance with the provisions of Section 274.

Section 274e. of the AEA requires that the terms of the proposed Agreement be published in the **Federal Register** for public comment once each week for four consecutive weeks. This is the final document published in fulfillment of that requirement.

## III. Proposed Agreement With the State of Connecticut

### Background

(a) Section 274b. of the AEA provides the mechanism for a State to assume regulatory authority from the NRC over certain radioactive materials and activities that involve use of these materials. The radioactive materials, sometimes referred to as "Agreement materials," are byproduct materials as defined in Sections 11e.(1), 11e.(2), 11e.(3), and 11e.(4) of the AEA; source material as defined in Section 11z. of the AEA; and special nuclear material as

defined in Section 11aa. of the AEA, restricted to quantities not sufficient to form a critical mass.

The radioactive materials and activities (which together are usually referred to as the "categories of materials") that the State of Connecticut requests authority over are:

1. The possession and use of byproduct material as defined in Section 11e.(1) of the Act;
2. The possession and use of byproduct material as defined in Section 11e.(3) of the Act;
3. The possession and use of byproduct material as defined in Section 11e.(4) of the Act;
4. The possession and use of source material; and
5. The possession and use of special nuclear material, in quantities not sufficient to form a critical mass.

(b) The proposed Agreement contains articles that:

- (i) Specify the materials and activities over which authority is transferred;
- (ii) Specify the materials and activities over which the Commission will retain regulatory authority;
- (iii) Continue the authority of the Commission to safeguard special nuclear material, protect restricted data, and protect common defense and security;
- (iv) Commit the State of Connecticut and the NRC to exchange information as necessary to maintain coordinated and compatible programs;
- (v) Provide for the reciprocal recognition of licenses;
- (vi) Provide for the suspension or termination of the Agreement; and
- (vii) Specify the effective date of the proposed Agreement.

The Commission reserves the option to modify the terms of the proposed Agreement in response to comments, to correct errors, and to make editorial changes. The final text of the proposed Agreement, with the effective date, will be published after the Agreement is approved by the Commission and signed by the NRC Chairman and the Governor of Connecticut.

(c) The regulatory program is authorized by law under the Connecticut General Statutes (Conn. Gen. Stat.) Title 22a, Chapter 446a, Section 22a-152 (§ 22a-152), which provides the Governor with the authority to enter into an Agreement with the Commission. The State of Connecticut law contains provisions for the orderly transfer of regulatory authority over affected licenses from the NRC to the State. In a letter dated October 31, 2024, Governor Lamont certified that the State of Connecticut has a program for the control of

radiation hazards that is adequate to protect public health and safety within the State of Connecticut for the materials and activities specified in the proposed Agreement, and that the State desires to assume regulatory responsibility for these materials and activities. After the effective date of the Agreement, licenses issued by the NRC would continue in effect as State of Connecticut licenses until the licenses expire or are replaced by State-issued licenses.

(d) The draft staff assessment finds that the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Radioactive Materials Program is adequate to protect public health and safety and is compatible with the NRC's regulatory program for the regulation of Agreement materials.

### *Summary of the Draft NRC Staff Assessment of the State of Connecticut's Program for the Regulation of Agreement Materials*

The NRC staff has examined the State of Connecticut's request for an Agreement with respect to the ability of the State's radiation control program to regulate Agreement materials. The examination was based on the Commission's Policy Statement, "Criteria for Guidance of States and NRC in Discontinuance of NRC Regulatory Authority and Assumption Thereof by States Through Agreement," (46 FR 7540, January 23, 1981, as amended by Policy Statements published at 46 FR 36969, July 16, 1981, and at 48 FR 33376, July 21, 1983) (Policy Statement), and the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards Procedure SA-700, "Processing an Agreement." The Policy Statement has 28 criteria that serve as the basis for the NRC staff's assessment of the State of Connecticut's request for an Agreement. The following section will reference the appropriate criteria numbers from the Policy Statement that apply to each section.

(a) *Organization and Personnel.* The NRC staff reviewed these areas under Criteria 1, 2, 20, and 24 in the draft staff assessment. The State of Connecticut's proposed Agreement materials program for the regulation of radioactive materials is called the "Radioactive Materials Program," and will be located within the Radiation Division in the Bureau of Air Management of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

The educational requirements for the Radioactive Materials Program staff are specified in the State of Connecticut's personnel position descriptions and meet the NRC criteria with respect to

formal education or combined education and experience requirements. All current staff members meet the requirements of a bachelor's degree in the physical, life science or engineering; or an equivalent combination of education and experience has been substituted for the degree. All have training and work experience in radiation protection. Supervisory level staff each have at least 30 years of working experience in radiation protection.

The State of Connecticut performed an analysis of the expected workload under the proposed Agreement. Based on the NRC staff review of the State of Connecticut's analysis, the State has an adequate number of staff to regulate radioactive materials under the terms of the proposed Agreement. The State of Connecticut will employ the equivalent of four full-time equivalent professional and technical staff to support the Radioactive Materials Program.

The State of Connecticut has indicated that the Radioactive Materials Program has an adequate number of trained and qualified staff in place. The State of Connecticut has developed qualification procedures for license reviewers and inspectors that are similar to the NRC's procedures. The Radioactive Materials Program staff has accompanied the NRC staff on inspections of NRC licensees in Connecticut and participated in licensing training at NRC's Region I with Division of Radiological Safety and Security staff. The Radioactive Materials Program staff is also actively supplementing its experience through meetings, discussions, and facility visits with the NRC licensees in the State of Connecticut and through self-study, in-house training, and formal training.

Overall, the NRC staff concluded that the Radioactive Materials Program staff identified by the State of Connecticut to participate in the Agreement materials program has sufficient knowledge and experience in radiation protection, the use of radioactive materials, the standards for the evaluation of applications for licensing, and the techniques of inspecting licensed users of Agreement materials.

(b) *Legislation and Regulations.* The NRC staff reviewed these areas under Criteria 1–15, 17, 19, and 21–28 in the draft staff assessment. Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 22a–152 and 22a–153(a) provide the authority to enter into the Agreement and establish the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection as the lead agency for the State's Radioactive Materials Program. The Department has the requisite authority to promulgate

regulations under the Conn. Gen. Stat. § 22a–153(c) for protection against radiation Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 22a–154, 22a–155, 22a–6(a)(3), and 22a–6(a)(5) provide the Radioactive Materials Program the authority to issue licenses and orders; conduct inspections; and enforce compliance with regulations, license conditions, and orders. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 22a–6(a)(5) requires licensees to provide access to inspectors.

The NRC staff verified that the State of Connecticut adopted by reference the relevant NRC regulations in parts 19, 20, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 61, 70, 71, and 150 of title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) into the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, Use and Control of Radioactive Materials; Civil Penalties, Sections 22a–153–1 to 22a–153–150. Therefore, the State of Connecticut adopted an adequate and compatible set of radiation protection regulations that apply to byproduct materials, source material, and special nuclear material in quantities not sufficient to form a critical mass. The NRC staff also verified that the State of Connecticut will not attempt to enforce regulatory matters reserved to the Commission.

(c) *Storage and Disposal.* The NRC staff reviewed these areas under Criteria 8, 9a, and 11 in the draft staff assessment. The State of Connecticut has adopted NRC compatible requirements for the handling and storage of radioactive material, including regulations equivalent to the applicable standards contained in 10 CFR part 20, which address the general requirements for waste disposal, and 10 CFR part 61, which addresses waste classification and form. These regulations are applicable to all licensees covered under this proposed Agreement.

(d) *Transportation of Radioactive Material.* The NRC staff reviewed this area under Criteria 10 in the draft staff assessment. The State of Connecticut has adopted compatible regulations to the NRC regulations in 10 CFR part 71. Part 71 contains the requirements licensees must follow when preparing packages containing radioactive material for transport. Part 71 also contains requirements related to the licensing of packaging for use in transporting radioactive materials.

(e) *Recordkeeping and Incident Reporting.* The NRC staff reviewed this area under Criteria 1 and 11 in the draft staff assessment. The State of Connecticut has adopted compatible regulations to the sections of the NRC regulations that specify requirements for licensees to keep records and to report

incidents or accidents involving the State's regulated Agreement materials specified in the proposed Agreement.

(f) *Evaluation of License Applications.* The NRC staff reviewed this area under Criteria 1, 7, 8, 9a, 13, 14, 15, 20, 23, and 25 in the draft staff assessment. The State of Connecticut has adopted compatible regulations to the NRC regulations that specify the requirements to obtain a license to possess or use radioactive materials. The State of Connecticut has also developed licensing procedures and adopted NRC licensing guides for specific uses of radioactive material for use by the program staff when evaluating license applications.

(g) *Inspections and Enforcement.* The NRC staff reviewed these areas under Criteria 1, 16, 18, 19, and 23 in the draft staff assessment. The State of Connecticut has adopted a schedule providing for the inspection of licensees as frequently as, or more frequently than, the inspection schedule used by the NRC. The State of Connecticut's Radioactive Materials Program has adopted procedures for the conduct of inspections, reporting of inspection findings, and reporting inspection results to the licensees. Additionally, the State of Connecticut has also adopted procedures for the enforcement of regulatory requirements.

(h) *Regulatory Administration.* The NRC staff reviewed this area under Criterion 23 in the draft staff assessment. The State of Connecticut is bound by requirements specified in its state law for rulemaking, issuing licenses, and taking enforcement actions. The State of Connecticut has also adopted administrative procedures to assure fair and impartial treatment of license applicants. The State of Connecticut law prescribes standards of ethical conduct for State employees.

(i) *Cooperation with Other Agencies.* The NRC staff reviewed this area under Criteria 25, 26, and 27 in the draft staff assessment. The State of Connecticut law provides for the recognition of existing NRC and Agreement State licenses and the State has a process in place for the transition of active NRC licenses. Upon the effective date of the Agreement, all active NRC radioactive materials licenses that are for materials covered by the proposed Agreement and were issued to facilities in the State of Connecticut will be recognized as Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection licenses.

The State of Connecticut also provides for "timely renewal." This provision affords the continuance of licenses for which an application for renewal has been filed more than 30

days prior to the date of expiration of the license. NRC licenses transferred while in timely renewal are done in a manner to minimize the effects of the transition on the licensee. The NRC and the State of Connecticut will collaborate to ensure a seamless and successful transition of NRC licenses under timely renewal.

The State of Connecticut regulations, in the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, Use and Control of Radioactive Materials; Civil Penalties, Sections 22a-153-1 to 22a-153-150, provide exemptions from the State's requirements for the NRC and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) contractors or subcontractors. The proposed Agreement commits the State of Connecticut to use its best efforts to cooperate with the NRC and the other Agreement States in the formulation of standards and regulatory programs for the protection against hazards of radiation, and to assure that the State's program will continue to be compatible with the Commission's program for the regulation of Agreement materials. The proposed Agreement specifies the desirability of reciprocal recognition of licenses and commits the Commission and the State of Connecticut to use their

best efforts to accord such reciprocity. Consistent with NRC requirements, the State of Connecticut would be able to recognize the licenses of other jurisdictions by general license, as appropriate.

#### Staff Conclusion

Section 274d. of the AEA provides that the Commission shall enter into an Agreement under Section 274b. with any State if:

(a) The Governor of that State certifies that the State has a program for the control of radiation hazards adequate to protect the public health and safety with respect to the Agreement materials within the State, and that the State desires to assume regulatory responsibility for the Agreement materials; and

(b) The Commission finds that the State program is in accordance with the requirements of Subsection 274o, and in all other respects compatible with the Commission's program for regulation of such materials, and that the State program is adequate to protect the public health and safety with respect to the materials covered by the proposed Agreement.

The NRC staff has reviewed the proposed Agreement, the certification of

Connecticut Governor Lamont, and the supporting information provided by the Radioactive Materials Program of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Based upon this review, the NRC staff concludes that the State of Connecticut

Radioactive Materials Program satisfies the Section 274d criteria as well as the criteria in the Commission's Policy Statement "Criteria for Guidance of States and NRC in Discontinuance of NRC Regulatory Authority and Assumption Thereof by States Through Agreement." The NRC staff also concludes that the proposed State of Connecticut program to regulate Agreement materials, as comprised of statutes, regulations, procedures, and staffing, is compatible with the Commission's program and is adequate to protect the public health and safety with respect to the materials covered by the proposed Agreement. Therefore, the proposed Agreement meets the requirements of Section 274 of the AEA.

#### IV. Availability of Documents

The documents identified in the following table are available to interested persons through one or more of the following methods, as indicated.

Document description	ADAMS accession No.
Letter from Governor Ned Lamont, Connecticut, to Chair Hanson requesting agreement be established between the NRC and State of Connecticut, dated October 31, 2024.	ML24306A079.
Draft Staff Assessment of the Proposed Connecticut Program .....	ML25070A186.
Final Connecticut Application Section 4.1 Legal Elements .....	ML24311A018 (Package).
Final Connecticut Application Section 4.2 Regulatory Requirements .....	ML24311A026 (Package).
Final Connecticut Application Section 4.3 Licensing Program Elements .....	ML24311A029 (Package).
Final Connecticut Application Section 4.4 Inspection Program Elements .....	ML24311A030 (Package).
Final Connecticut Application Section 4.5 Enforcement Program Elements .....	ML24311A044 (Package).
Final Connecticut Application Section 4.6 Technical Staffing and Training Program Elements .....	ML24319A210 (Package).
Final Connecticut Application Section 4.7 Event and Allegation Response Program Elements .....	ML24319A211 (Package).
Connecticut Application Request for Additional Information .....	ML24347A038 (Package).
State Agreement (SA) 700 Processing an Agreement final, dated June 15, 2022 .....	ML22138A414.
SA-700 Handbook for Processing an Agreement Procedure final, dated June 17, 2022 .....	ML22140A396.

Dated: March 21, 2025.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Tamara Bloomer,**

*Acting Director, Division of Materials Safety, Security, State, and Tribal Programs, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.*

#### Appendix A

#### An Agreement Between the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the State of Connecticut for the Discontinuance of Certain Commission Regulatory Authority and Responsibility Within the State Pursuant to Section 274 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as Amended

Whereas, The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission") is authorized under Section 274 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2011 *et seq.*

(hereinafter referred to as "the Act"), to enter into an agreement with the Governor of the State of Connecticut (hereinafter referred to as "the State") providing for discontinuance of the regulatory authority of the Commission within the State under Chapters 6, 7, and 8, and Section 161 of the Act with respect to byproduct materials as defined in Sections 11e.(1), (3), and (4) of the Act, source materials, and special nuclear materials in quantities not sufficient to form a critical mass; and,

Whereas, The Governor of the State of Connecticut is authorized under Conn. Gen. Stat. § 22a-152 to enter into this Agreement with the Commission; and,

Whereas, The Governor of the State of Connecticut certified on October 31, 2024, that the State has a program for the control of radiation hazards adequate to protect the public health and safety with respect to the

materials within the State covered by this Agreement, and that the State desires to assume regulatory responsibility for such materials; and,

Whereas, The Commission found on [date] that the program of the State of Connecticut for the regulation of the materials covered by this Agreement is compatible with the Commission's program for the regulation of such materials and is adequate to protect the public health and safety; and,

Whereas, The State of Connecticut and the Commission recognize the desirability and importance of cooperation between the Commission and the State in the formulation of standards for protection against hazards of radiation and in assuring that State and Commission programs for protection against hazards of radiation will be coordinated and compatible; and,

Whereas, The Commission and the State of Connecticut recognize the desirability of the reciprocal recognition of licenses, and of the granting of limited exemptions from licensing of those materials subject to this Agreement; and,

Whereas, This Agreement is entered into pursuant to the provisions of the Act;

Now, Therefore, it is hereby agreed between the Commission and the Governor of Connecticut acting on behalf of the State as follows:

#### Article I

Subject to the exceptions provided in Articles II, IV, and V, the Commission shall discontinue, as of the effective date of this Agreement, the regulatory authority of the Commission in the State under Chapters 6, 7 and 8, and Section 161 of the Act with respect to the following materials:

- A. Byproduct material as defined in Section 11e.(1) of the Act;
- B. Byproduct material as defined in Section 11e.(3) of the Act;
- C. Byproduct materials as defined in Section 11e.(4) of the Act;
- D. Source materials; and
- E. Special nuclear materials, in quantities not sufficient to form a critical mass.

#### Article II

This Agreement does not provide for the discontinuance of any authority, and the Commission shall retain authority and responsibility, with respect to:

- A. The regulation of the construction, operation, and decommissioning of any production or utilization facility or any uranium enrichment facility;
- B. The regulation of byproduct material as defined in Section 11e.(2) of the Act;
- C. The regulation of the export from or import into the United States of byproduct, source, or special nuclear material, or of any production or utilization facility;
- D. The regulation of the disposal into the ocean or sea of byproduct, source, or special nuclear material waste as defined in regulations or orders of the Commission;
- E. The regulation of the disposal of such other byproduct, source, or special nuclear material as the Commission determines by regulation or order should, because of the hazards or potential hazards thereof, not be so disposed without a license from the Commission;
- F. The evaluation of radiation safety information on sealed sources or devices containing byproduct, source, or special nuclear material and the registration of the sealed sources or devices for distribution, as provided for in regulations or orders of the Commission;
- G. The regulation of activities not exempt from Commission regulation as stated in 10 CFR part 150; and
- H. The regulation of the land disposal of byproduct, source, or special nuclear material received from other persons;

#### Article III

With the exception of those activities identified in Article II, paragraphs A., C. through E. and G., this Agreement may be amended, upon application by the State and approval by the Commission to include the

additional areas specified in Article II, paragraphs B., F., and H., whereby the State may then exert regulatory authority and responsibility with respect to those activities.

#### Article IV

Notwithstanding this Agreement, the Commission may from time to time by rule, regulation, or order, require that the manufacturer, processor, or producer of any equipment, device, commodity, or other product containing source, byproduct, or special nuclear material shall not transfer possession or control of such product except pursuant to a license or an exemption for licensing issued by the Commission.

#### Article V

This Agreement shall not affect the authority of the Commission under Subsection 161b. or 161i. of the Act to issue rules, regulations, or orders to promote the common defense and security, to protect restricted data, or to guard against the loss or diversion of special nuclear material.

#### Article VI

The Commission will cooperate with the State and other Agreement States in the formulation of standards and regulatory programs of the State and the Commission for (a) protection against hazards of radiation; and (b) to assure that Commission and State programs for protection against the hazards of radiation are coordinated and compatible. The State agrees to cooperate with the Commission and other Agreement States in the formulation of standards and regulatory programs of the State and the Commission for: (a) protection against the hazards of radiation; and (b) to assure that the State's program will continue to be compatible with the program of the Commission for the regulation of materials covered by this Agreement.

The State and the Commission agree to keep each other informed of proposed changes in their respective rules and regulations, and to provide each other the opportunity for early and substantive contribution to the proposed changes.

The State and the Commission agree to keep each other informed of events, accidents, and licensee performance that may have generic implication or otherwise be of regulatory interest.

#### Article VII

The Commission and the State agree that it is desirable to provide reciprocal recognition of licenses for the materials listed in Article I licensed by the other party or by any other Agreement State.

Accordingly, the Commission and the State agree to develop appropriate rules, regulations, and procedures by which reciprocity will be accorded.

#### Article VIII

The Commission, upon its own initiative after reasonable notice and opportunity for hearing to the State, or upon request of the Governor of Connecticut, may terminate or suspend all or part of this Agreement and reassess the licensing and regulatory authority vested in it under the Act, if the Commission finds that (1) such termination

or suspension is required to protect the public health and safety, or (2) the State has not complied with one or more of the requirements of Section 274 of the Act. Pursuant to Section 274j. of the Act, the Commission may, after notifying the Governor, temporarily suspend all or part of this Agreement without notice or hearing if, in the judgment of the Commission, an emergency situation exists with respect to any material covered by this Agreement creating danger which requires immediate action to protect the health or safety of persons either within or outside of the State and the State has failed to take steps necessary to contain or eliminate the cause or danger within a reasonable time after the situation arose. The Commission shall periodically review actions taken by the State under this Agreement to ensure compliance with Section 274 of the Act which requires a State program to be adequate to protect the public health and safety with respect to the materials covered by this Agreement and to be compatible with the Commission's program.

#### Article IX

This Agreement shall become effective on September 30, 2025, and shall remain in effect unless and until such time as it is terminated pursuant to Article VIII.

Executed at Hartford, Connecticut this [date] day of [month], 2025.

For the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

David A. Wright,  
*Chairman for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.*

For the State of Connecticut.

Edward Miner Lamont, Jr. (aka Ned Lamont),  
*Governor of the State of Connecticut.*

[FR Doc. 2025-05140 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7590-01-P**

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

**[NRC-2025-0035]**

### Availability of Revised NRC Form 3, "Notice to Employees"

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Generic communications; issuance.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is announcing the availability of the latest version of NRC Form 3, "Notice to Employees." The NRC Form 3 describes certain responsibilities and rights of employers and employees who engage in NRC-regulated activities, including how employees can report violations or other safety concerns directly to the NRC. Licensees are required by law to post the form at prominent locations at the workplace to permit workers to view it easily.

**DATES:** The revised form is available immediately.

**ADDRESSES:** Please refer to Docket ID NRC-2025-0035 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly available information related to this document using any of the following methods:

- **Federal Rulemaking Website:** Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2025-0035. Address questions about Docket IDs in *Regulations.gov* to Bridget Curran; telephone: 301-415-1003; email: *Bridget.Curran@nrc.gov*. For technical questions, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.

• **NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):** You may obtain publicly available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select "Begin Web-based ADAMS Search." For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, at 301-415-4737, or by email to *PDR.Resource@nrc.gov*. NRC Form 3, "Notice to Employees," and Form 3A, a Spanish version of the same form, are available in ADAMS under Accession Numbers ML13083A002 and ML17292A077, respectively.

• **NRC's PDR:** The PDR, where you may examine and order copies of publicly available documents, is open by appointment. To make an appointment to visit the PDR, please send an email to *PDR.Resource@nrc.gov* or call 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. eastern time (ET), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sandra Mendez, Office of Enforcement, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; telephone: 301-287-9426; email: *Sandra.Mendez-Gonzalez@nrc.gov*.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Paragraph 19.11(e)(1) of title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), states that licensees shall prominently post the most recent version of NRC Form 3, "Notice to Employees" within 30 days of receiving the revised NRC Form 3 from the Commission. In a 1997 rulemaking, 10 CFR 19.11 was amended to incorporate a reference to the latest version of NRC Form 3. This eliminated the need to revise the CFR whenever NRC Form 3 is changed, which had been the previous practice. The final rule published on September 15, 1997

(62 FR 48165) indicated that the NRC would inform licensees of future changes to NRC Form 3 by an administrative letter, and, in addition, the availability of any new versions would be noticed in the **Federal Register**. Administrative letters were a type of generic communication issued to inform addressees of specific regulatory or administrative information but were discontinued in September 1999. As such, in lieu of an administrative letter, this revision and future revisions will be publicized through an alternative electronic means (e.g., website notice, social networking service, etc.) to alert all licensees of the new revisions, as well as in the **Federal Register**.

A new version of NRC Form 3 was issued in September 2024, to make a correction to Region III's mailing address. To view the current version of NRC Form 3 (09/2024), please go to <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/forms/index.html>. A Spanish language version of the form (NRC Form 3A) can also be found on the same site.

Dated: April 4, 2025.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**David Pelton,**

*Director, Office of Enforcement.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06101 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7590-01-P**

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

### Notice for Public Comment: OSC Annual Survey

**AGENCY:** U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC).

**ACTION:** Notice and request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Office of Special Counsel is seeking approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the reinstatement of an expired information collection request (ICR) under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). OSC is statutorily required to conduct an annual survey assessing the effectiveness of its operations, including the handling of Prohibited Personnel Practice (PPP) complaints, whistleblower disclosures, and enforcement efforts. The collection gathers feedback from individuals who have sought OSC's assistance.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before June 9, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments to:

—**By mail:** Barbara Wheeler Jones, U.S. Office of Special Counsel, 1730 M

Street NW, Suite 218, Washington, DC 20036.

—**By email:** *frliaison@osc.gov*.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Hnin Khaing, Senior Litigation Counsel, at (202) 804-7000 or via email at *frliaison@osc.gov*.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** OSC is an independent agency responsible for investigating allegations of prohibited personnel practices (PPPs) under 5 U.S.C. 2302(b), protecting whistleblowers, enforcing certain federal employment laws under titles 5 and 38 of the U.S. Code, and overseeing compliance with the Hatch Act regarding political activities. Pursuant to section 13 of Public Law 103-424 (1994) (5 U.S.C. 1212 note), OSC is required to conduct an annual survey to evaluate its services. Specifically, the survey must:

1. Determine whether individuals seeking OSC's assistance were fully informed of their rights;
2. Assess whether individuals achieved success either at OSC or the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB); and
3. Evaluate the level of satisfaction of individuals with the treatment received from OSC, regardless of the outcome.

This annual survey consists of four electronic questionnaires with up to 12 questions each, targeting individuals who have:

- Filed a complaint or disclosure with OSC, or
- Requested an advisory opinion from the Hatch Act Unit. The survey assesses:
- Timeliness and clarity of OSC communications;
- The types of claims submitted and their review status;
- Resolution outcomes; and
- Overall satisfaction with OSC's processes.

OSC publishes the survey results annually in its report to Congress. Prior annual reports are available at [www.osc.gov](http://www.osc.gov) or by calling (202) 804-7000. The prior OMB-approved survey (OMB Control Number 3255-0003) expired on September 30, 2024.

To comply with statutory requirements, OSC must complete the review of survey responses before the end of fiscal year 2025. Timely data collection is essential to OSC's mission and reporting obligations to Congress.

**Type of Review:** Reinstatement of a previously approved information collection.

**Title:** OSC Annual Survey.

**OMB Control Number:** 3255-0003.

**Affected Public:** Individuals or their representatives who sought OSC's services.

**Respondent Obligation:** Voluntary.  
**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 2,700.

**Estimated Time per Response:** 15 minutes.

**Estimated Total Annual Burden:** 675 hours.

**Frequency of Collection:** Annual.  
 OSC invites public comment on the following issues:

1. Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of OSC's functions, including whether the information has practical utility;

2. The accuracy of OSC's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

3. Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

4. Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Dated: April 3, 2025.

**Barbara Wheeler Jones,**

*Chief, Case Review Division, U.S. Office of Special Counsel.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06068 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7405-01-P

- Email: [frliaison@osc.gov](mailto:frliaison@osc.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Susan Ullman, Acting Associate Special Counsel, at (202) 804-7000 or via email at [frliaison@osc.gov](mailto:frliaison@osc.gov).

Dated: April 4, 2025.

**Barbara Wheeler Jones,**

*Chief, Case Review Division, U.S. Office of Special Counsel.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06106 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7405-01-P

**POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**[Docket Nos. CP2024-646; MC2025-1283 and K2025-1282; MC2025-1284 and K2025-1283; MC2025-1285 and K2025-1284; MC2025-1286 and K2025-1285]**

**New Postal Products**

**AGENCY:** Postal Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Commission is noticing a recent Postal Service filing for the Commission's consideration concerning a negotiated service agreement. This notice informs the public of the filing, invites public comment, and takes other administrative steps.

**DATES:** *Comments are due:* April 11, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments electronically via the Commission's Filing Online system at <https://www.prc.gov>. Those who cannot submit comments electronically should contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section by telephone for advice on filing alternatives.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

David A. Trissell, General Counsel, at 202-789-6820.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Table of Contents**

- Introduction
- Public Proceeding(s)
- Summary Proceeding(s)

**I. Introduction**

Pursuant to 39 CFR 3041.405, the Commission gives notice that the Postal Service filed request(s) for the Commission to consider matters related to Competitive negotiated service agreement(s). The request(s) may propose the addition of a negotiated service agreement from the Competitive product list or the modification of an existing product currently appearing on the Competitive product list.

The public portions of the Postal Service's request(s) can be accessed via the Commission's website (<https://www.prc.gov>).

[www.prc.gov](https://www.prc.gov)). Non-public portions of the Postal Service's request(s), if any, can be accessed through compliance with the requirements of 39 CFR 3011.301.<sup>1</sup>

Section II identifies the docket number(s) associated with each Postal Service request, if any, that will be reviewed in a public proceeding as defined by 39 CFR 3010.101(p), the title of each such request, the request's acceptance date, and the authority cited by the Postal Service for each request. For each such request, the Commission appoints an officer of the Commission to represent the interests of the general public in the proceeding, pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505 and 39 CFR 3000.114 (Public Representative). Section II also establishes comment deadline(s) pertaining to each such request.

The Commission invites comments on whether the Postal Service's request(s) identified in Section II, if any, are consistent with the policies of title 39. Applicable statutory and regulatory requirements include 39 U.S.C. 3632, 39 U.S.C. 3633, 39 U.S.C. 3642, 39 CFR part 3035, and 39 CFR part 3041. Comment deadline(s) for each such request, if any, appear in Section II.

Section III identifies the docket number(s) associated with each Postal Service request, if any, to add a standardized distinct product to the Competitive product list or to amend a standardized distinct product, the title of each such request, the request's acceptance date, and the authority cited by the Postal Service for each request. Standardized distinct products are negotiated service agreements that are variations of one or more Competitive products, and for which financial models, minimum rates, and classification criteria have undergone advance Commission review. See 39 CFR 3041.110(n); 39 CFR 3041.205(a). Such requests are reviewed in summary proceedings pursuant to 39 CFR 3041.325(c)(2) and 39 CFR 3041.505(f)(1). Pursuant to 39 CFR 3041.405(c)-(d), the Commission does not appoint a Public Representative or request public comment in proceedings to review such requests.

**II. Public Proceeding(s)**

- Docket No(s).: CP2024-646; Filing Title: USPS Request Concerning Amendment One to Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail & USPS Ground Advantage Contract 308, with Materials Filed Under Seal; Filing Acceptance*

<sup>1</sup> See Docket No. RM2018-3, Order Adopting Final Rules Relating to Non-Public Information, June 27, 2018, Attachment A at 19-22 (Order No. 4679).

**OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL**

**Notice for Public Comment:**  
**Information Collection Request**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC).

**ACTION:** Notice of request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the U.S. Office of Special Counsel is seeking public comment on an extension of a currently approved information collection activity for its Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program. The ADR Survey is distributed to participants following the conclusion of their ADR process and is used to assess program effectiveness and identify areas for improvement. The survey gathers feedback from mediation participants to help OSC improve the ADR process. Participation in the survey is voluntary, and responses are submitted anonymously.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on June 9, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- Mail: Barbara Wheeler Jones, U.S. Office of Special Counsel, 1730 M Street NW, Suite 218, Washington, DC 20036.

*Date: April 3, 2025; Filing Authority: 39 CFR 3035.105 and 39 CFR 3041.505; Public Representative: Jennaca Upperman; Comments Due: April 11, 2025.*

2. *Docket No(s.): MC2025-1283 and K2025-1282; Filing Title: USPS Request to Add Priority Mail Express International, Priority Mail International & First-Class Package International Service Contract 64 to Competitive Product List and Notice of Filing Materials Under Seal; Filing Acceptance Date: April 3, 2025; Filing Authority: 39 U.S.C. 3642, 39 CFR 3035.105, and 39 CFR 3041.310; Public Representative: Maxine Bradley; Comments Due: April 11, 2025.*

3. *Docket No(s.): MC2025-1284 and K2025-1283; Filing Title: USPS Request to Add Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail & USPS Ground Advantage Contract 1358 to the Competitive Product List and Notice of Filing Materials Under Seal; Filing Acceptance Date: April 3, 2025; Filing Authority: 39 U.S.C. 3642, 39 CFR 3035.105, and 39 CFR 3041.310; Public Representative: Christopher Mohr; Comments Due: April 11, 2025.*

4. *Docket No(s.): MC2025-1285 and K2025-1284; Filing Title: USPS Request to Add Priority Mail & USPS Ground Advantage Contract 684 to the Competitive Product List and Notice of Filing Materials Under Seal; Filing Acceptance Date: April 3, 2025; Filing Authority: 39 U.S.C. 3642, 39 CFR 3035.105, and 39 CFR 3041.310; Public Representative: Jennaca Upperman; Comments Due: April 11, 2025.*

5. *Docket No(s.): MC2025-1286 and K2025-1285; Filing Title: USPS Request to Add Priority Mail & USPS Ground Advantage Contract 685 to the Competitive Product List and Notice of Filing Materials Under Seal; Filing Acceptance Date: April 3, 2025; Filing Authority: 39 U.S.C. 3642, 39 CFR 3035.105, and 39 CFR 3041.310; Public Representative: Madison Lichtenstein; Comments Due: April 11, 2025.*

### III. Summary Proceeding(s)

None. See Section II for public proceedings.

This Notice will be published in the **Federal Register**.

**Jennie L. Jbara,**  
Primary Certifying Official.

[FR Doc. 2025-06084 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710-FW-P

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-102764; File No. SR-CboeBZX-2025-048]

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing of a Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Amendment No. 1, To List and Trade Shares of the Fidelity Solana Fund, Under BZX Rule 14.11(e)(4), Commodity-Based Trust Shares

April 3, 2025.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> notice is hereby given that on March 25, 2025, Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc. (“Exchange” or “BZX”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) a proposed rule change to list and trade shares of the Fidelity Solana Fund under BZX Rule 14.11(e)(4), Commodity-Based Trust Shares. On April 1, 2025, the Exchange filed Amendment No. 1 to the proposed rule change, which replaced and superseded the original filing in its entirety. The proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment No. 1, is described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment No. 1, from interested persons.

### I. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Amendment No. 1

Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc. (“BZX” or the “Exchange”) is filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission” or “SEC”) a proposed rule change to list and trade shares of the Fidelity Solana Fund (the “Trust”),<sup>3</sup> under BZX Rule 14.11(e)(4), Commodity-Based Trust Shares.

The text of the proposed rule change is also available on the Exchange’s website ([http://markets.cboe.com/us/equities/regulation/rule\\_filings/bzx/](http://markets.cboe.com/us/equities/regulation/rule_filings/bzx/)), at the Exchange’s Office of the Secretary, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

<sup>3</sup> The Trust was formed as a Delaware statutory trust on March 20, 2025, and is operated as a grantor trust for U.S. federal tax purposes. The Trust has no fixed termination date.

### II. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Amendment No. 1

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

### A. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

#### 1. Purpose

This Amendment No. 1 to SR-CboeBZX-2025-048 amends and replaces in its entirety the proposal as originally submitted on March 25, 2025. The Exchange submits this Amendment No. 1 in order to clarify certain points and add additional details to the proposal.

The Exchange proposes to list and trade the Shares under BZX Rule 14.11(e)(4),<sup>4</sup> which governs the listing and trading of Commodity-Based Trust Shares on the Exchange.<sup>5</sup> FD Funds Management LLC is the sponsor of the Trust (the “Sponsor”). The Shares will be registered with the Commission under the Securities Act of 1933 (the “Securities Act”) by means of the Trust’s registration statement on Form S-1 (the “Registration Statement”).<sup>6</sup> According to the Registration Statement, the Trust is neither an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as

<sup>4</sup> The Commission approved BZX Rule 14.11(e)(4) in Securities Exchange Act Release No. 65225 (August 30, 2011), 76 FR 55148 (September 6, 2011) (SR-BATS-2011-018).

<sup>5</sup> Any of the statements or representations regarding the index composition, the description of the portfolio or reference assets, limitations on portfolio holdings or reference assets, dissemination and availability of index, reference asset, and intraday indicative values, or the applicability of Exchange listing rules specified in this filing to list a series of Other Securities (collectively, “Continued Listing Representations”) shall constitute continued listing requirements for the Shares listed on the Exchange.

<sup>6</sup> The Sponsor intends to submit a Registration Statement on form S-1 on behalf of the Trust. The descriptions of the Trust, the Shares, and the Index (as defined below) contained herein are based, in part, on information in the draft Registration Statement. The Registration Statement is not yet effective, and the Shares will not trade on the Exchange until such time that the Registration Statement is effective.

amended,<sup>7</sup> nor a commodity pool for purposes of the Commodity Exchange Act (“CEA”), and neither the Trust nor the Sponsor is subject to regulation as a commodity pool operator or a commodity trading adviser in connection with the Shares.

Since 2017, the Commission has approved or disapproved exchange filings to list and trade series of Trust Issued Receipts, including spot-based Commodity-Based Trust Shares, on the basis of whether the listing exchange has in place a comprehensive surveillance sharing agreement with a regulated market of significant size related to the underlying commodity to be held (the “Winklevoss Test”).<sup>8</sup> The Commission has also consistently recognized that this is not the *exclusive* means by which an ETP listing exchange can meet this statutory obligation.<sup>9</sup> A listing exchange could, alternatively, demonstrate that “other means to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices will be sufficient” to justify dispensing with a surveillance-sharing agreement with a regulated market of significant size.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 80a-1.

<sup>8</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 78262 (July 8, 2016), 81 FR 78262 (July 14, 2016) (the “Winklevoss Proposal”). The Winklevoss Proposal was the first exchange rule filing proposing to list and trade shares of an ETP that would hold spot bitcoin (a “Spot Bitcoin ETP”). It was subsequently disapproved by the Commission. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 83723 (July 26, 2018), 83 FR 37579 (August 1, 2018) (the “Winklevoss Order”); 99306 (January 10, 2024), 89 FR 3008 (January 17, 2024) (Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE Arca, Inc.; The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC; Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc.; Order Granting Accelerated Approval of Proposed Rule Changes, as Modified by Amendments Thereto, To List and Trade Bitcoin-Based Commodity-Based Trust Shares and Trust Units) (the “Spot Bitcoin ETP Approval Order”); 100224 (May 23, 2024), 89 FR 46937 (May 30, 2024) (Self-Regulatory Organizations; NYSE Arca, Inc.; The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC; Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc.; Order Granting Accelerated Approval of Proposed Rule Changes, as Modified by Amendments Thereto, To List and Trade Shares of Ether-Based Exchange-Traded Products) (the “Spot ETH ETP Approval Order”).

<sup>9</sup> See Winklevoss Order, 83 FR at 37580; see Spot Bitcoin ETP Approval Order, 89 FR at 3009; see Spot ETH ETP Approval Order 89 FR at 46938.

<sup>10</sup> The Exchange notes that the Winklevoss Test was first applied in 2017 in the Winklevoss Order, which was the first disapproval order related to an exchange proposal to list and trade a Spot Bitcoin ETP. All prior approval orders issued by the Commission approving the listing and trading of series of Trust Issued Receipts included no specific analysis related to a “regulated market of significant size.” In the Winklevoss Order and the Commission’s prior orders approving the listing and trading of series of Trust Issued Receipts have noted that the spot commodities and currency markets for which it has previously approved spot ETPs are generally unregulated and that the Commission relied on the underlying futures market as the regulated market of significant size that formed the basis for approving the series of Currency and Commodity-Based Trust Shares, including gold,

The Commission recently issued orders granting approval for proposals to list bitcoin- and ether-based commodity trust shares and bitcoin-based, ether-based, and a combination of bitcoin- and ether-based trust issued receipts (these funds are substantively identical to the Trust, but hold bitcoin and/or ether, respectively, instead of Solana (also referred to as “SOL”)) (“Spot Bitcoin ETPs” and “Spot ETH ETPs”). In both the Spot Bitcoin ETP Approval Order and Spot ETH ETP Approval Order, the Commission found that sufficient “other means” of preventing fraud and manipulation had been demonstrated that justified dispensing with a surveillance-sharing agreement. Specifically, the Commission found that while the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (“CME”) futures markets for both bitcoin and ether were not of “significant size” related to their respective spot markets, the Exchange demonstrated that other means could be reasonably expected to assist in surveilling for fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices in the specific context of the proposals.

As further discussed below, both the Exchange and the Sponsor believe that this proposal and the included analysis are sufficient to establish that the proposal is consistent with the Act itself and, additionally, that there are sufficient “other means” of preventing fraud and manipulation that warrant dispensing of the surveillance-sharing agreement with a regulated market of significant size, as was done with both Spot Bitcoin ETPs and Spot ETH ETPs, and that this proposal should be approved.

#### Background

SOL is a digital asset that is created and transmitted through the operations of the peer-to-peer Solana Network, a decentralized network of computers that operates on cryptographic protocols. No

silver, platinum, palladium, copper, and other commodities and currencies. The Commission specifically noted in the Winklevoss Order that the approval order issued related to the first spot gold ETP “was based on an assumption that the currency market and the spot gold market were largely unregulated.” See Winklevoss Order at 37592. As such, the regulated market of significant size prong of the Winklevoss Test does not require that the spot market be regulated in order for the Commission to approve this proposal, and precedent makes clear that an underlying market for a spot commodity or currency being a regulated market would actually be an exception to the norm. These largely unregulated currency and commodity markets do not provide the same protections as the markets that are subject to the Commission’s oversight, but the Commission has consistently looked to surveillance sharing agreements with the underlying futures market in order to determine whether such products were consistent with the Act.

single entity is known to own or operate the Solana Network, the infrastructure of which is understood to be collectively maintained by a decentralized user base. The Solana Network allows people to exchange tokens of value, called SOL, which are recorded on a public transaction ledger known as a blockchain. SOL can be used to pay for goods and services, including computational power on the Solana Network, or it can be converted to fiat currencies, such as the U.S. dollar, at rates determined on Digital Asset Trading Platforms or in individual end-user-to-end-user transactions. Furthermore, the Solana Network was designed to allow users to write and implement smart contracts—that is, general-purpose code that executes on every computer in the network and can instruct the transmission of information and value based on a sophisticated set of logical conditions. Using smart contracts, users can create markets, store registries of debts or promises, represent the ownership of property, move funds in accordance with conditional instructions and create digital assets other than SOL on the Solana Network. Smart contract operations are executed on the Solana blockchain in exchange for payment of SOL. Like the Ethereum network, the Solana Network is one of a number of projects intended to expand blockchain use beyond just a peer-to-peer money system.

The Solana protocol introduced the Proof-of-History (“PoH”) timestamping mechanism. PoH automatically orders on-chain transactions by creating a historical record that proves an event has occurred at a specific moment in time. PoH is intended to provide a transaction processing speed and capacity advantage over other blockchain networks like Bitcoin and Ethereum, which rely on sequential production of blocks and can lead to delays caused by validator confirmations.

In addition to the PoH mechanism described above, the Solana Network uses a proof-of-stake consensus mechanism to incentivize SOL holders to validate transactions. Unlike proof-of-work, in which miners expend computational resources to compete to validate transactions and are rewarded coins in proportion to the amount of computational resources expended, in proof-of-stake, validators “stake” coins to compete to be randomly selected to validate transactions and are rewarded coins in proportion to the amount of coins staked. Certain malicious activity may result in the forfeiture or “slashing” of a portion of the staked coins. Proof-of-stake is viewed as more

energy efficient and scalable than proof-of-work and is sometimes referred to as “virtual mining”.

As noted above, this proposal is to list and trade shares of the Trust that would hold spot Solana and, as described below, cause the Trust to stake a portion of its SOL.

#### Section 6(b)(5) and the Applicable Standards

The Commission has approved numerous series of Trust Issued Receipts,<sup>11</sup> including Commodity-Based Trust Shares,<sup>12</sup> to be listed on U.S. national securities exchanges. In order for any proposed rule change from an exchange to be approved, the Commission must determine that, among other things, the proposal is consistent with the requirements of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act, specifically including: (i) the requirement that a national securities exchange’s rules are designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices;<sup>13</sup> and (ii) the requirement that an exchange proposal be designed, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. The Exchange believes that this proposal is consistent with the requirements of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act and that this filing sufficiently demonstrates that potential policy concerns under the Act are sufficiently mitigated to the point that they are outweighed by quantifiable investor protection issues that would be resolved by approving this proposal.

More recently, the Commission has applied the Winklevoss Test while also recognizing that the “regulated market of significant size” standard is not the only means for satisfying Section 6(b)(5) of the Act, specifically providing that a listing exchange could demonstrate that “other means to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices” are

<sup>11</sup> See Exchange Rule 14.11(f).

<sup>12</sup> Commodity-Based Trust Shares, as described in Exchange Rule 14.11(e)(4), are a type of Trust Issued Receipt.

<sup>13</sup> Much like bitcoin and ether, the Exchange believes that SOL, and by extension the Shares, are resistant to price manipulation and that “other means to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices” exist to justify dispensing with the requisite surveillance sharing agreement. The geographically diverse and continuous nature of SOL trading render it difficult and prohibitively costly to manipulate the price of SOL. The fragmentation across platforms and the capital necessary to maintain a significant presence on each trading platform make manipulation of SOL prices through continuous trading activity challenging. To the extent that there are trading platforms engaged in or allowing wash trading or other activity intended to manipulate the price of SOL on other markets, such pricing does not normally impact prices on other trading platforms because participants will generally ignore markets with quotes that they deem non-executable.

sufficient to justify dispensing with the requisite surveillance-sharing agreement.<sup>14</sup> In the Spot Bitcoin ETF Approval Order and Spot ETH ETF Approval Order the Commission determined that the CME bitcoin futures market and CME ETH futures market, respectively, were not of “significant size” related to the spot market.<sup>15</sup> Instead, the Commission found that sufficient “other means” of preventing fraud and manipulation had been demonstrated that justified dispensing with a surveillance-sharing agreement. The Exchange and Sponsor believe that this proposal provides for other means of preventing fraud and manipulation justifying dispensing with a surveillance-sharing agreement.

Over the past several years, U.S. investor exposure to SOL, through over-the-counter funds that invest in SOL (“OTC SOL Funds”) and digital asset trading platforms, has grown into billions of dollars with a fully diluted market cap averaging greater than \$90 billion over the last 180 days. The Exchange believes that approving this proposal (and comparable proposals) provides the Commission with the opportunity to allow U.S. investors with access to SOL in a regulated and transparent exchange-traded vehicle that would act to limit risk to U.S. investors by: (i) reducing premium and discount volatility; (ii) reducing management fees through meaningful competition; and (iii) providing an alternative to self-custodying SOL.

The policy concerns that the Exchange Act is designed to address are also otherwise mitigated by the size of the market for the underlying reference asset (averaging greater than \$90 billion fully diluted value over the last 180 days). The trading volumes of SOL to USD and SOL to USD-stablecoin pairs trade an average daily volume of approximately \$2 billion across six leading cryptocurrency trading platforms by volume—Coinbase, *Crypto.com*, Kraken, Binance, OKX, and ByBit. The geographically diverse and continuous nature of SOL trading makes it difficult and prohibitively costly to

<sup>14</sup> See Winklevoss Order at 37580. The Commission has also specifically noted that it “is not applying a ‘cannot be manipulated’ standard; instead, the Commission is examining whether the proposal meets the requirements of the Exchange Act and, pursuant to its Rules of Practice, places the burden on the listing exchange to demonstrate the validity of its contentions and to establish that the requirements of the Exchange Act have been met.” *Id.* at 37582.

<sup>15</sup> Futures contracts on Solana began trading on the CME on March 17, 2025. Because these instruments have only been trading for a short time, it is too early to determine whether their market is of “significant size” for purposes of the Winklevoss Test.

manipulate the price of SOL and, in many instances, the SOL market can be less susceptible to manipulation than the equity, fixed income, and commodity futures markets. There are a number of reasons this is the case, including that there is not inside information about revenue, earnings, corporate activities, or sources of supply; manipulation of the price on any single venue would require manipulation of the global SOL price in order to be effective; a substantial over-the-counter market provides liquidity and shock-absorbing capacity; the SOL market’s 24/7/365 nature provides constant arbitrage opportunities across all trading venues; and it is unlikely that any one actor could obtain a dominant market share.

Further, SOL is arguably less susceptible to manipulation than other commodities that underlie ETPs; there may be inside information relating to the supply of the physical commodity such as the discovery of new sources of supply or significant disruptions at mining facilities that supply the commodity that simply are inapplicable as it relates to certain crypto assets, including SOL. Further, the Exchange believes that the fragmentation across SOL trading platforms and increased adoption of SOL, as displayed through increased user engagement and trading volumes, and the Solana Network make manipulation of SOL prices through continuous trading activity unlikely. Moreover, the linkage between the SOL markets and the presence of arbitrageurs in those markets means that the manipulation of the price of SOL price on any single venue would require manipulation of the global SOL price in order to be effective. Arbitrageurs must have funds distributed across multiple SOL trading platforms in order to take advantage of temporary price dislocations, thereby making it unlikely that there will be strong concentration of funds on any particular SOL trading platform. As a result, the potential for manipulation on a particular SOL trading platform would require overcoming the liquidity supply of such arbitrageurs who are effectively eliminating any cross-market pricing differences. For all of these reasons, SOL is not particularly susceptible to manipulation, especially as compared to other approved ETP reference assets.

#### Fidelity Solana Fund

CSC Delaware Trust Company is the trustee (“Trustee”). The Trust will engage Fidelity Service Company, Inc. (“FSC”), a Sponsor affiliate, to be the administrator (“Administrator”). The transfer agent (“Transfer Agent”) will

facilitate the issuance and redemption of Shares of the Trust and respond to correspondence by Trust shareholders and others relating to its duties, maintain shareholder accounts, and make periodic reports to the Trust. The cash custodian (“Cash Custodian”) will be responsible for the custody of the Trust’s cash and cash equivalents.<sup>16</sup> Another affiliate of Sponsor, Fidelity Distributors Company LLC, will be the distributor (“Distributor”) in connection with the creation and redemption of “Creation Baskets” of Shares. The Sponsor will provide assistance in the marketing of the Shares. A third-party custodian (the “Custodian”), will be responsible for custody of the Trust’s SOL.

According to the Registration Statement, each Share will represent a fractional undivided beneficial interest in and ownership of the Trust. The Trust’s assets will only consist of SOL, cash, and cash equivalents.

According to the Registration Statement, the Trust will be neither an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended,<sup>17</sup> nor a commodity pool for purposes of the CEA, and neither the Trust nor the Sponsor is subject to regulation as a commodity pool operator or a commodity trading adviser in connection with the Shares.

The Sponsor may stake, or cause to be staked, all or a portion of the Trust’s SOL through one or more trusted staking providers (“Staking Providers”). In consideration for any staking activity in which the Trust may engage, the Trust would receive all or a portion of the staking rewards generated through staking activities, which may be treated as income to the Trust. The Trust will not acquire and will disclaim any incidental right (“IR”) or IR asset received, for example as a result of forks or airdrops, and such assets will not be taken into account for purposes of determining NAV.

#### Creation and Redemption of Shares

When the Trust creates or redeems its Shares, it will do so in cash or in-kind. In connection with cash creations and cash redemptions, the authorized participants will submit orders to create or redeem Baskets of Shares in exchange for cash. When the Trust creates or redeems its Shares in cash, it will do so in transactions in blocks of Shares that are based on the quantity of SOL attributable to each Share of the Trust (e.g., a Creation Basket) at the Trust’s

NAV. When the Trust creates or redeems its Shares in kind, it will do so in transfers of SOL in blocks of Shares that are based on the quantity of SOL attributable to the Creation Basket being created or redeemed. The authorized participants will deliver or cause to be delivered cash or SOL to create Shares and the authorized participant or its designee will receive cash or SOL when redeeming Shares. The Trust will create Shares by receiving SOL or cash from an authorized participant or its designee and will redeem shares by delivering SOL or cash to an authorized participant or its designee. On any business day, an authorized participant may place an order to create one or more Creation Baskets. Purchase orders must be placed by the close of Regular Trading Hours on the Exchange or another time determined by the Sponsor. The day on which an order is received is considered the purchase order date. For a cash creation order, the total deposit of cash required is an amount of cash sufficient to purchase such amount of SOL, the amount of which is equal to the combined NAV of the number of Shares included in the Creation Baskets being created determined as of 4:00 p.m. ET on the date the order to purchase is properly received. For a creation order in kind, the total in-kind transfer of SOL is based on the quantity of SOL attributable to the Creation Baskets being created determined as of 4:00 p.m. ET on the date the order to purchase is properly received. The Administrator determines the quantity of SOL used to calculate the Creation Basket for a given day by dividing the number of SOL held by the Trust as of the opening of business on that business day, adjusted for the amount of SOL constituting estimated accrued but unpaid fees and expenses of the Trust as of the opening of business on that business day, by the quotient of the number of Shares outstanding at the opening of business divided by the number of Shares in a Creation Basket. The procedures by which an authorized participant can redeem one or more Creation Baskets mirror the procedures for the creation of Creation Baskets. For a cash creation order, an authorized participant will deliver cash to create Shares. For an in-kind creation order, an authorized participant or its designee will deliver SOL to create Shares. For a cash redemption order, an authorized participant will deliver Shares to the Trust and will receive cash for the Shares delivered. For an in-kind redemption order, an authorized participant will deliver Shares to the Trust and the authorized participant or

its designee will receive SOL for the Shares delivered.

#### Investment Objective

According to the Registration Statement and as further described below, the Trust’s investment objective is to seek to track the performance of SOL, as measured by the performance of the Fidelity Solana Reference Rate (the “Index”), adjusted for the Trust’s expenses and other liabilities. In seeking to achieve its investment objective, the Trust will hold SOL and will value its Shares daily as of 4:00 p.m. ET using the same methodology used to calculate the Index. All of the Trust’s SOL will be held by the Custodian(s).

#### The Index

As described in the Registration Statement, The Trust will use the Index to calculate the Trust’s NAV. The Trust will determine the SOL Index price and value its Shares daily based on the value of SOL as reflected by the Index. The Index will be calculated daily and aggregates the notional value of SOL trading across major SOL spot trading platforms.

#### Net Asset Value

NAV means the total assets of the Trust (which includes all SOL and cash and cash equivalents) less total liabilities of the Trust. The Administrator determines the NAV of the Trust on each day that the Exchange is open for regular trading, as promptly as practical after 4:00 p.m. ET based on the closing value of the Index. The NAV of the Trust is the aggregate value of the Trust’s assets less its estimated accrued but unpaid liabilities (which include accrued expenses). In determining the NAV, the Administrator values the SOL held by the Trust based on the closing value of the Index as of 4:00 p.m. ET. The Administrator also determines the NAV per Share. The NAV for the Trust will be calculated by the Administrator once a day and will be disseminated daily to all market participants at the same time.

#### Availability of Information

In addition to the price transparency of the Index, the Trust will provide information regarding the Trust’s SOL holdings as well as additional data regarding the Trust. The website for the Trust, which will be publicly accessible at no charge, will contain the following information: (a) the current NAV per Share daily and the prior business day’s NAV per Share and the reported BZX

<sup>16</sup> Cash equivalents are short-term instruments with maturities of less than 3 months.

<sup>17</sup> 15 U.S.C. 80a-1.

Official Closing Price;<sup>18</sup> (b) the BZX Official Closing Price in relation to the NAV per Share as of the time the NAV is calculated and a calculation of the premium or discount of such price against such NAV per Share; (c) data in chart form displaying the frequency distribution of discounts and premiums of the BZX Official Closing Price against the NAV per Share, within appropriate ranges for each of the four previous calendar quarters (or for the life of the Trust, if shorter); (d) the prospectus; and (e) other applicable quantitative information. The aforementioned information will be published as of the close of business and available on the Sponsor's website at [www.fidelity.com](http://www.fidelity.com), or any successor thereto. The NAV for the Trust will be calculated by the Administrator once a day and will be disseminated daily to all market participants at the same time. Quotation and last-sale information regarding the Shares will be disseminated through the facilities of the Consolidated Tape Association ("CTA"). The Trust will also disseminate its holdings on a daily basis on its website.

The Intraday Indicative Value ("IIV") will be updated during Regular Trading Hours to reflect changes in the value of the Trust's SOL holdings during the trading day. The IIV disseminated during Regular Trading Hours should not be viewed as an actual real-time update of the NAV, which will be calculated only once at the end of each trading day. The IIV may differ from the NAV because NAV is calculated, using the closing value of the Index, once a day at 4:00 p.m. ET, whereas the IIV draws prices from the last trade on each constituent platform in an effort to produce a relevant, real-time price). The Trust will provide an IIV per Share updated every 15 seconds, as calculated by the Exchange or a third-party financial data provider during the Exchange's Regular Trading Hours (9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET). The IIV will be widely disseminated on a per Share basis every 15 seconds during the Exchange's Regular Trading Hours through the facilities of the CTA and Consolidated Quotation System (CQS) high speed lines. In addition, the IIV will be available through on-line information services, such as Bloomberg and Reuters.

The price of SOL will be made available by one or more major market data vendors, updated at least every 15 seconds during Regular Trading Hours.

<sup>18</sup> As defined in Rule 11.23(a)(3), the term "BZX Official Closing Price" shall mean the price disseminated to the consolidated tape as the market center closing trade.

As noted above, the Index is calculated every 15 seconds and information about the Index and Index value, including index data and key elements of how the Index is calculated, will be publicly available at [i.fidelity.com/indices](http://i.fidelity.com/indices).

Quotation and last sale information for SOL is widely disseminated through a variety of major market data vendors, including Bloomberg and Reuters. Information relating to trading, including price and volume information, in SOL is available from major market data vendors and from the trading platforms on which SOL are traded. Depth of book information is also available from SOL trading platforms. The normal trading hours for SOL trading platforms are 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

Information regarding market price and trading volume of the Shares will be continually available on a real-time basis throughout the day on brokers' computer screens and other electronic services. Information regarding the previous day's BZX Official Closing Price and trading volume information for the Shares will be published daily in the financial section of newspapers. Quotation and last-sale information regarding the Shares will be disseminated through the facilities of the CTA.

#### The Custodian

The Custodian's services (i) allow SOL to be deposited from a public blockchain address to the Trust's SOL account, (ii) allow SOL to be withdrawn from the SOL account to a public blockchain address as instructed by the Trust, and (iii) allow SOL to be staked. The custody agreement requires the Custodian to hold the Trust's SOL in cold storage, unless required to facilitate withdrawals as a temporary measure. The Custodian will use segregated cold storage SOL addresses for the Trust which are separate from the SOL addresses that the Custodian uses for its other customers and which are directly verifiable via the SOL blockchain. The Custodian will safeguard the private keys to the SOL associated with the Trust's SOL account. The Custodian will at all times record and identify in its books and records that such SOL constitutes the property of the Trust. The Custodian will not withdraw the Trust's SOL from the Trust's account with the Custodian, or loan, hypothecate, pledge or otherwise encumber the Trust's SOL, without the Trust's instruction. The Sponsor may appoint an additional or replacement custodian and the Trust may enter into

a custodian agreement with such custodian.

#### Rule 14.11(e)(4)—Commodity-Based Trust Shares

The Shares will be subject to BZX Rule 14.11(e)(4), which sets forth the initial and continued listing criteria applicable to Commodity-Based Trust Shares. The Exchange represents that, for initial and continued listing, the Trust must be in compliance with Rule 10A-3 under the Act. A minimum of 100,000 Shares will be outstanding at the commencement of listing on the Exchange. The Exchange will obtain a representation that the NAV will be calculated daily and that the NAV and information about the assets of the Trust will be made available to all market participants at the same time. The Exchange notes that, as defined in Rule 14.11(e)(4)(C)(i), the Shares will be: (a) issued by a trust that holds (1) a specified commodity<sup>19</sup> deposited with the trust, or (2) a specified commodity and, in addition to such specified commodity, cash; (b) issued by such trust in a specified aggregate minimum number in return for a deposit of a quantity of the underlying commodity and/or cash; and (c) when aggregated in the same specified minimum number, may be redeemed at a holder's request by such trust which will deliver to the redeeming holder the quantity of the underlying commodity and/or cash.

Upon termination of the Trust, the Shares will be removed from listing. The Trustee, CSC Delaware Trust Company, is a trust company having substantial capital and surplus and the experience and facilities for handling corporate trust business, as required under Rule 14.11(e)(4)(E)(iv)(a) and that no change will be made to the trustee without prior notice to and approval of the Exchange. The Exchange also notes that, pursuant to Rule 14.11(e)(4)(F), neither the Exchange nor any agent of the Exchange shall have any liability for damages, claims, losses or expenses caused by any errors, omissions or delays in calculating or disseminating any underlying commodity value, the current value of the underlying commodity required to be deposited to the Trust in connection with issuance of Commodity-Based Trust Shares; resulting from any negligent act or omission by the Exchange, or any agent of the Exchange, or any act, condition or cause beyond the reasonable control of the Exchange, its agent, including, but not limited to, an act of God; fire; flood;

<sup>19</sup> For purposes of Rule 14.11(e)(4), the term commodity takes on the definition of the term as provided in the Commodity Exchange Act.

extraordinary weather conditions; war; insurrection; riot; strike; accident; action of government; communications or power failure; equipment or software malfunction; or any error, omission or delay in the reports of transactions in an underlying commodity. Finally, as required in Rule 14.11(e)(4)(G), the Exchange notes that any registered market maker (“Market Maker”) in the Shares must file with the Exchange in a manner prescribed by the Exchange and keep current a list identifying all accounts for trading in an underlying commodity, related commodity futures or options on commodity futures, or any other related commodity derivatives, which the registered Market Maker may have or over which it may exercise investment discretion. No registered Market Maker shall trade in an underlying commodity, related commodity futures or options on commodity futures, or any other related commodity derivatives, in an account in which a registered Market Maker, directly or indirectly, controls trading activities, or has a direct interest in the profits or losses thereof, which has not been reported to the Exchange as required by this Rule. In addition to the existing obligations under Exchange rules regarding the production of books and records (see, *e.g.*, Rule 4.2), the registered Market Maker in Commodity-Based Trust Shares shall make available to the Exchange such books, records or other information pertaining to transactions by such entity or registered or non-registered employee affiliated with such entity for its or their own accounts for trading the underlying physical commodity, related commodity futures or options on commodity futures, or any other related commodity derivatives, as may be requested by the Exchange.

The Exchange is able to obtain information regarding trading in the Shares and the underlying SOL or any other SOL derivative through members acting as registered Market Makers, in connection with their proprietary or customer trades.

As a general matter, the Exchange has regulatory jurisdiction over its Members and their associated persons, which include any person or entity controlling a Member. To the extent the Exchange may be found to lack jurisdiction over a subsidiary or affiliate of a Member that does business only in commodities or futures contracts, the Exchange could obtain information regarding the activities of such subsidiary or affiliate through surveillance sharing agreements with regulatory organizations of which such subsidiary or affiliate is a member.

#### Trading Halts

With respect to trading halts, the Exchange may consider all relevant factors in exercising its discretion to halt or suspend trading in the Shares. The Exchange will halt trading in the Shares under the conditions specified in BZX Rule 11.18. Trading may be halted because of market conditions or for reasons that, in the view of the Exchange, make trading in the Shares inadvisable. These may include: (1) the extent to which trading is not occurring in the SOL underlying the Shares; or (2) whether other unusual conditions or circumstances detrimental to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market are present. Trading in the Shares also will be subject to Rule 14.11(e)(4)(E)(ii), which sets forth circumstances under which trading in the Shares may be halted.

If the IIV or the value of the Index is not being disseminated as required, the Exchange may halt trading during the day in which the interruption to the dissemination of the IIV or the value of the Index occurs. If the interruption to the dissemination of the IIV or the value of the Index persists past the trading day in which it occurred, the Exchange will halt trading no later than the beginning of the trading day following the interruption.

In addition, if the Exchange becomes aware that the NAV with respect to the Shares is not disseminated to all market participants at the same time, it will halt trading in the Shares until such time as the NAV is available to all market participants.

#### Trading Rules

The Exchange deems the Shares to be equity securities, thus rendering trading in the Shares subject to the Exchange’s existing rules governing the trading of equity securities. BZX will allow trading in the Shares during all trading sessions on the Exchange. The Exchange has appropriate rules to facilitate transactions in the Shares during all trading sessions. As provided in BZX Rule 11.11(a) the minimum price variation for quoting and entry of orders in securities traded on the Exchange is \$0.01 where the price is greater than \$1.00 per share or \$0.0001 where the price is less than \$1.00 per share. The Shares of the Trust will conform to the initial and continued listing criteria set forth in BZX Rule 14.11(e)(4).

#### Surveillance

The Exchange represents that its surveillance procedures are adequate to properly monitor the trading of the Shares on the Exchange during all

trading sessions and to deter and detect violations of Exchange rules and the applicable federal securities laws. Trading of the Shares through the Exchange will be subject to the Exchange’s surveillance procedures for derivative products, including Commodity-Based Trust Shares. FINRA conducts certain cross-market surveillances on behalf of the Exchange pursuant to a regulatory services agreement. The Exchange is responsible for FINRA’s performance under this regulatory services agreement.

The Exchange or FINRA, on behalf of the Exchange, or both, will communicate as needed regarding trading in the Shares or any other SOL derivative with other markets and other entities that are members of the ISG, and the Exchange, or FINRA, on behalf of the Exchange, or both, may obtain trading information regarding trading in the Shares or any other SOL derivative from such markets and other entities.<sup>20</sup> The Exchange may obtain information regarding trading in the Shares or any other SOL derivative via ISG, from other exchanges who are members or affiliates of the ISG, or with which the Exchange has entered into a comprehensive surveillance sharing agreement.

In addition, the Exchange also has a general policy prohibiting the distribution of material, non-public information by its employees.

The Sponsor has represented to the Exchange that it will advise the Exchange of any failure by the Trust or the Shares to comply with the continued listing requirements, and, pursuant to its obligations under Section 19(g)(1) of the Exchange Act, the Exchange will surveil for compliance with the continued listing requirements. If the Trust or the Shares are not in compliance with the applicable listing requirements, the Exchange will commence delisting procedures under Exchange Rule 14.12.

#### Information Circular

Prior to the commencement of trading, the Exchange will inform its members in an Information Circular of the special characteristics and risks associated with trading the Shares. Specifically, the Information Circular will discuss the following: (i) the procedures for the creation and redemption of Creation Baskets (and that the Shares are not individually redeemable); (ii) BZX Rule 3.7, which imposes suitability obligations on Exchange members with respect to recommending transactions in the

<sup>20</sup> For a list of the current members and affiliate members of ISG, see [www.isgportal.com](http://www.isgportal.com).

Shares to customers; (iii) how information regarding the IIV and the Trust's NAV are disseminated; (iv) the risks involved in trading the Shares outside of Regular Trading Hours<sup>21</sup> when an updated IIV will not be calculated or publicly disseminated; (v) the requirement that members deliver a prospectus to investors purchasing newly issued Shares prior to or concurrently with the confirmation of a transaction; and (vi) trading information. The Information Circular will also reference the fact that there is no regulated source of last sale information regarding SOL, and that the Commission has no jurisdiction over the trading of SOL as a commodity.

In addition, the Information Circular will advise members, prior to the commencement of trading, of the prospectus delivery requirements applicable to the Shares. Members purchasing the Shares for resale to investors will deliver a prospectus to such investors. The Information Circular will also discuss any exemptive, no-action and interpretive relief granted by the Commission from any rules under the Act.

## 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act<sup>22</sup> in general and Section 6(b)(5) of the Act<sup>23</sup> in particular in that it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

The Commission has approved numerous series of Trust Issued Receipts,<sup>24</sup> including Commodity-Based Trust Shares,<sup>25</sup> to be listed on U.S. national securities exchanges. In order for any proposed rule change from an exchange to be approved, the Commission must determine that, among other things, the proposal is consistent with the requirements of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act, specifically including: (i) the requirement that a national securities exchange's rules are designed to prevent fraudulent and

manipulative acts and practices;<sup>26</sup> and (ii) the requirement that an exchange proposal be designed, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. The Exchange believes that this proposal is consistent with the requirements of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act and that this filing sufficiently demonstrates that potential policy concerns under the Act are sufficiently mitigated to the point that they are outweighed by quantifiable investor protection issues that would be resolved by approving this proposal.

More recently, the Commission has applied the Winklevoss Test while also recognizing that the "regulated market of significant size" standard is not the only means for satisfying Section 6(b)(5) of the Act. In the specifically providing that a listing exchange could demonstrate that "other means to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices" are sufficient to justify dispensing with the requisite surveillance-sharing agreement.<sup>27</sup> In the Spot Bitcoin ETF Approval Order and Spot ETH ETF Approval Order the Commission determined that the CME bitcoin futures market and CME ETH futures market, respectively, were not of "significant size" related to the spot market.<sup>28</sup> Instead, the Commission found that sufficient "other means" of preventing fraud and manipulation had been demonstrated that justified dispensing with a surveillance-sharing agreement. The Exchange and Sponsor believe that this proposal provides for

<sup>26</sup> Much like bitcoin and ether, the Exchange believes that SOL is resistant to price manipulation and that "other means to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices" exist to justify dispensing with the requisite surveillance sharing agreement. The geographically diverse and continuous nature of SOL trading render it difficult and prohibitively costly to manipulate the price of SOL. The fragmentation across platforms and the capital necessary to maintain a significant presence on each trading platform make manipulation of SOL prices through continuous trading activity challenging. To the extent that there are trading platforms engaged in or allowing wash trading or other activity intended to manipulate the price of SOL on other markets, such pricing does not normally impact prices on other trading platforms because participants will generally ignore markets with quotes that they deem non-executable.

<sup>27</sup> See Winklevoss Order at 37580. The Commission has also specifically noted that it "is not applying a 'cannot be manipulated' standard; instead, the Commission is examining whether the proposal meets the requirements of the Exchange Act and, pursuant to its Rules of Practice, places the burden on the listing exchange to demonstrate the validity of its contentions and to establish that the requirements of the Exchange Act have been met." *Id.* at 37582.

<sup>28</sup> Futures contracts on Solana began trading on the CME on March 17, 2025. Because these instruments have only been trading for a short time, it is too early to determine whether their market is of "significant size" for purposes of the Winklevoss Test.

other means of preventing fraud and manipulation justify dispensing with a surveillance-sharing agreement.

The Exchange believes that the proposal is designed to protect investors and the public interest. Over the past several years, U.S. investor exposure to SOL has grown into the billions of dollars, mostly through transactions in spot SOL on digital asset trading platforms. The Exchange believes that approving this proposal (and comparable proposals) provides the Commission with the opportunity to allow U.S. investors with access to SOL in a regulated and transparent exchange-traded vehicle that would act to limit risk to U.S. investors by: (i) reducing premium and discount volatility; (ii) reducing management fees through meaningful competition; and (iii) providing an alternative to custodial SOL.

The policy concerns that the Exchange Act is designed to address are also otherwise mitigated by the fact that the size of the market for the underlying reference asset (averaging greater than \$90 billion fully diluted value over the last 180 days). The geographically diverse and continuous nature of SOL trading makes it difficult and prohibitively costly to manipulate the price of SOL and, in many instances, the SOL market can be less susceptible to manipulation than the equity, fixed income, and commodity futures markets. There are a number of reasons this is the case, including that there is not inside information about revenue, earnings, corporate activities, or sources of supply; manipulation of the price on any single venue would require manipulation of the global SOL price in order to be effective; a substantial over-the-counter market provides liquidity and shock-absorbing capacity; the SOL market's 24/7/365 nature provides constant arbitrage opportunities across all trading venues; and it is unlikely that any one actor could obtain a dominant market share.

Further, SOL is arguably less susceptible to manipulation than other commodities that underlie ETPs; there may be inside information relating to the supply of the physical commodity such as the discovery of new sources of supply or significant disruptions at mining facilities that supply the commodity that simply are inapplicable as it relates to bitcoin. Further, the Exchange believes that the fragmentation across SOL trading platforms, the relatively slow speed of transactions, and the capital necessary to maintain a significant presence on each trading platform make manipulation of SOL prices through

<sup>21</sup> Regular Trading Hours is the time between 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. ET.

<sup>22</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f.

<sup>23</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

<sup>24</sup> See Exchange Rule 14.11(f).

<sup>25</sup> Commodity-Based Trust Shares, as described in Exchange Rule 14.11(e)(4), are a type of Trust Issued Receipt.

continuous trading activity unlikely. Moreover, the linkage between the SOL markets and the presence of arbitrageurs in those markets means that the manipulation of the price of SOL price on any single venue would require manipulation of the global SOL price in order to be effective. Arbitrageurs must have funds distributed across multiple SOL trading platforms in order to take advantage of temporary price dislocations, thereby making it unlikely that there will be strong concentration of funds on any particular SOL trading platform. As a result, the potential for manipulation on a particular SOL trading platform would require overcoming the liquidity supply of such arbitrageurs who are effectively eliminating any cross-market pricing differences. For all of these reasons, SOL is not particularly susceptible to manipulation, especially as compared to other approved ETP reference assets.

#### Commodity-Based Trust Shares

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices in that the Shares will be listed on the Exchange pursuant to the initial and continued listing criteria in Exchange Rule 14.11(e)(4). The Exchange believes that its surveillance procedures are adequate to properly monitor the trading of the Shares on the Exchange during all trading sessions and to deter and detect violations of Exchange rules and the applicable federal securities laws. Trading of the Shares through the Exchange will be subject to the Exchange's surveillance procedures for derivative products, including Commodity-Based Trust Shares. The Sponsor has represented to the Exchange that it will advise the Exchange of any failure by the Trust or the Shares to comply with the continued listing requirements, and, pursuant to its obligations under Section 19(g)(1) of the Exchange Act, the Exchange will surveil for compliance with the continued listing requirements. If the Trust or the Shares are not in compliance with the applicable listing requirements, the Exchange will commence delisting procedures under Exchange Rule 14.12. The Exchange may obtain information regarding trading in the Shares and listed SOL derivatives via the ISG, from other exchanges who are members or affiliates of the ISG, or with which the Exchange has entered into a comprehensive surveillance sharing agreement.

#### Availability of Information

In addition to the price transparency of the Index, the Trust will provide

information regarding the Trust's SOL holdings as well as additional data regarding the Trust. The website for the Trust, which will be publicly accessible at no charge, will contain the following information: (a) the current NAV per Share daily and the prior business day's NAV per Share and the reported BZX Official Closing Price;<sup>29</sup> (b) the BZX Official Closing Price in relation to the NAV per Share as of the time the NAV is calculated and a calculation of the premium or discount of such price against such NAV per Share; (c) data in chart form displaying the frequency distribution of discounts and premiums of the BZX Official Closing Price against the NAV per Share, within appropriate ranges for each of the four previous calendar quarters (or for the life of the Trust, if shorter); (d) the prospectus; and (e) other applicable quantitative information. The aforementioned information will be published as of the close of business and available on the Sponsor's website at [www.fidelity.com](http://www.fidelity.com), or any successor thereto. The NAV for the Trust will be calculated by the Administrator once a day and will be disseminated daily to all market participants at the same time. Quotation and last-sale information regarding the Shares will be disseminated through the facilities of the CTA. The Trust will also disseminate its holdings on a daily basis on its website.

The IIV will be updated during Regular Trading Hours to reflect changes in the value of the Trust's SOL holdings during the trading day. The IIV may differ from the NAV because NAV is calculated, using the closing value of the Index, once a day at 4:00 p.m. ET whereas the IIV draws prices from the last trade on each constituent platform to produce a relevant, real-time price. The IIV disseminated during Regular Trading Hours should not be viewed as an actual real-time update of the NAV, which will be calculated only once at the end of each trading day. The Trust will provide an IIV per Share updated every 15 seconds, as calculated by the Exchange or a third-party financial data provider during the Exchange's Regular Trading Hours (9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET). The IIV will be widely disseminated on a per Share basis every 15 seconds during the Exchange's Regular Trading Hours through the facilities of the CTA and CQS high speed lines. In addition, the IIV will be available through on-line information services such as Bloomberg and Reuters.

The price of SOL will be made available by one or more major market data vendors, updated at least every 15 seconds during Regular Trading Hours.

As noted above, the Index is calculated every 15 seconds and information about the Index and Index value, including index data and key elements of how the Index is calculated, will be publicly available at [fidelity.com/indices](http://fidelity.com/indices).

Quotation and last sale information for SOL is widely disseminated through a variety of major market data vendors, including Bloomberg and Reuters. Information relating to trading, including price and volume information, in SOL is available from major market data vendors and from the trading platforms on which SOL are traded. Depth of book information is also available from SOL trading platforms. The normal trading hours for SOL trading platforms are 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

Information regarding market price and trading volume of the Shares will be continually available on a real-time basis throughout the day on brokers' computer screens and other electronic services. Information regarding the previous day's BZX Official Closing Price and trading volume information for the Shares will be published daily in the financial section of newspapers. Quotation and last-sale information regarding the Shares will be disseminated through the facilities of the CTA.

In sum, the Exchange believes that this proposal is consistent with the requirements of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act, that on the whole the manipulation concerns previously articulated by the Commission are sufficiently mitigated to the point that they are outweighed by investor protection issues that would be resolved by approving this proposal.

The Exchange believes that the proposal is, in particular, designed to protect investors and the public interest. The investor protection issues for U.S. investors has grown significantly over the last several years, through premium/discount volatility and management fees for OTC SOL Funds. As discussed throughout, this growth investor protection concerns need to be re-evaluated and rebalanced with the prevention of fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices concerns that previous disapproval orders have relied upon.

For the above reasons, the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act.

<sup>29</sup> As defined in Rule 11.23(a)(3), the term "BZX Official Closing Price" shall mean the price disseminated to the consolidated tape as the market center closing trade.

*B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition*

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purpose of the Act. The Exchange notes that the proposed rule change, rather will facilitate the listing and trading of an additional exchange-traded product that will enhance competition among both market participants and listing venues, to the benefit of investors and the marketplace.

*C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others*

The Exchange neither solicited nor received comments on the proposed rule change.

**III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Amendment No. 1, and Timing for Commission Action**

Within 45 days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** or within such longer period up to 90 days (i) as the Commission may designate if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the Exchange consents, the Commission will:

- A. by order approve or disapprove such proposed rule change, or
- B. institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

**IV. Solicitation of Comments**

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment No. 1, is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

*Electronic Comments*

- Use the Commission's internet comment form (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an email to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include file number SR-CboeBZX-2025-048 on the subject line.

*Paper Comments*

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to file number SR-CboeBZX-2025-048. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the

Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's internet website (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection. All submissions should refer to file number SR-CboeBZX-2025-048 and should be submitted on or before April 30, 2025.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>30</sup>

**Sherry R. Haywood,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06033 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8011-01-P**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

[Release No. 34-102768; File No. SR-OCC-2024-010]

**Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Options Clearing Corporation; Order Granting Approval of Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Partial Amendment No. 1 and Amendments Nos. 2 and 3, by The Options Clearing Corporation To Establish a Margin Add-On Charge That Would Be Applied to All Clearing Member Accounts To Help Mitigate the Risks Arising From Intraday and Overnight Trading Activity**

April 3, 2025.

**I. Introduction**

On July 25, 2024, the Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change SR-OCC-2024-010, pursuant to Section 19(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act" or "Act")<sup>1</sup> and Rule 19b-4<sup>2</sup> thereunder, to establish a margin add-on charge that would be applied to all Clearing Member<sup>3</sup> accounts to assist with mitigating the risks arising from intraday and overnight trading activity, particularly activity attributable to short-dated options trading. Proposed rule change SR-OCC-2024-010 was published for public comment in the **Federal Register** on August 12, 2024.<sup>4</sup> The Commission has received comments regarding the proposed rule change.<sup>5</sup>

On September 4, 2024, OCC partially amended the proposed rule change to include as Exhibit 2 an information memorandum OCC published on its website informing OCC's membership of the details of the margin add-on charge.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

<sup>3</sup> Capitalized terms not defined herein have the same meaning as provided in OCC's By-Laws and Rules, which can be found on OCC's public website: <https://www.theocc.com/Company-Information/Documents-and-Archives/By-Laws-and-Rules>.

<sup>4</sup> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 100664 (Aug. 6, 2024), 89 FR 65695 (Aug. 12, 2024) (File No. SR-OCC-2024-010) ("Notice of Filing").

<sup>5</sup> Comments on the proposed rule change are available at <https://www.sec.gov/comments/sr-occ-2024-010/srocc2024010.htm>. Commenters requested that the Commission extend the comment period for the Notice of Filing (hereinafter "Initial Filing"). See, e.g., Letter from James Toes, President & CEO, Security Traders Association, dated Sept. 2, 2024 ("STA Letter") at 2. The Commission provided a new comment period exceeding the commenters request when it issued the Notice and Extension. See *infra* n. 8 (defining "Notice and Extension").

<sup>6</sup> See OCC Info Memo #55123, Intraday Risk Monitoring (dated Aug. 30, 2024), available at

<sup>30</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

On September 25, 2024, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Exchange Act,<sup>7</sup> the Commission issued a Notice of Filing of Partial Amendment No. 1 and designated a longer period within which to approve, disapprove, or institute proceedings to determine whether to approve or disapprove the proposed rule change.<sup>8</sup> On November 7, 2024, the Commission instituted proceedings to determine whether to approve or disapprove the proposed rule change, as modified by Partial Amendment No. 1.<sup>9</sup>

On January 8, 2025, OCC filed Amendment No. 2 to the proposed rule change to (1) incorporate certain modifications to address comments from industry participants, (2) conform the proposed rule change to the Commission's final rule amending the Covered Clearing Agency ("CCA") Standards regarding intraday margin calls,<sup>10</sup> and (3) extend the implementation timeframe in response to industry concerns about the need for additional time to prepare for the proposed changes. On January 14, 2025, OCC filed Amendment No. 3 to the proposed rule change, which supersedes Amendment No. 2, to correct typographical and formatting errors. On January 15, 2025, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Exchange Act,<sup>11</sup> the Commission issued a Notice of Filing of Amendment No. 3.<sup>12</sup> On February 5, 2025, the Commission designated a longer period for Commission action on the proceedings to determine whether to approve or disapprove the proposed rule change, as modified by Partial Amendment No. 1 and Amendments Nos. 2 and 3.<sup>13</sup> This order approves the proposed rule change, as modified by Partial Amendment No. 1 and Amendments Nos. 2 and 3 (hereinafter "Proposed Rule Change").

<https://infomemo.theocc.com/infomemos?number=55123>. The partial amendment did not change the purpose or basis of the proposed rule change.

<sup>7</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

<sup>8</sup> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 101193 (Sept. 25, 2024), 89 FR 79977 (Oct. 1, 2024) (File No. SR-OCC-2024-010) ("Notice and Extension").

<sup>9</sup> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 101551 (Nov. 7, 2024), 89 FR 90155 (Nov. 14, 2024) (File No. SR-OCC-2024-010).

<sup>10</sup> See Exchange Act Release No. 101446 (Oct. 25, 2024), 89 FR 91000 (Nov. 18, 2024) (File No. S7-10-23) ("Covered Clearing Agency Resilience and Recovery and Orderly Wind-Down Plans").

<sup>11</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

<sup>12</sup> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 102202 (Jan. 15, 2025), 90 FR 7722 (Jan. 22, 2025) (File No. SR-OCC-2024-010) ("Notice of Filing of Amendment No. 3").

<sup>13</sup> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 102358 (Feb. 5, 2025), 90 FR 9352 (Feb. 11, 2025) (File No. SR-OCC-2024-010).

## II. Background

OCC is a central counterparty ("CCP"), which means that, as part of its function as a clearing agency, it interposes itself as the buyer to every seller and the seller to every buyer for certain financial transactions. As the CCP for the listed options markets in the United States,<sup>14</sup> as well as for certain futures and stock loans, OCC is exposed to certain risks arising from providing clearing and settlement services to its Clearing Members. Because OCC is obligated to perform on the contracts it clears, even where one of its Clearing Members defaults, one such risk to which OCC is exposed is credit risk in the form of exposure to a Clearing Member's trading activities. OCC manages such credit risk, in part, by collecting collateral from its Clearing Members in the form of margin, which may include certain add-on charges designed to address specific risks.

At the start of each business day, OCC collects the required margin for each marginable account calculated by OCC's proprietary System for Theoretical Analysis and Numerical Simulation ("STANS") based on the account's end-of-day positions from the previous business day. OCC also has broad authority to require additional margin deposits and to make intraday margin calls if, for example, the value of securities deposited as margin collateral does not accurately address changes in a Clearing Member's account during the business day,<sup>15</sup> circumstances warrant protective measures in the form of adjusting the amount or composition of margin,<sup>16</sup> and when unrealized losses exceed a certain threshold of an account's total risk charges<sup>17</sup> during

<sup>14</sup> OCC describes itself as "the sole clearing agency for standardized equity options listed on a national securities exchange registered with the Commission ('listed options')." See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 96533 (Dec. 19, 2022), 87 FR 79015 (Dec. 23, 2022) (File No. SR-OCC-2022-012).

<sup>15</sup> See OCC Rule 609(a) ("[OCC] may require the deposit of additional margin ('intra-day margin') by any Clearing Member in any account at any time during any business day to reflect changes in: . . . (3) the value of securities deposited by the Clearing Member as margin").

<sup>16</sup> See OCC Rule 307C(b) (providing for protective measures in the form of requiring Clearing Members to adjust the amount or composition of margin, including but not limited to requiring the deposit of additional margin).

<sup>17</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 82658 (Feb. 7, 2018), 83 FR 6646, 6648 (Feb. 14, 2018) (File No. SR-OCC-2017-007) ("Pursuant to the Margin Policy, OCC issues margin calls during standard trading hours when unrealized losses exceeding 50% of an account's total risk charges are observed for that account based on start-of-day positions."); *see also* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 82355 (Dec. 19, 2017), 82 FR 61060, 61064 (Dec. 26, 2017) (File No. SR-OCC-2017-007)

standard trading hours or extended trading hours ("ETH").<sup>18</sup>

Since these margin collection processes were established, OCC observed a significant increase in the volume of contracts it clears, particularly of short-dated option ("SDO") contracts, including those traded on the day of their expiration ("zero-days-to-expiration" or "0DTE" options).<sup>19</sup> According to OCC, the average daily cleared volume increased steadily after 2018 and doubled by 2022, reaching more than 40 million cleared contracts, of which a significant portion were SDO contracts.<sup>20</sup> OCC conducted a study that reflects the evolution of SDOs and 0DTE options in the broader market, which evolved from weekly options in 2005 being listed on the S&P 500 Index ("SPX") and expiring each Friday of the month, to options now expiring on every trading day of the year.<sup>21</sup>

Apart from the increased exposure to risks from its Clearing Members' intraday trading activity posed by the proliferation of SDOs and 0DTE options, OCC's current margining system does not generate margin calls based on intraday position changes across other products more generally. OCC collects margin at the start of each business day using the STANS margin calculation,

(codifying in the Margin Policy the extended trading hour intraday margin call OCC would issue prior to 9:00 a.m. Central Time when: (1) unrealized losses observed for an account, based on new ETH positions, exceed 25% of that account's total risk charges and (2) the overall Clearing Member portfolio is also experiencing losses).

<sup>18</sup> ETH refers to trades executed in extended and overnight trading sessions offered by exchanges for which OCC provides clearance and settlement services. *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 73343 (Oct. 14, 2014), 79 FR 62684 (Oct. 20, 2014) (File No. SR-OCC-2014-805).

<sup>19</sup> *See* Notice of Filing, 89 FR at 65695-96.

Additionally, OCC has provided confidential Exhibit 3A to File No. SR-OCC-2024-010, which is a 2023 study OCC conducted of its risk exposure to SDOs.

<sup>20</sup> OCC has provided this information in a confidential Exhibit 3A to File No. SR-OCC-2024-010, which is a 2023 study that OCC conducted of its risk exposure to short-dated options. As an example provided in confidential Exhibit 3A, daily option trading volume transactions examined between February 2023 and July 2023 show that options with less than a one-month time-to-expiration contributed around 30 percent of daily trading volume across the days examined. For 0DTE options during that time on the expiration dates (e.g., Fridays or third Fridays of a month), the daily trading volume increased to 40 percent. *See* Notice of Filing, 89 FR at 65695-96.

<sup>21</sup> In 2005, the Chicago Board Options Exchange ("Cboe"), one of the participant exchanges for which OCC provides clearance and settlement services, began listing weekly options on the SPX expiring each Friday of the month. *See* Notice of Filing, 89 FR at 65695-96. In 2016, Cboe introduced Monday and Wednesday weekly SPX expirations, and in 2022 it added Tuesday and Thursday weekly SPX expirations. *Id.*

which is based on end-of-day positions from the previous trading session. This margin collection neither accounts for overnight trading activity, nor encompasses intraday trading activity. Although OCC's current portfolio revaluation process captures changes related to price movements, it does not capture the intraday credit risk related to position changes that exists between the point of margin collection at the beginning of each business day and the point of margin collection at the beginning of the next business day, resulting in a margin requirement that may not be sufficient to cover additional risk resulting from intraday trading activity during the trading session.

To help address such credit risk exposure, OCC proposes to implement (1) a margin add-on charge (the "Intraday Risk Charge"); and (2) monitoring and escalation criteria to facilitate margin calls for any Clearing Member whose intraday activity exceeds certain thresholds ("Intraday Monitoring Thresholds"). The monitoring, escalation, and calculation of the Intraday Risk Charge would be conducted through OCC's current Watch Level surveillance system, which is governed by OCC's Third-Party Risk Management Framework.<sup>22</sup> Specifically, OCC would utilize its Watch Level surveillance to track Clearing Members' trading activity during a specific, limited timeframe during trading hours and identify patterns of risk-increasing activity on which to base the Intraday Risk Charge. Under the current Watch Level monitoring system, if OCC observes that certain thresholds are breached relative to a Clearing Member's net capital, OCC will calculate, and potentially impose, protective measures in the form of additional margin.<sup>23</sup> The Intraday Risk Charge would incorporate this monitoring and surveillance approach into OCC's margin methodology and apply it to all products cleared by OCC and to all Clearing Members, regardless of net capital thresholds.

#### A. Intraday Risk Charge

OCC proposes to add OCC Rule 601(i) to its Rule Book to establish the Intraday Risk Charge. Rule 601(i)(1) would state that OCC may require a Clearing Member to deposit additional margin

assets to mitigate any increased risk exposure to OCC that may not otherwise be covered by already calculated margin requirements. Additionally, under the proposed Rule 601(i)(1), OCC would be able to assess the Intraday Risk Charge as part of the Clearing Member's daily margin requirement, as needed, to mitigate exposure and cover uncollateralized risk resulting from intraday trading activities. Rule 601(i)(2) would state that the Intraday Risk Charge will generally be the average of the daily peak intraday risk increases from portfolio position changes measured between 11:00 a.m. Central Time and 12:30 p.m. Central Time over the preceding month determined pursuant to OCC's policies and procedures.<sup>24</sup> As proposed, Rule 601(i)(3) would grant OCC the discretion to adjust<sup>25</sup> the Intraday Risk Charge if it determines that circumstances particular to a Clearing Member's clearance and settlement activity warrant a different approach to determining or applying such charge in a manner consistent with maintaining sufficient financial resources to cover OCC's credit exposure. According to the proposed Rule 601(i)(3), any adjustment under this Rule to decrease the amount of the Intraday Risk Charge calculated from the previous month's intraday risk increases would be limited to a Clearing Member's business reduction, termination of account(s), transfer of positions to different account(s), or the imposition of protective measures under OCC Rule 307B.

OCC also proposes to amend its Margin Policy and internal policies and procedures to further detail the calculation and application of the Intraday Risk Charge.<sup>26</sup> The amount of a Clearing Member's Intraday Risk Charge would be based on the increased risk identified through OCC's current margin system. OCC currently recalculates the margin requirements using end-of-day portfolio position sets

<sup>24</sup> As originally proposed, the Intraday Risk Charge would have captured a more extensive timeframe between 12:30 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. Central Time, and would have measured risk changes within that timeframe every 20 minutes. *See* Notice of Filing of Amendment No 3, 89 FR at 7723. The proposal was amended to address industry comments that the 20-minute snapshots during overnight and intraday trading hours were too frequent and the suggestion that OCC use fewer snapshots at predictable intervals. *See id.*

<sup>25</sup> As described below, the Proposed Rule Change would authorize OCC to increase or decrease the Intraday Risk Charge in response to specific conditions, such as a Clearing Member's business expansion or reduction.

<sup>26</sup> OCC provided the full, unredacted Margin Policy, the Market Risk Monitoring Procedure, and the Portfolio Revaluation Monitoring Procedure as confidential Exhibits 5B, 3B, and 3D, respectively, to File No. SR-OCC-2024-010.

and intraday price movements updated every 20 minutes between 8:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Central Time, and at least once every hour during ETH.<sup>27</sup>

In OCC's view, a considerable limitation of its current monitoring system is that, because the STANS margin calculation is based on end-of-day positions and the current portfolio revaluation process only tracks price movements during the current trading session, the margin requirement may not account for overnight and intraday position changes, such as intraday SDOs and ODTE options trading activity.<sup>28</sup> If a Clearing Member has closed its position by the end of the day—through trades, expiration, or exercise, for example—such activity would not be captured in the end-of-day positions.<sup>29</sup> To address this limitation, OCC proposes to incorporate intraday position changes into its current monitoring system, alongside using the outputs from the previous night's daily STANS methodology calculation. Specifically, OCC would identify the peak intraday risk increases over a designated lookback period and use the average of those peaks as the basis for imposing the Intraday Risk Charge as a margin add-on charge.

The Intraday Risk Charge, generally, would be calculated monthly based on the average of the previous month's daily peak intraday risk increases calculated from the 20-minute snapshots between 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Central Time over the number of business days in the previous calendar month. The Intraday Risk Charge would be calculated on the first business day of the month and would be based on data and STANS outputs generated over the lookback period of the previous month. For example, a given Clearing Member's Intraday Risk Charge for the calendar month of March 2025 would be

<sup>27</sup> The Proposed Rule Change would not alter the current ETH monitoring system that OCC uses, including to determine when to issue an ETH margin call. The current ETH monitoring system does and would continue to calculate a forecasted margin requirement as if the positions at that point in time were present during the previous night's margin calculation. *See* Notice of Filing, 89 FR at 65696. Results of that forecast that show an increase to the prior night's margin requirement based on STANS expected shortfall and stress test components are considered risk taking. This also would not change as a result of the Proposed Rule Change.

<sup>28</sup> *See* Notice of Filing of Amendment No. 3, 90 FR at 7724.

<sup>29</sup> *See* Notice of Filing, 89 FR at 65696. In addition, OCC stated that its portfolio revaluation process for purposes of determining intraday margin calls to address the change in value of margin collateral is based on a Clearing Member's start-of-day collateral deposits, which would not include margin for SDOs and ODTE options positions. *Id.*

<sup>22</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 90797 (Dec. 23, 2020), 85 FR 86592 (Dec. 30, 2020) (File No. SR-OCC-2020-014).

<sup>23</sup> See OCC Rule 307 (authorizing OCC to impose protective measures on any Clearing Member that presents increased credit or liquidity risk to the Corporation); OCC Rule 307C (authorizing OCC to impose protective measures that include requiring Clearing Members to deposit additional margin).

based on the average of daily peak intraday risk increase calculated from the 20-minute snapshots between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Central Time (“Intraday Risk Charge Measurement Time”) over the number of business days in February 2025.

The calculation of the peak intraday activity would capture all products that OCC clears, including SDOs and 0DTE options. The Intraday Risk Charge would apply to all margin accounts other than cross-margin accounts for OCC’s cross-margining program with the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, which do not currently support intraday position feeds.

The Proposed Rule Change would authorize OCC to increase or decrease the amount of the Intraday Risk Charge for a particular Clearing Member under certain conditions. The Intraday Risk Charge could be increased following a member’s business expansion. The Proposed Rule Change would also authorize OCC to increase the Intraday Risk Charge intramonth when OCC determines that OCC maintains insufficient margin resources to cover the pattern or distribution of risk increases over the previous lookback period. OCC’s authority to decrease the amount of the charge would be limited to a Clearing Member’s (i) business reduction, (ii) termination of account(s), (iii) transfer of positions to different account(s), or (iv) imposition of protective measures under OCC Rule 307B.

The Proposed Rule Change would describe material aspects of the Intraday Risk Charge more specifically by inserting a new section on the Intraday Risk Charge in OCC’s Margin Policy. The new Intraday Risk Charge section would provide that, periodically throughout each trading day and during extended trading hours, OCC’s systems measure the intraday exposure to each margin account for which intraday position information is available to identify intraday risk increases above the baseline STANS risk measurement. The Margin Policy would define “risk increases” in this context as results that show an increase to a portfolio’s prior night calculated risk measurement based on the STANS expected shortfall and stress test components.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>30</sup> These proposed amendments to the Margin Policy would not change any existing ETH margin requirements or safeguards. *See supra*, n. 27. For example, Clearing Members trading during ETH hours will still be obligated to pay an ETH margin add-on charge equal to the lesser of \$10 million or 10% of the firm’s net capital, and any ETH related risk controls will continue to operate independently from the proposed Intraday Risk Charge changes. *See Notice of Filing*, 89 FR at 65697.

The Margin Policy would be amended to provide that, on at least a monthly basis, OCC’s Financial Risk Management department (“FRM”) reviews and verifies the daily peak increases in the Intraday Risk Charge Measurement Time based on a referenced procedure maintained by FRM’s Market Risk business unit.<sup>31</sup> This verification of risk-increasing activity is intended to address certain known limitations in OCC’s existing intraday system.<sup>32</sup> For example, the system does not take into account options affected by corporate action adjustments and newly listed option series or strikes, which do not receive adjusted metrics until the next overnight margin calculation process. In addition, the 20-minute snapshot generated by the system may not capture a complete trade in a single snapshot, which may result in a misalignment of the peak calculation for an account. The snapshot timing may also cause collateral movements to be recorded as risk-increasing deposits instead of risk-reducing movements. Market Risk would prevent these types of erroneous results from affecting the calculation of the Intraday Risk Charge by verifying the peak daily results using a process similar to its current process for verifying results from OCC’s system for monitoring a portfolio’s unrealized losses based on current prices and start-of-day positions for purposes of charging intraday margin calls.<sup>33</sup>

The Margin Policy would be amended to describe the processes governing the imposition of the Intraday Risk Charge. The proposed language would provide that, with FRM Officer approval,<sup>34</sup> OCC

may impose the Intraday Risk Charge in the amount of the average of the verified peak daily risk increases over the prior month. Under the Proposed Rule Change, OCC may adjust the charge either at the time of the monthly review or on an intramonth basis, e.g., in response to the intraday monitoring thresholds, as discussed in Section II.B below. Under the Proposed Rule Change, OCC would only have authority to reduce the charge in the event of the relevant Clearing Member’s business reduction, account terminations, transfer of positions to different account(s), or the imposition of protective measures under OCC Rule 307B. The proposed changes would authorize OCC to increase the charge in the event of a member business expansion. Any adjustment to the Intraday Risk Charge—increase or decrease—would require review by OCC’s Model Risk Working Group (“MRWG”) and approval by the Office of the Chief Executive Officer.

#### *B. Intraday Monitoring Thresholds and Margin Calls*

OCC also proposes to establish monitoring and escalation criteria to identify and address instances in which a Clearing Member’s intraday risk increase deviates significantly from its preceding month’s average verified peak intraday risk increases, as determined between 12:30 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. Central Time over the lookback period.

OCC’s amended proposal removes any reference to the Intraday Risk Charge with respect to the Intraday Monitoring Thresholds and explicitly limits the issuance of a margin call to a single intraday collection time at or around 12:00 p.m. Central Time. Aside from stating that intraday margin calls would be issued at a single intraday collection time, the amended Margin Policy would require that any margin calls outside of the collection time must be approved by the Chief Financial Risk Officer, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operations Officer, or Chief Risk Officer. As amended by the Proposed Rule Change, the Margin Policy would charge FRM with establishing thresholds for monitoring changes in each Clearing Member’s intraday risk: the Intraday Monitoring Thresholds. FRM would review changes in each member’s intraday risk against such thresholds at least daily. If a Clearing Member’s intraday risk breached the Intraday Monitoring Threshold(s), the Proposed Rule Change would authorize an FRM Officer to issue a margin call, make a margin adjustment to lock up excess collateral, or recommend protective measures under OCC Rule 307. Such a

<sup>31</sup> OCC has provided as confidential Exhibit 3B to File No. SR-OCC-2024-010 a copy of the referenced procedure, the Market Risk Monitoring Procedure. *See supra*, n. 26.

<sup>32</sup> See Notice of Filing, 89 FR at 65697, n. 21. As addressed in the Market Risk Monitoring Procedure, if a peak generated by the system is determined to represent non-trade activity, it would be excluded and the previous month’s average peak would be used as that day’s peak daily increase instead. For example, peaks could be excluded if they result from a Regulation SCI system disruption or if they are the result of position and collateral transfers between accounts, which the system assumes are risk increasing (e.g., the transfer of positions from E\*Trade to Morgan Stanley resulting from the merger of those Clearing Members).

<sup>33</sup> See *supra*, n. 26. OCC provided, as confidential Exhibit 3D to File No. SR-OCC-2024-010, a copy of its current Portfolio Revaluation Monitoring Procedure, which details Market Risk’s process for verifying results prior to issuing intraday margin calls when an account exhibits unrealized losses exceeding 50% of that account’s total risk charges based upon start-of-day positions.

<sup>34</sup> See Notice of Filing, 89 FR at 65697, n. 23. Officers are identified in OCC’s By-Laws. *See OCC By-Law Art IV*. In this context, an FRM Officer would include any member of FRM appointed by the Chief Executive Officer or Chief Operating Officer, including a Managing Director, Executive Director, or Executive Principal.

margin call would be calculated as the difference between the Intraday Risk Charge and the reviewed intraday risk increase at the single intraday collection time at or around 12:00 p.m. Central Time.

#### C. Discretion To Issue Margin Calls and Related Governance

According to the proposed changes to OCC's Margin Policy, an FRM Officer may decide against issuing a margin call if, in the Officer's judgment, the intraday call is not necessary to effectively manage the risk posed to OCC based on the specific facts and circumstances, including, but not limited to (1) circumstances in which issuing an intraday margin call would not align with broader systemic objectives such as minimizing potential procyclical effects and potential participant defaults; (2) if the risk increase can be attributed to one or more intraday events or actions including, but not limited to, portfolio level changes resulting from positive offsetting P&L amounts or positive offsetting asset values for options and collateral, or from non-risk increasing events such as the substitution of collateral or the pledging of additional valued securities within the same account; or (3) if the risk increase in the account is the result of a corporate action or the result of position transfers between accounts, such as delayed Clearing Member Trade Assignment ("CMTAs") from execution only accounts, or when a P&L unrealized loss generates a margin call that exceeds the intraday margin call.<sup>35</sup> If the FRM Officer decides not to issue a margin call at the single intraday collection time for an account breaching the Intraday Monitoring Threshold, the FRM Officer will document such determination. OCC stated that, together, these proposed changes are intended to align with the Commission's new rule requirements on certain CCA Standards, specifically intraday margin calls,<sup>36</sup> and with the documentation requirement in new SEC Rule 17Ad-22(e)(6)(ii)(D),<sup>37</sup> which requires a CCA to document when it determines not to issue an intraday call pursuant to its written policies and procedures.<sup>38</sup>

<sup>35</sup> A CMTA is the process by which an Executing Clearing Member directs transfer of a confirmed trade to a designated account of a Carrying Clearing Member. *See Article I, Section C.20 of OCC's By-Laws.*

<sup>36</sup> *See Exchange Act Release No. 101446, supra, n. 10, 89 FR at 91009-10* (discussing factors for CCAs to consider when determining whether to issue an intraday margin call).

<sup>37</sup> 17 CFR 240.17ad-22(e)(6)(ii)(D).

<sup>38</sup> *See Notice of Filing of Amendment No. 3, 90 FR at 7728.*

The Proposed Rule Change also would establish governance requirements related to the review and potential adjustment of the Intraday Monitoring Thresholds. Specifically, the Margin Policy would be revised to state that FRM coordinates a review of the Intraday Monitoring Thresholds, as well as the calculation and lookback period, on at least an annual basis, or on an *ad hoc* basis, as needed. OCC would have the authority to adjust the Intraday Monitoring Thresholds, as well as the calculation and lookback period, based on the review of intraday risk posed by a Clearing Member's portfolio changes. Any such adjustment to the Intraday Monitoring Thresholds, calculation, or lookback period may apply to particular or all Clearing Members, depending on an analysis of the activity generating peak intraday margin numbers, the number of breaches above the Intraday Monitoring Thresholds, and overall market activity and trends within the lookback period. Any such adjustment would require review by the MRWG and approval by the Office of the Chief Executive Officer. OCC's Risk Committee would be notified of all changes.

#### D. Extension of Implementation Timeframe

OCC's original implementation timeline was a minimum of 14 days and a maximum of 120 days following regulatory approval.<sup>39</sup> Some commenters stated that more time was needed for Clearing Members and their customers to make preparations to assign and allocate margins, including the Intraday Risk Charge, more effectively.<sup>40</sup> Commenters also stated that the industry would not be in a position within 120 days of passage of the proposal to adopt systems changes

<sup>39</sup> *See Notice of Filing, 89 FR at 65698* (stating that OCC would implement the change within 120 days of approval, with a minimum of two weeks' notice prior to implementation).

<sup>40</sup> *See Letter from Kimberly Unger, CEO, the Security Traders Association of New York, Inc., dated Oct. 30, 2024 ("STANY Letter")* at 4 ("[t]he intricacies involved in recalibrating margin calculations and updating operational systems would require significant time" and the original implementation timeline would "likely lead to operational disruptions for many"); *Letter from Ellen Greene, Managing Director, Equities & Options Market Structure, and Joseph Corcoran, Managing Director and Associate General Counsel, The Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association ("SIFMA")*, dated Oct. 15, 2024, ("SIFMA II") at 12 ("a 120-day period will not be long enough for industry members to adopt systems changes in response to the Proposal."); *Letter from Matthew MacKenzie, Head of US Advocacy & Regulatory Affairs, Optiver*, dated Nov. 8, 2024 ("Optiver Letter") at 4 (stating 12 months would be a reasonable timeline "for firms developing and implementing a compliance strategy for an entirely new margin regime").

and that, without additional preparation time, "firms would resort to simplistic and unfair margin allocations."<sup>41</sup> One commenter stated that "five to six months from the date of rule filing" would be insufficient time to build out technology and commit resources both in OCC's current legacy system, ENCORE, and in its planned new system, Ovation.<sup>42</sup> Another suggested that OCC should not move forward with the proposal at all "until such time as [OCC] has assurance that all major clearing firms with options market maker clients are prepared to account for it properly, including through appropriate allocation of any heightened margin requirement across their market maker client base."<sup>43</sup>

In response, OCC amended the Initial Filing to extend the implementation timeframe (subject to regulatory approval) to September 2025, with a public announcement of the specific implementation date at least four weeks prior to implementation.<sup>44</sup> This extends the implementation timeline from a minimum of 14 days and a maximum of 120 days<sup>45</sup> to at least 145 days after approval.<sup>46</sup> In OCC's view, the revised timeline allows it both to comply with an upcoming December 2025 compliance date for the amended CCA Standards and to provide a longer implementation timeline as requested by commenters.<sup>47</sup>

<sup>41</sup> *See, e.g., STANY Letter at 4.*

<sup>42</sup> *Letter from James Hyde, Chair of the Board, and James Toes, President and CEO, Security Traders Association, dated Nov. 6, 2024 ("STA II")* at 5-6. Presumably this concern is obviated by the new September 2025 implementation date, which is intended to align with, but is not contingent on, OCC's planned replacement of its legacy ENCORE system with a new system, Ovation, on or around September 2025. *See Notice of Filing of Amendment No. 3, 90 FR at 7729.*

<sup>43</sup> *Letter from Steve Crutchfield, Head of Business Development, Chicago Trading Company, dated Aug. 30, 2024 ("CTC Letter")* at 2.

<sup>44</sup> *See Notice of Filing of Amendment No. 3, 90 FR at 7729.*

<sup>45</sup> *See Notice of Filing, 89 FR at 65698* (stating that OCC would implement the change within 120 days of approval, with a minimum of two weeks' notice prior to implementation).

<sup>46</sup> There are 145 days between April 9, 2025, which is the latest date for the Commission to issue an order approving or disapproving the Proposed Rule Change, and September 1, 2025, which is the earliest date of OCC's proposed implementation.

<sup>47</sup> *See Notice of Filing of Amendment No. 3, 90 FR at 7729; see also Exchange Act Release No. 101446, supra, n. 10, 89 FR at 91037* for additional discussion of the upcoming compliance date for the Commission's final rule amending the CCA Standards regarding intraday margin calls. Subsequently, a commenter characterized OCC's revised implementation date as minor in nature. The commenter acknowledged that OCC's amendment would provide an additional month of post-approval implementation, but stated that the extension may not be meaningful. The commenter did not explain what industry participants must do to prepare for implementation. *Letter from Ellen*

OCC's extension of the implementation timeline to September 2025 is a reasonable balance between commenters' concerns and OCC's need both to ensure that it is collecting sufficient margin to mitigate the risks arising from the significant increase in intraday and overnight trading activity it has observed (and is not presently capturing) and to meet the upcoming compliance date for the Commission's recent final rule amending the CCA Standards regarding intraday margin calls. While commenters generally stated that they needed more time to prepare for the Intraday Risk Charge, there is no indication that, from a technical or operational standpoint, the Intraday Risk Charge is any different from other updated margin requirements that Clearing Members and industry participants have accommodated in the past.<sup>48</sup> Clearing Members and other industry participants routinely have two to six months to update their systems, procedures, and compliance strategies to accommodate new or updated OCC margin requirements like the Intraday Risk Charge.<sup>49</sup> Historically, this has been sufficient time for industry participants to make any necessary adjustments to accommodate updated margin requirements without incurring significant operational or other disruptions. Here, market participants have known about the Proposed Rule Change since late July 2024. During that time, OCC has specifically encouraged executing Clearing Members "to work with their customers to obtain all information necessary as early as possible to facilitate allocation of their trades as soon as possible,"<sup>50</sup> although it is within market participants' discretion whether they choose to do so

Greene, Managing Director, Equities & Options Market Structure, and Joseph Corcoran, Managing Director and Associate General Counsel, SIFMA, dated Feb. 20, 2025, ("SIFMA III") at 4.

<sup>48</sup> To the extent commenters are concerned with the market impact of the Intraday Risk Charge or with its impact on their specific business model and general practices, these issues are discussed below. See *infra* Section III.B.

<sup>49</sup> See, e.g., Exchange Act Release No. 85755 (Apr. 30, 2019), 84 FR 19815, 19819 (May 6, 2019) (File No. SR-OCC-2019-004) (providing between 30 and 180 days to implement new liquidation cost add-on); Exchange Act Release No. 99426 (Jan. 24, 2024), 89 FR 5974, 5987 (Jan. 30, 2024) (File No. SR-OCC-2023-007) (providing between seven and 120 days to implement a series of changes, including changes to stress testing to allow OCC to collect additional liquidity resources); Exchange Act Release No. 100584 (July 24, 2024), 89 FR 61211, 61220 (July 30, 2024) (File No. SR-OCC-2024-009) (providing between 14 and 60 days to implement a new resource backtesting margin add-on).

<sup>50</sup> See letter from Megan Cohen, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, OCC, dated Sept. 18, 2024 ("OCC I") at 4.

or not. While the specific approval date was not known in advance, by the time OCC implements the Intraday Risk Charge in September 2025, the industry will have been aware that OCC intends to update its margin requirements consistent with the Proposed Rule Change for well over a year, and will have had at least five months from the date of approval to make any necessary adjustments to accommodate the Intraday Risk Charge. This is on the higher end of the time provided to the industry for similar margin updates in the past<sup>51</sup> and should be well within the industry's capability to accommodate without substantial operational or other disruptions.

### III. Discussion and Commission Findings

Section 19(b)(2)(C) of the Exchange Act directs the Commission to approve a proposed rule change of a self-regulatory organization if it finds that such proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to such organization.<sup>52</sup> Under the Commission's Rules of Practice, the "burden to demonstrate that a proposed rule change is consistent with the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations issued thereunder . . . is on the self-regulatory organization that proposed the rule change."<sup>53</sup>

The description of a proposed rule change, its purpose and operation, its effect, and a legal analysis of its consistency with applicable requirements must all be sufficiently detailed and specific to support an affirmative Commission finding,<sup>54</sup> and any failure of an SRO to provide this information may result in the Commission not having a sufficient basis to make an affirmative finding that a proposed rule change is consistent with the Exchange Act and the

<sup>51</sup> See *supra*, n. 49.

<sup>52</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(C).

<sup>53</sup> Rule 700(b)(3), Commission Rules of Practice, 17 CFR 201.700(b)(3). Commenters also expressed support for potential changes that, because they are outside the scope of the Proposed Rule Change, are not discussed further below. See, e.g., SIFMA II at 7 (stating "OCC should consider changes to its clearing fund allocation methodology"); SIFMA III at 7 (suggesting that OCC should respond to unaddressed comments from the commenter's prior letter, including the "concept of paying interest on OCC margin deposits" and "[t]he proposal's potential for deterring Clearing Members from participating in default auctions"). In addition, OCC stated that some of these suggestions are not feasible to implement until Ovation is launched. See letter from Megan Cohen, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, OCC, dated Mar. 21, 2025 ("OCC II") at 9–10; see also *supra* n. 42 (discussing Ovation).

<sup>54</sup> *Id.*

applicable rules and regulations.<sup>55</sup> Moreover, "unquestioning reliance" on an SRO's representations in a proposed rule change is not sufficient to justify Commission approval of a proposed rule change.<sup>56</sup>

After carefully considering the Proposed Rule Change, the Commission finds that the proposal is consistent with the requirements of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to OCC. More specifically, the Commission finds that the proposal is consistent with Sections 17A(b)(3)(F) and 17A(b)(3)(I) of the Exchange Act,<sup>57</sup> and Rules 17Ad–22(e)(2),<sup>58</sup> 17Ad–22(e)(4),<sup>59</sup> and 17Ad–22(e)(6)<sup>60</sup> thereunder, as described in detail below.

#### A. Consistency With Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Exchange Act

Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Exchange Act requires, among other things, that a clearing agency's rules are designed to assure the safeguarding of securities and funds which are in the custody or control of the clearing agency or for which it is responsible.<sup>61</sup> Based on the Commission's review of the record, and for the reasons described below, the Proposed Rule Change described above is consistent with assuring the safeguarding of securities and funds which are in OCC's custody or control or for which it is responsible.

As discussed in Section II above, since the inception of OCC's ETH and intraday monitoring system, there has been a significant uptick in the number of options contracts, including SDO and ODTE contracts, that OCC clears. Although OCC's current portfolio revaluation process captures changes related to price movements, it does not capture the intraday credit risk related to position changes that exists between the point of margin collection at the beginning of each business day and the point of margin collection at the beginning of the next business day for all products cleared. As such, OCC's margin monitoring system does not account for OCC's exposure to intraday trading activity in a Clearing Member's portfolio. This results in a margin requirement that may not be sufficient to cover any additional risk resulting

<sup>55</sup> *Id.*

<sup>56</sup> *Susquehanna Int'l Group, LLP v. Securities and Exchange Commission*, 866 F.3d 442, 447 (D.C. Cir. 2017).

<sup>57</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78q–1(b)(3)(E) and 15 U.S.C. 78q–1(b)(3)(F).

<sup>58</sup> 17 CFR 240.17ad–22(e)(2).

<sup>59</sup> 17 CFR 240.17ad–22(e)(4).

<sup>60</sup> 17 CFR 240.17ad–22(e)(6).

<sup>61</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78q–1(b)(3)(F).

from intraday trading activity during the trading session.

For example, if a Clearing Member buys a large number of options in the morning and sells them in the afternoon, such intraday risk is not captured by OCC's current portfolio evaluation process. As a result, OCC may not collect sufficient margin collateral to address a Clearing Member's default. The Intraday Risk Charge is designed to address OCC's potential future exposure to risk posed by such intraday position changes by imposing the Intraday Risk Charge as a margin add-on charge. As described above in Section II.A, OCC would set the Intraday Risk Charge monthly based on each Clearing Member's intraday activity from the preceding month. Under a limited set of circumstances, OCC would have the authority to adjust the Intraday Risk Charge intramonth. Further, OCC would establish a process for monitoring member activity and calling for additional margin where such activity exceeds the Intraday Monitoring Thresholds, as described above in Section II.B.

Together, the collection of the Intraday Risk Charge and authority to issue margin calls based on the Intraday Monitoring Thresholds would increase the likelihood that OCC collects sufficient margin collateral to mitigate OCC's potential future credit exposure to a Clearing Member default. Increasing the likelihood that OCC collects sufficient margin collateral to address a Clearing Member's default would, in turn, assure the safeguarding of non-defaulting Clearing Members' collateral by reducing the likelihood that OCC would be forced to charge losses to the Clearing Fund, which is mutualized among Clearing Members.

Accordingly, OCC's proposal to adopt the Intraday Risk Charge and the Intraday Monitoring Thresholds is consistent with the requirements of Section 17A(b)(3)(F) of the Exchange Act.

#### B. Consistency With Section 17A(b)(3)(I) of the Exchange Act

Section 17A(b)(3)(I) of the Exchange Act requires that the rules of a clearing agency do not impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the Act.<sup>62</sup> Section 17A(b)(3)(I) does not require the Commission to make a finding that OCC chose the option that imposes the least possible burden on competition; rather, the Act requires that the Commission find that the Proposed Rule Change does not impose any burden on competition

not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, which involves balancing the competitive effects of the Proposed Rule Change against all other relevant considerations under the Act.<sup>63</sup>

The Commission received various comments expressing concern that the Proposed Rule Change would lead to an increased burden on competition. Some commenters stated that additional margin requirements under the proposal would negatively impact market makers, who would be subject to pass-through costs and, as a result, would be more likely to pull out of market participation altogether, thus reducing liquidity and quality across the market.<sup>64</sup> Many commenters echoed similar concerns about execution-only broker-dealers, stating that these firms, particularly smaller ones, would be negatively impacted if their clients would be subject to pass-through costs on a pro rata basis and thus would reduce services and/or leave the market.<sup>65</sup> The

<sup>63</sup> See Bradford National Clearing Corp., 590 F.2d 1085, 1105 (D.C. Cir. 1978).

<sup>64</sup> See CTC Letter at 2 ("[C]learing firms would likely resort to passing along their aggregate additional margin requirements on a pro-rata or other simplistic basis," which "would unfairly and unreasonably burden options market makers with significant additional margin requirements," thus leading market makers to reduce their "participation in liquidity provision"); Letter from Ellen Greene, Managing Director, Equities & Options Market Structure, SIFMA, and Joseph Corcoran, Managing Director, Associate General Counsel, SIFMA, dated Sept. 3, 2024 ("SIFMA I") at 2 (expressing concern that the proposal "could have significant impacts on the businesses of certain SIFMA members and the overall liquidity and quality of the listed options market"); SIFMA II at 10-11 (stating that OCC did not consider whether the possibility of pass-through costs could "lead to wider spreads or potentially reduce the number of products for which market makers are willing to provide liquidity"); STANY Letter at 3 (similar); STA II at 3-4 (similar); SIFMA III at 6 ("OCC needs to fully consider how options market liquidity might be impacted by the pass-through of margin charges to [market makers] by their Clearing Members under the Amended Proposal.").

<sup>65</sup> See Letter from Timothy Miller, Chief Operating Officer, DASH Financial Technologies LLC, dated Sept. 3, 2024 ("DASH Letter") at 2 ("it's probable that the landscape will become less competitive" and "Agency Brokers will be forced to reevaluate their ability to offer execution services"); Allen Greenberg, Chief Operating Officer, Matrix Executions, LLC, dated Sept. 3, 2024 ("Matrix Letter") at 2 (pass-through charges would disincentivize Matrix and similar brokers from providing liquidity sourcing, price improvement, and timely execution services); David L. Cavigce, Chief Legal Officer, Wolverine Execution Services, LLC, dated Sept. 3, 2024, ("WEX I") at 2-3 (passing through the Intraday Risk Charge to executing brokers "could distort pricing and trading behavior" and "have a disproportionate impact on such smaller industry members"); David L. Cavigce, Chief Legal Officer, Wolverine Execution Services, LLC, dated Mar. 3, 2025 ("WEX II") at 2-3 (imposing the Intraday Risk Charge on executing brokers "could foreseeably cause firms to reduce their capacity and/or exit the business," resulting in fewer client choices and reduced competition);

primary reason behind the proposal's potentially negative impact and increased burden on competition, according to commenters, is executing brokers' practice of making end-of-day allocations.<sup>66</sup>

In response, OCC stated that it did not observe a disproportionate impact on smaller brokers.<sup>67</sup> To support this observation, OCC pointed to impact analysis data, which was provided to and reviewed by the Commission as confidential Exhibit 3C to File No. SR-OCC-2024-010. OCC stated that, based on that impact analysis data, of the 1,122 potential margin calls that OCC forecasted, 954 of them would have been "issued to Clearing Members with more than \$100M in net capital," while the remaining calls—168 of them—would have been issued to smaller Clearing Members.<sup>68</sup> Based on this data, OCC concluded that "the most significant Intraday Risk Charges and potential intraday margin calls align with the Clearing Members who carry the most day-over-day margin risk, *i.e.*, OCC's largest Clearing Members."<sup>69</sup> Based on its review of the data, the Commission agrees with OCC's conclusion that smaller Clearing

Optiver Letter at 3 (similar); *see also* letter from Ellen Greene, Managing Director, Equities & Options Market Structure, SIFMA, and Joseph Corcoran, Managing Director, Associate General Counsel, SIFMA, dated Sept. 3, 2024 ("SIFMA I") at 2; SIFMA II at 8-10; SIFMA III at 4-5; STA II at 3-4; STANY Letter at 3-4; and letter from Jackie Mesa, Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President of Global Policy, FIA, dated Sept. 5, 2024 ("FIA Letter") at 2.

<sup>66</sup> See, *e.g.*, letter from Joanna Mallers, Secretary, FIA Principal Traders Group ("FIA PTG"), dated Sept. 4, 2024 ("FIA PTG Letter") at 3 ("Agency Brokers generally receive allocations from their clients post-trade and these transactions are often not allocated to the end client's Clearing Member until the end of the trading day. As a result, these trades are initially cleared at the Agency Broker's Clearing Member intraday before they are transferred to the end client's Clearing Member through the OCC CMTA process at the end of the day."); *see also* SIFMA III at 4, 6 ("executing brokers may not receive client allocations until the end of the trading day" and "market makers (and their market maker clients) [should] be provided with better data and information . . . as it relates to the Intraday Risk Charge."). The issue of market practices around end-of-day allocations is discussed in more detail in Section III.D below.

<sup>67</sup> See OCC I at 4.

<sup>68</sup> *Id.*

<sup>69</sup> *Id.* Additionally, OCC noted that the amended proposal would reduce the overall impact by approximately 50 percent compared to its Initial Filing. Notice of Filing of Amendment No. 3, 90 FR at 7727. Specifically, based on an impact analysis over a 13-month period, OCC observed that the proposed add-on would have generated a margin increase of less than 1.1% in the aggregate on average, representing almost \$1.099 billion across all Clearing Members out of margin requirements and that, for comparison, under the Initial Filing, the proposed add-on would have generated an average margin increase of approximately \$1.968 billion, less than a 1.9% increase. *Id.*

Members will not be disproportionately impacted by the Intraday Risk Charge.

Relatedly, commenters recommended that OCC provide Clearing Members with tools that identify which of their clients are generating peak intraday exposures.<sup>70</sup> Commenters acknowledge, however, that the ability to net offsetting client positions presents challenges for identifying the positions generating risk.<sup>71</sup> In response, OCC pointed to already existing and available tools, such as Risk Simulator in Encore, that Clearing Members can use to help them “assess their OCC margin requirements and separately devise their own approach to address this issue with their customers.”<sup>72</sup>

In this instance, the burden on competition stemming from a higher impact on some members than on others is necessary and appropriate in furtherance of the Act to reduce OCC’s overall margin risk. Under the Proposed Rule Change, the intraday risk that is currently unaccounted for would be based on the profile of the portfolio held by certain Clearing Members during a limited 90-minute window throughout the entire trading day and extended trading hours. The Proposed Rule Change focuses on a Clearing Member’s portfolio composition and trading activity, and aims to address the risk in position changes that exists between the point of margin collection at the beginning of each business day and the point of margin collection at the beginning of the next business day, a risk that is not accounted for under

OCC’s current margin collection system and that OCC is therefore carrying itself.

This type of agnostic approach aims to balance the potential competitive effects of the proposal against OCC’s requirement under the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder to manage its credit risk by, among other things, collecting sufficient margin to appropriately address this risk, as well as the goal of preventing the mutualization of losses among non-defaulting firms in the event of a Clearing Member default. For example, to the extent that a Clearing Member would be charged the Intraday Risk Charge or be subject to a margin call under the Intraday Monitoring Thresholds, the increased margin collection would be based on the securities held by the member and its trading activity during specific times, consistent with OCC’s requirement to collect margin to appropriately address the associated risk. Specifically, as noted, OCC is required to manage its credit risk, including by maintaining sufficient financial resources to cover its credit exposure to each participant fully with a high degree of confidence.<sup>73</sup> The Proposed Rule Change is intended to provide more robust coverage of intraday trading risk by authorizing OCC to charge a margin add-on and make margin calls. As contemplated by, and consistent with, the Act and Rule 17Ad–22,<sup>74</sup> each Clearing Member would be responsible to provide margin commensurate with the default risk posed to OCC by its business under the Proposed Rule Change. By helping OCC to better manage its credit exposure, the proposal’s updated margin requirements would improve OCC’s ability to mitigate the potential losses to OCC and its members associated with liquidating a Clearing Member’s portfolio in the event of a Clearing Member default.

With respect to commenters’ concern regarding potential pass-through costs, OCC responded that it “cannot direct whether or how Clearing Members assign or allocate the Intraday Risk Charge to their customers”<sup>75</sup> and explained that, for execution brokers that are not Clearing Members, OCC would not have insight into which transactions are currently held by a given execution broker or be in a position to determine any intraday fee charged by the broker’s Clearing Member.<sup>76</sup> The Commission agrees. The Proposed Rule Change pertains only to the setting of margin requirements for

OCC’s Clearing Members; it does not prescribe whether or how these Clearing Members would pass costs associated with such margin requirements onto their clients. Indeed, Section 17A(b)(3)(E) of the Exchange Act requires that the rules of a clearing agency do not impose any schedule of prices, or fix rates or other fees, for services rendered by its participants. Consistent with that requirement, the Proposed Rule Change does not impose a schedule of fees or attempt to fix prices for the services that OCC’s Clearing Members charge to their customers. This is consistent with other of OCC’s margin requirements, including other margin add-ons, that OCC imposes on its Clearing Members.<sup>77</sup> As with all margin requirements imposed by OCC on its Clearing Members, it is entirely within the individual Clearing Member’s discretion and control—and entirely outside of OCC’s knowledge or control—whether and how to pass on such requirements to the Clearing Member’s customers.

Therefore, for the reasons stated above, the Proposed Rule Change is consistent with Section 17A(b)(3)(I) of the Exchange Act.

#### *C. Consistency With Rule 17Ad–22(e)(4)(i) Under the Exchange Act*

Rule 17Ad–22(e)(4)(i) under the Exchange Act requires that a CCA establish, implement, maintain, and enforce written policies and procedures reasonably designed to effectively identify, measure, monitor, and manage its credit exposures to participants and those arising from its payment, clearing, and settlement processes, including by maintaining sufficient financial resources to cover its credit exposure to each participant fully with a high degree of confidence.<sup>78</sup>

OCC proposes to adopt the Intraday Risk Charge and the Intraday Monitoring Thresholds to address margin requirement gaps identified in its current intraday margining systems. As described above in Section II.A, the Intraday Risk Charge would be based on the increased risk identified during a limited timeframe through OCC’s current margin monitoring system, which recalculates the STANS margin risk using portfolio position sets updated every 20 minutes between 8:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Central Time, and at

<sup>70</sup> See STANY Letter at 5; SIFMA II at 8. SIFMA states, however, that members already engage in real-time monitoring of customer positions and exposures. See SIFMA II at 3. SIFMA further requests a response to whether such monitoring could alleviate the concerns OCC faces from ODTDE trading activity. See SIFMA III at 7. However, the comment does not indicate how a member’s monitoring of its customers would address risks that the member chooses to present to OCC unless such monitoring leads the Clearing Member not to present risk to OCC, which would reduce the collateral OCC requires such a Clearing Member to post. Separately, the commenter requested that OCC address costs that executing brokers would incur to establish intraday allocation functionality. *See id.* However, this request that OCC somehow bear the cost of executing brokers to consider intraday allocation appears inconsistent with comments that identify the issue of allocation as one of customer behavior (as opposed to Clearing Member technology). *See, e.g.*, STA II at 5 and WEX II at 2–3.

<sup>71</sup> See SIFMA II at 8.

<sup>72</sup> OCC I at 5. OCC’s reference to the Risk Simulator in Encore as part of a broader toolset came in response to commenters’ suggested alternatives. See STANY Letter at 5; SIFMA II at 8. OCC’s reference to the Risk Simulator is also responsive to commenters’ statement that OCC should provide market makers with better data and information as it relates to the Intraday Risk Charge. *See supra* n. 70 and related text.

<sup>73</sup> See generally Section III. D, below.

<sup>74</sup> 17 CFR 240.17ad–22.

<sup>75</sup> OCC I at 5.

<sup>76</sup> OCC II at 6.

<sup>77</sup> See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release No. 100998 (Sept. 11, 2024), 89 FR 76171 (Sept. 17, 2024) (File No. SR-OCC-2024-0009) (implementing a new margin add-on charge that would be applied to the accounts of Clearing Members based on breaches of a new category of resource backtesting).

<sup>78</sup> 17 CFR 240.17ad–22(e)(4)(i).

least every hour during ETH sessions. The Intraday Risk Charge would be set monthly, as measured by the previous month's data and STANS outputs, and would include verification procedures, governance and review arrangements, and the authority to make adjustments under certain circumstances. Likewise, as outlined in Section II.B, the Intraday Monitoring Thresholds would allow for additional margin based on risk increases and would be accompanied by detailed governance and review processes. Collecting additional margin in the form of the monthly Intraday Risk Charge based on documented margin deficiencies would reduce the likelihood of future deficiencies. Reducing the likelihood of margin deficiencies for each Clearing Member would, in turn, increase the likelihood that OCC would maintain sufficient financial resources to cover its credit exposure to each participant fully with a high degree of confidence.

Several commenters opposed the Initial Filing, stating that agency-only, executing broker-dealers who do not maintain custody over any customer positions would be harmed by the Proposed Rule Change because the 20-minute snapshots would not accurately reflect the entirety of each trade, would not account for hedging or offsetting, and would not account for the common business practice of end-of-day allocation among customer accounts, thus leading to double-margining.<sup>79</sup> Some commenters suggested that, as such, Clearing Members who were acting solely as executing dealers should be exempt from the Proposed Rule Change.<sup>80</sup> Commenters also suggested providing relief for positions executed in one OCC account and moved to another in a reasonable period of time.<sup>81</sup>

<sup>79</sup> See generally SIFMA II; WEX I; DASH Letter; FIA PTG Letter; FIA Letter; Matrix Letter; STA II; Optiver Letter; see also STANY Letter at 3 (“Executing brokers, whose business models are based on facilitating trades and transferring positions by the end of the trading day, risk being unfairly penalized through double margining. Without adjustments to the allocation process or exclusion of ‘soon-to-be allocated trades’ from intraday margin snapshots, both the executing broker and the end client could be subjected to margin calls for the same position.”); see also, generally, WEX II.

<sup>80</sup> See, e.g., SIFMA II; SIFMA III; Matrix Letter; FIA Letter.

<sup>81</sup> See Matrix Letter at 5. The commenter also suggested that the Proposed Rule Change should require exchanges to modify their systems or require clients to provide specific information, presumably to their Clearing Members. *Id.* Such suggestions are outside the scope of the Proposed Rule Change. Further, even if such suggestions are viewed as a potential improvement that could have been included in the proposal, the existence of an alternative does not, in and of itself, render the

Acknowledging the commenters' concerns, OCC filed Amendment No. 3, which shortened the period on which the Intraday Risk Charge would be based. By reducing this period to a limited series of 20-minute snapshots between 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Central Time, the Proposed Rule Change responds to the concern that the originally proposed measurements of snapshots were too frequent and unpredictable. According to OCC, under the narrower window in the Proposed Rule Change, Execution-Only Clearing Members<sup>82</sup> who are able to allocate trades prior to the shortened window may eliminate or significantly reduce their intraday risk exposure for purposes of calculating their Intraday Risk Charge.<sup>83</sup> As a result, the Proposed Rule Change would allow Clearing Members, such as executing brokers, to manage the potential impact of the changes by moving positions from one account to another at any time preceding 11 a.m. Central or within a 20-minute snapshot for those trades executed in the reduced 90-minute period on which the Intraday Risk Charge would be based.

In response to the amendments, a commenter stated that executing brokers may not be in a position to allocate trades ahead of the narrowed window because they may not receive client allocations until the end of the trading day.<sup>84</sup> The commenter stated that executing brokers can work to change their clients practice, but that they will likely not be 100 percent successful.<sup>85</sup>

proposed approach inconsistent with applicable law. Finally, Rule 17Ad-22(e) generally provides CCAs with flexibility in designing their written policies and procedures, rather than requiring them to take a strictly prescriptive approach. *See, e.g.*, Securities Exchange Act Release No. 78961 (Sept. 28, 2016), 81 FR 70786, at 70795-97, and 70800-01 (Oct. 13, 2016) (File No. S7-03-14).

<sup>82</sup> “Execution-Only Clearing Member” means a Clearing Member approved to act only as a Clearing Member that transfers confirmed trades or allocates positions to other Clearing Members, and not to carry positions in its accounts with OCC on a routine basis. *See Article I, Section E.13 of OCC’s By-Laws.*

<sup>83</sup> See Notice of Filing of Amendment No. 3, 90 FR at 7725.

<sup>84</sup> See SIFMA III at 4.

<sup>85</sup> *Id.* The commenter also stated that OCC is effecting a change to market practice. *See id.* However, the comment appears to misstate the description provided in the Notice of Filing of Amendment No. 3 in which OCC estimated the reduction in impact to executing brokers arising out the amendment of more than 40 percent. *See Notice of Filing of Amendment No. 3, 90 FR at 7727* (stating the aggregated add-on charge for executing brokers would be reduced from \$39.4 million to \$23.4 million). OCC acknowledges that the estimated impact reduction might be greater if members chose to management positions differently, but OCC did not indicate that executing brokers *must* manage their positions differently as a result of the proposal. *See id.* at n. 39.

Ultimately, the commenter calls for an exemption for executing brokers that are Clearing Members with CMTA capabilities.<sup>86</sup> In a subsequent comment, OCC identifies the disparate treatment of executing brokers that would arise under the commenter’s suggestion based on whether or not such an executing broker is a Clearing Member.<sup>87</sup> As OCC states in its response comment letter, “executing brokers do bring risk to OCC, and by extension other Clearing Members, and until the trades are allocated, those risks remain the responsibility of the executing broker.”<sup>88</sup> The purpose of the Proposed Rule Change is to mitigate such risk by collecting margin as discussed further below.

Some commenters have suggested that OCC provide an exemption for Clearing Members acting solely as executing dealers.<sup>89</sup> As OCC reiterated in its response to commenters, the Proposed Rule Change is specifically designed to address observed margin requirement gaps relating not only to increasing 0DTE and SDO clearing activity, but also to current margining system shortcomings across all products cleared.<sup>90</sup> OCC’s focus in proposing the Intraday Risk Charge is on unaddressed intraday risk being introduced to OCC through its Clearing Members, regardless of who ultimately generates or incurs that risk, and is explicitly intended to apply to all Clearing Members equally.<sup>91</sup> Rule 17Ad-22(e)(4)(i) under the Exchange Act directs OCC to manage its credit exposures to participants.<sup>92</sup> Exempting a subset of Clearing Members from collateralizing the financial risk they pose to OCC would impede OCC’s ability to manage its credit exposures to participants. Further, the Commission agrees with OCC’s statement in its response to commenters that an exemption for a specific subset of Clearing Members would not be equitable or fair.<sup>93</sup> As OCC noted in its response, “during any potential intraday default event, the last account associated with a trade at the time of default could likely be held responsible

<sup>86</sup> See SIFMA III at 4.

<sup>87</sup> See OCC II at 6 (stating that, for non-Clearing Member execution brokers, OCC would also not be in a position to determine any intraday fee charged by the broker’s Clearing Member).

<sup>88</sup> See *id.* (referencing SIFMA III).

<sup>89</sup> See, e.g., Matrix Letter at 2-3; FIA Letter at 2.

<sup>90</sup> See OCC II at 2 (“OCC has observed that this intraday risk has increased in recent years, both with respect to [0DTE Options], as well as the increased daily contract volume in options of all expiries”).

<sup>91</sup> See OCC I at 3.

<sup>92</sup> See 17 CFR 240.17ad-22(e)(4)(i).

<sup>93</sup> See OCC I at 3.

for making good on the resulting position. Hence, Executing Clearing Members, like any other Clearing Members that incur risk, should be assessed the Intraday Risk Charge for their intraday risk increasing activity.”<sup>94</sup>

To support its “call . . . for OCC to exempt executing brokers that are OCC Clearing members with CMTA capabilities from any Intraday Risk Charge,” one commenter suggested that, if such an executing broker defaults, the trades could be passed onto another Clearing Member via CMTA, which would provide a mechanism to transfer positions to other OCC Clearing Members in the event of a default scenario.<sup>95</sup> In response, OCC stated that it “would first need to know the intended recipient of the unallocated contracts, which is not information that is on the trade record.”<sup>96</sup> OCC stated further that, the “suggestion ignores the fact that a CMTA transfer may be rejected by the receiving Clearing Member, something which may be more likely following a default.”<sup>97</sup> OCC also stated that, while the commenters “advocate excluding execution only brokers from the Intraday Risk Charge,” they did not “provide suggestions about who should cover the risks of an execution only broker’s transactions before the trades are allocated and the identity of the ultimate Clearing Member is known.”<sup>98</sup> The commenters also did not explain how such an exemption, or the use of the CMTA process in the manner suggested, would comply with OCC Rule 1106, which describes OCC’s rights and obligations with respect to the open positions of a suspended Clearing Member, and calls for the closing out of positions in the most orderly manner practicable, including by private auction.

OCC also highlighted the potential knock-on effects for non-defaulting Clearing Members in the event that such intraday risk is left unaddressed. Specifically, OCC stated that it “is exposed to the risks posed by intraday

<sup>94</sup> *Id.*; see also OCC II at 5 (“Furthermore, if OCC were to exempt certain entities from the Intraday Risk Charge, it would artificially lower the cost of trading through the exempted entities compared with those subject to the Intraday Risk Charge. This has the potential to introduce even more unaccounted for risk into the system.”).

<sup>95</sup> SIFMA III at 4–5. The term “Executing Clearing Member” as used by the commenter means a Clearing Member that has been authorized by a Carrying Clearing Member to direct confirmed trades to be transferred to a designated account of the Carrying Clearing Member pursuant to such Clearing Members’ CMTA arrangement. See Article I, Section E.12 of OCC’s By-Laws.

<sup>96</sup> OCC II at 7.

<sup>97</sup> *Id.*

<sup>98</sup> *Id.*

price changes and any new contracts held by Clearing Members during the trading day to the extent those risks render the margin requirements that OCC sets and collects each morning insufficient to cover losses that may arise from the default of one of its Clearing Members.”<sup>99</sup> OCC explained further that, if the defaulting Clearing Member’s margin resources are insufficient to cover such losses, OCC would rely on the defaulting Clearing Member’s Clearing Fund contribution, then OCC’s own contribution.<sup>100</sup> If those resources were insufficient to cover the loss, “OCC would have to use the Clearing Fund contributions of non-defaulting Clearing Members, resulting in unanticipated losses to non-defaulting Clearing Members.”<sup>101</sup> The Commission agrees that OCC’s failure to address intraday risk could lead to non-defaulting Clearing Members incurring unanticipated losses.

Some commenters framed their concern as one of “double-margining,” because positions could be counted twice—once when they are held at the executing broker, and a second time when they are transferred and held at the OCC Clearing Member serving as their prime broker.<sup>102</sup> This is not an accurate characterization of the proposal because the Proposed Rule Change provides a mechanism requiring a member to post collateral based on past trading activity, which is distinct from OCC’s process for setting a Clearing Member’s daily margin requirement based on that member’s end-of-day portfolio. The Intraday Risk Charge would require a Clearing Member to post margin calibrated to the risk posed by the intraday activity of that member. If a Clearing Member executes a risk-increasing trade in the morning, OCC has no way to know that the member intends to execute a hedging trade at some later point in the day. Similarly, if a Clearing Member executes a risk-increasing trade at one point in time, OCC cannot assume allocation to another Clearing Member if the trade has not yet been allocated. Further, until such time as the Clearing Member executes the hedging transaction or allocates the trade to a Carrying Clearing Member, OCC must rely on the collateral posted to the account associated with a trade. Consistent with OCC’s comments, the margin posted to a Clearing Member account associated with a trade at the time of an intraday suspension is the collateral relevant to

<sup>99</sup> OCC II at 1–2.

<sup>100</sup> *See id.* at 2.

<sup>101</sup> *Id.*

<sup>102</sup> *See e.g.*, SIFMA II at 9; WEX II at 3.

covering the potential losses related to such a trade. Further, OCC amended the proposal to narrow the window on which the Intraday Risk Charge would be based in response to comments. Focusing solely on the 90-minute window between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. CT would provide an opportunity for members to hedge their positions prior to the window to reduce the impact of the Intraday Risk Charge, similar to the current opportunity to hedge positions before the end of the trading day.<sup>103</sup>

OCC also stated in its response to these comments that “mechanisms exist to reduce the likelihood of OCC assessing an Intraday Risk Charge to an Executing Clearing Member.”<sup>104</sup> For example, “OCC observed over the period between May 1, 2024, and August 15, 2024, that for approximately 43% of two-sided contract volume, the trade information for allocated trades accurately identifies the Carrying Clearing Member of the trading party. This information allows an Executing Clearing Member to route a trade directly to the clearing account of the Carrying Clearing Member for the trading party, and thereby bypass the OCC clearing account of the Executing Clearing Member. In these cases, intraday risk activity would not be reflected in the Executing Clearing Member’s account.”<sup>105</sup> OCC encouraged executing Clearing Members “to work with their customers to obtain all information necessary as early as possible to facilitate allocation of their trades as soon as possible.”<sup>106</sup>

The Proposed Rule Change also allows OCC to account for instances where information from an individual snapshot may not capture a trade in its entirety. Specifically, the Intraday Risk Charge process would allow for a manual review of the 20-minute snapshot information, as described in Section II.A above. FRM would review and verify the daily peak increases on at least a monthly basis, taking into consideration the monitoring system’s known limitations, such as a 20-minute snapshot not capturing a complete trade

<sup>103</sup> See Notice of Filing of Amendment No. 3, 90 FR at 7727, n.39 (stating that, to the extent a Clearing Member allocates trades to other Clearing Members under OCC’s CMTA Rules or otherwise reduces its intraday risk in advance of the Intraday Risk Measurement Time, the actual impact of the Intraday Risk Charge may be less).

<sup>104</sup> OCC I at 3.

<sup>105</sup> OCC I at 3–4. The term “Carrying Clearing Member” means a Clearing Member that has authorized an Executing Clearing Member to direct the transfer of a confirmed trade to a designated account of such Carrying Clearing Member pursuant to a CMTA arrangement. See Article I, Section C.3 of OCC’s By-Laws.

<sup>106</sup> *Id.* at 4.

in a single snapshot or the fact that snapshot timing may cause collateral movements to be recorded as risk-increasing deposits instead of risk-reducing movements. To mitigate the risk of such inaccuracies leading to double-margining, Market Risk would verify the peak daily results to prevent erroneous results from affecting the calculation of the Intraday Risk Charge.

Some commenters stated that OCC's proposal to use a one-month lookback period to assess a monthly margin add-on is unreasonable and poorly designed.<sup>107</sup> One such commenter stated that the proposed measures should be temporary while OCC focuses on technological improvements to address the intraday risk stemming from SDOs.<sup>108</sup> Other commenters posited alternatives to the one-month lookback period. Two commenters suggested a shortened lookback period of one week, with "average of the peak" risk increases each day over the prior week coupled with capped thresholds (e.g., 25%) such that the Intraday Risk Charge could not rise or fall by more than the threshold from week to week.<sup>109</sup> Both of those commenters also offered other alternatives, including a tiered framework based on the size of activity of participants<sup>110</sup> and snapshots that occur at periods longer than 20 minutes.<sup>111</sup>

OCC's use of a one-month lookback period to assess the Intraday Risk Charge is reasonable and appropriately designed. As OCC stated in its response to such comments, "the use of historical lookbacks for projecting potential future exposures is a common practice in the financial industry," and OCC's "proposed approach of establishing a margin add-on using a historical lookback as a buffer to account for variability in margin requirements is not unique among clearing agencies."<sup>112</sup> As an example, OCC pointed to the National Securities Clearing Corporation's margin requirement differential ("MRD"), which was designed, essentially, as a margin add-on to members' pre-funded financial resources, calculated and charged daily, based on historical changes to certain components over a 100-day lookback period.<sup>113</sup> As OCC pointed out, although

the reasoning behind implementing the MRD was not related to addressing intraday risk stemming from SDOs and 0DTE options, the MRD is nevertheless similar to the Proposed Rule Change in that "the Intraday Risk Charge has been designed as a margin add-on to capture variability in the risk presented by a Clearing Member between OCC's daily morning margin collections."<sup>114</sup> As OCC further stated, calculating the Intraday Risk Charge monthly based on a one-month lookback period "will allow OCC to capture variability in risk from all products it clears, including SDO and 0DTE options."<sup>115</sup> OCC added that it believes that "the one-month lookback period, which includes a standard monthly expiration and multiple weekly expirations, is a conservative, yet not punitive, approach that reflects more recent changes in risk behavior, providing relevant forecasts for the next monitoring cycle."<sup>116</sup>

The use of a one-month lookback period also is consistent with other OCC practices related to collateral collection for financial risk management,<sup>117</sup> which the Commission has approved in prior filings.<sup>118</sup> The alternatives suggested by commenters do not alter the Commission's determination that OCC's decision to use a one-month lookback period in this instance is reasonable and that the other characteristics of the Proposed Rule Change, as designed, are consistent with the applicable statute, rules, and regulations. Indeed, one commenter acknowledged that "a blunt approach is not, in itself, grounds for disapproval."<sup>119</sup> While there may be more than one reasonable way to address a given risk, the existence of an alternative does not, in and of itself, render the proposed approach inconsistent with applicable law.<sup>120</sup>

One commenter suggested that OCC should (i) apply the Intraday Risk Charge in a phased approach, starting by applying it only to 0DTE and then, only if necessary, extending the Intraday Risk

Charge to other cleared activity; (ii) develop new functionality to monitor in real-time the intraday risks it faces from Clearing Members; and (iii) sunset the Intraday Risk Charge within two years, once OCC has such capability.<sup>121</sup> As discussed above, applying the Intraday Risk Charge solely to 0DTE would not be reasonably designed to allow OCC to manage its credit exposures to participants. As OCC reiterated in its response to commenters, the Proposed Rule Change is specifically designed to address observed margin requirement gaps relating not only to increasing 0DTE and SDO clearing activity, but also to current margining system shortcomings across all products cleared.<sup>122</sup> Applying the Intraday Risk Charge solely to 0DTE would prevent OCC from collateralizing the financial risk posed by the increased clearing volume across *all* products cleared by OCC, including SDO clearing activity beyond just 0DTE products, which in turn would impede OCC's ability to manage its credit exposures to participants. Further, it is unclear how OCC would meet its burden of demonstrating consistency with the Exchange Act for a proposal to preemptively sunset a risk management tool such as the Intraday Risk Charge based on a potential future technological capability that has not yet been developed or implemented, as the commenter suggests. OCC is free to continue developing its technological capabilities and consider in the future whether sunsetting or otherwise modifying the Intraday Risk Charge would be appropriate and consistent with the Exchange Act, but requiring that outcome, especially on a specific timeline, is outside the scope of the Proposed Rule Change.

Commenters stated that, while formulating and issuing the proposal, OCC did not engage with the industry.<sup>123</sup> OCC responded by stating that it engaged with Clearing Members and market participants about the proposal extensively over a long period of time.<sup>124</sup> Specifically, OCC stated that, "[b]eginning as early as April 2023, OCC engaged in extensive dialogue with industry participants regarding the changes through OCC's established channels for obtaining feedback from market participants both prior to OCC's submission of the Initial Filing and

<sup>107</sup> See generally SIFMA II; FIA Letter; FIA PTG Letter; STANY Letter.

<sup>108</sup> FIA Letter at 1.

<sup>109</sup> SIFMA II at 6; STANY Letter at 2 (agreeing with SIFMA's suggestions).

<sup>110</sup> SIFMA II at 6.

<sup>111</sup> STANY Letter at 5.

<sup>112</sup> See OCC I at 2.

<sup>113</sup> *Id.* at 2–3; see also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 79245 (Nov. 4, 2016), 81 FR 79071,

<sup>114</sup> See OCC I at 2–3.

<sup>115</sup> *Id.* at 3.

<sup>116</sup> *Id.*

<sup>117</sup> See, e.g., OCC Rule 1003, which defines OCC's process for determining each Clearing Member's pro rata share of the Clearing Fund each month based on activity from the preceding month.

<sup>118</sup> See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release No. 83735 (July 27, 2018), 83 FR 37855 (Aug. 2, 2018) (File No. SR-OCC-2018-008).

<sup>119</sup> See STA II at 2.

<sup>120</sup> Additionally, Rule 17ad–22(e), generally, provides CCAs with flexibility in designing their written policies and procedures, rather than to take a strictly prescriptive approach. See, e.g., Securities Exchange Act Release No. 78961 (Sept. 28, 2016), 81 FR 70786, at 70795–97, and 70800–01 (Oct. 13, 2016) (File No. S7–03–14).

<sup>121</sup> See SIFMA III at 6–7.

<sup>122</sup> See OCC II at 2 ("OCC has observed that this intraday risk has increased in recent years, both with respect to [0DTE Options], as well as the increased daily contract volume in options of all expiries").

<sup>123</sup> See e.g., SIFMA III at 1–2, 7–8; STA II at 4.

<sup>124</sup> See e.g., OCC II at 3.

continuing well after it was filed.”<sup>125</sup> OCC further noted that, “[a]s part of its ongoing efforts to engage Clearing Members and other market participants about potential OCC rule changes, OCC presented the proposed changes to its Financial Risk Advisory Council (‘FRAC’)” over the course of six separate meetings since April 2023.<sup>126</sup> According to OCC, those six meetings “included discussions of intraday margin proposals, including the Initial Filing, and provided the opportunity for participants to express concerns,” with the minutes of each meeting subsequently “presented to the OCC Board-level Risk Committee.”<sup>127</sup> OCC further stated that it “recently established the FRAC Risk Management Committee (‘FRAC RMC’),” that “FRAC RMC feedback is socialized with OCC’s board level Risk Committee because the FRAC RMC feedback is relevant to all matters that could materially affect OCC’s risk profile,” and that the intraday risk proposals were discussed at the three FRAC RMC meetings held since October 2024.<sup>128</sup> Finally, OCC stated that, in addition to the FRAC, “OCC holds Operations Roundtables with operations staff of a cross-section of OCC’s Clearing Members, operations staff of the options exchanges, and representatives from industry organizations,” and that, “[s]ince April of 2023, all six Operations Roundtables that have been held have included a discussion of the Intraday Risk Change and an opportunity for participants to provide feedback to OCC.”<sup>129</sup>

Some commenters suggested an altogether different approach than the changes that comprise the Proposed Rule Change. Specifically, a commenter suggested that OCC rerun its margin methodology intraday as the basis for collecting intraday margin.<sup>130</sup> The commenter recognized, however, that OCC may not have the technology infrastructure to implement it currently.<sup>131</sup> Another commenter suggested that, if OCC is unable implement such an alternative proposal, that it “should replace the 20 minute snapshot cycle with 1–2 intraday snapshots.”<sup>132</sup>

<sup>125</sup> OCC II at 3.

<sup>126</sup> *Id.*

<sup>127</sup> *Id.*

<sup>128</sup> *Id.*

<sup>129</sup> *Id.*

<sup>130</sup> See SIFMA II at 5–6; *see also* Optiver at 3 (recommending that OCC implement an intraday settlement process, using a snapshot of prices and positions held at the OCC at that time to calculate variation pays/collects).

<sup>131</sup> See SIFMA II at 6.

<sup>132</sup> See Optiver at 3; *see also* STANY Letter at 2; STA II at 2.

The different approach suggested is distinct from what was proposed. The Proposed Rule Change provides for the daily application of a margin add-on as part of a member’s margin requirement each morning, similar to other add-ons within OCC’s rules.<sup>133</sup> The different approach suggested by commenters pertains to the use of intraday margin calls to manage the deterioration of a Clearing Member’s portfolio, which is a different consideration. While there may be more than one reasonable way to address a given risk, the existence of an alternative does not, in and of itself, render the proposed approach inconsistent with the requirements of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to OCC.<sup>134</sup> Further, the alternative suggested by a commenter (*e.g.*, reliance on one or two intraday snapshots) is not dissimilar from OCC’s amended proposal, which narrowed the period during which intraday risk is measured.

Commenters raised concerns regarding the confidentiality of certain exhibits, stating that they are unable to measure the impact of the proposal because certain supporting exhibits are confidential.<sup>135</sup> In its submission of the Proposed Rule Change to the Commission, OCC stated that Exhibits 3A–3D and 5B to File No. SR-OCC-2024-010, which contain internal policies and procedures, internal statistical calculations and descriptions,

<sup>133</sup> See, *e.g.*, Securities Exchange Act Release No. 86119 (June 17, 2019), 84 FR 29267 (June 21, 2019) (File No. SR-OCC-2019-004) (approving a liquidation cost charge add-on); Securities Exchange Act Release No. 100998 (Sept. 11, 2024), 89 FR 76171 (Sept. 17, 2024) (File No. SR-OCC-2024-009) (approving a margin add-on charge based on breaches of the new category of resource backtesting).

<sup>134</sup> Additionally, Rule 17ad–22(e), generally, provides CCAs with flexibility in designing their written policies and procedures, rather than to take a strictly prescriptive approach. See, *e.g.*, Securities Exchange Act Release No. 78961 (Sept. 28, 2016), 81 FR 70786, at 70795–797, 70800–801 (Oct. 13, 2016) (File No. S7-03-14).

<sup>135</sup> See STA Letter at 3; *see also* FIA Letter at 2 (stating that the Proposed Rule Change “lacks sufficient detail regarding the computation of the Intraday Risk Charge as well as the Intraday Risk Charge Monitoring Thresholds requirement and their potential economic effects on Clearing Members and their clients”). OCC also provided more detailed information to the Commission confidentially. See Notice of Filing, 89 FR at 65697 n.17 (stating that OCC included an assessment of the impact of the Intraday Risk Charge on OCC’s Clearing Members). Subsequently, a commenter raised this issue again in response to OCC’s amendment of the filing. WEX II at 3–6 (stating the Proposed Rule Change is inconsistent with the Exchange Act because it “lacks sufficient analysis or information” for the Commission to analyze or “critically evaluate any OCC analysis of the Proposal against relevant statutory standards”). However, OCC provided updated impact data when it amended the proposal. See Notice of Filing of Amendment No. 3, 90 FR at 7727.

and confidential regulatory findings, were entitled to confidential treatment because they contained commercial and financial information that is not customarily released to the public and is treated as the private information of OCC. Under Section 23(a)(3) of the Exchange Act, the Commission is not required to make public statements filed with the Commission in connection with a proposed rule change of a self-regulatory organization if the Commission could withhold the statements from the public in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”).<sup>136</sup> Under FOIA, an agency shall withhold information only if the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by certain of the exemptions available under FOIA.<sup>137</sup> The Commission has reviewed the documents for which OCC requests confidential treatment and concludes that they could be withheld from the public under FOIA. FOIA Exemption 4 protects confidential commercial or financial information.<sup>138</sup> Information is confidential under Exemption 4 if it “is both customarily and actually treated as private by its owner and provided to government under an assurance of privacy.”<sup>139</sup> In its requests for confidential treatment, OCC stated that it has not disclosed the confidential exhibits to the public, and the information is the type that would not customarily be disclosed to the public. The Commission has reviewed the confidential exhibits and confirmed that they contain trade secrets and commercial or financial information consisting of internal policies and procedures, internal statistical calculations and descriptions, and confidential regulatory findings that have not been disclosed to the public and that would not customarily be disclosed to the public. In addition, by requesting confidential treatment, OCC had an assurance of privacy because the Commission generally protects information that can be withheld under Exemption 4. After reviewing these documents, the Commission concludes that their disclosure foreseeably could cause OCC to suffer financial losses, competitive disadvantage, or reputational harm. For these reasons, the Commission has determined to afford confidential treatment to the confidential exhibits.

<sup>136</sup> 5 U.S.C. 552.

<sup>137</sup> See 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(8)(A)(i)(I).

<sup>138</sup> 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4).

<sup>139</sup> *Food Marketing Institute v. Argus Leader Media*, 139 S. Ct. 2356, 2366 (2019).

Another commenter stated that the Initial Filing was missing “any analysis of the estimated margin costs associated with the Proposal and the impact on OCC members and their clients.”<sup>140</sup> This is not accurate. Consistent with other filings, OCC included in the publicly available portion of its Initial Filing data regarding the potential impact to Clearing Members of the Proposed Rule Change. Specifically, OCC observed that the proposed add-on would have generated an average margin increase of less than 5% in the aggregate,<sup>141</sup> and that, for the most impacted members, the average daily margin percentage increases would range from approximately 3% to 35% based on data from October 2023.<sup>142</sup> In addition to the publicly-available analysis in the Proposed Rule Change, OCC also analyzed the estimated margin costs associated with the Intraday Risk Charge and its impact on OCC Clearing Members and their clients and submitted the results of that analysis to the Commission as confidential exhibits, as discussed above. Further, in connection with Amendment No. 3, OCC provided additional data demonstrating that the amendments to the proposal would reduce the impact on members.<sup>143</sup> Specifically, where the Initial Filing would have generated an average margin increase of \$1.968 billion across all Clearing Members, the data provided by OCC demonstrates that the amended filing would generate an average margin increase of approximately \$1.099 billion across all Clearing Members, a nearly \$1 billion reduction.<sup>144</sup>

Taken together, as discussed above, the Proposed Rule Change will increase the likelihood that OCC would maintain sufficient financial resources to cover its credit exposure to each participant fully with a high degree of confidence. Accordingly, the Proposed Rule Change is consistent with the requirements of Rule 17Ad–22(e)(4)(i) under the Exchange Act.<sup>145</sup>

#### *D. Consistency With Rule 17Ad–22(e)(6)(ii) Under the Exchange Act*

Rule 17Ad–22(e)(6)(ii) under the Exchange Act requires, *inter alia*, that a CCA establish, implement, maintain, and enforce written policies and procedures reasonably designed to cover its credit exposures to its participants by

establishing a risk-based margin system that, at a minimum, among other things, monitors intraday exposures on an ongoing basis; includes the authority and operational capacity to make intraday margin calls, as frequently as circumstances warrant, including when risk thresholds specified by the CCA are breached or when the products cleared or markets served display elevated volatility; and documents when the CCA determines not to make an intraday call pursuant to its written policies and procedures.<sup>146</sup>

As described in Section II.A. above, the Proposed Rule Change would establish an Intraday Risk Charge that is calculated based on the average of the daily peak intraday risk increases from portfolio position changes measured using 20-minute snapshots between 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Central Time over the preceding month. Separately and independently from the Intraday Risk Charge, OCC would monitor verified intraday risk increases for the purpose of issuing margin calls at 20-minute intervals between the hours of 12:30 a.m. through 3:15 p.m. Central Time, as described in Section II.B., above. Thus, the Proposed Rule Change would establish a risk-based margin system that monitors intraday exposures on an ongoing basis.

In addition to the margin collection capabilities under OCC Rules 609 and 307, the Proposed Rule Change would amend the Margin Policy to define Intraday Monitoring Thresholds for monitoring intraday exposure for purposes of issuing potential margin calls. These amendments to the Margin Policy would not only allow for a single mid-day collection time, but also facilitate decisions to issue or not issue unscheduled margin calls based on certain criteria and subject to articulated governance processes. The Proposed Rule Change also would require documentation of such decision-making. As such, the Proposed Rule Change would grant OCC the authority and operational capacity to make intraday margin calls as frequently as circumstances warrant, and require the necessary documentation underlying the decision to not make an intraday call. Accordingly, the Proposed Rule Change is consistent with the requirements of Rule 17Ad–22(e)(6)(ii) under the Exchange Act.<sup>147</sup>

#### *E. Consistency With Rule 17Ad–22(e)(2)(v) Under the Exchange Act*

Rule 17Ad–22(e)(2)(v) under the Exchange Act requires that a CCA

establish, implement, maintain, and enforce written policies and procedures reasonably designed to provide for governance arrangements that specify clear and direct lines of responsibility.<sup>148</sup>

Along with establishing the Intraday Risk Charge and the Intraday Monitoring Thresholds, the Proposed Rule Change would modify OCC’s Margin Policy and internal documents to include specific governance arrangements and evaluation criteria related to the Intraday Risk Charge and Intraday Monitoring Thresholds. For example, as stated in Section II.A above, FRM Officer approval would be necessary to impose the monthly Intraday Risk Charge. Adjustments could occur at the time of the determination of the Intraday Risk Charge amount or on an intra-month basis but would be limited to clearly defined circumstances, where reductions would be limited to business reduction, account terminations, transfer of positions to different account(s), or the imposition of protective measures under Rule 307B, and increases would be limited to business expansions. If the FRM Officer recommends any changes to an Intraday Risk Charge, the MRWG would be required to review and would be authorized to escalate the recommendation to the Office of the Chief Executive Officer, who would then review and be authorized to approve the changes.

Similarly, as described in Sections II.B and II.C above, relating to the Intraday Monitoring Thresholds, OCC’s amended Margin Policy states that intraday margin calls would be issued at a single intraday collection time and requires that any margin calls outside of the collection time must be approved by the Chief Financial Risk Officer, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operations Officer, or Chief Risk Officer. The revised Margin Policy also specifies that an FRM Officer may decide against issuing a margin call at the single intraday collection time if, in the Officer’s judgment, the intraday call is not necessary to effectively manage the risk posed to OCC based on the specific facts and circumstances; and the FRM Officer must document such a determination.

Additionally, FRM will coordinate a review of the thresholds, calculation, and lookback period for the Intraday Risk Charge and Intraday Monitoring Thresholds on an at least annual basis, or more frequently as needed. Although OCC would retain the authority to

<sup>140</sup> FIA PTG Letter at 2.

<sup>141</sup> Notice of Filing, 89 FR at 65697.

<sup>142</sup> *Id.*

<sup>143</sup> See Notice of Filing of Amendment No. 3, 90 FR at 7727.

<sup>144</sup> *Id.* OCC further broke out the impact by account type. *See id.*

<sup>145</sup> 17 CFR 240.17ad–22(e)(4)(i).

<sup>146</sup> 17 CFR 240.17ad–22(e)(6)(ii).

<sup>147</sup> *Id.*

<sup>148</sup> 17 CFR 240.17ad–22(e)(2)(v).

adjust any of these items, such adjustments would be subject to an analysis of the activity generating peak intraday margin numbers, the number of breaches above the monitoring thresholds, and overall market activity and trends within the lookback period. The review would be presented to the MRWG, which must review and would be authorized to escalate any recommended changes to the Office of the Chief Executive Officer, which in turn must review and would be authorized to approve or disapprove the recommended changes. OCC's Risk Committee would be notified of all changes.

One commenter expressed uncertainty regarding whether the proposed monitoring and escalation criteria for Clearing Members whose intraday activity may exceed certain thresholds relative to its Intraday Risk Charge is properly designed.<sup>149</sup> The commenter stated that such monitoring may impact participants performing similar roles differently, without explaining the basis for this concern.<sup>150</sup> As a general response, OCC stated that it "believes it reasonably designed the proposed rule using its existing tools to address the increasing risks presented by the trading of SDO and ODTE."<sup>151</sup> OCC responded further that, given the accelerating pace of change in the options markets, "OCC believes it is imperative to address these risks now and that leveraging its existing technology to account for intraday risks is essential to support OCC's core risk management mission."<sup>152</sup> As part of this approach, "OCC also intends to implement enhanced tools to measure and monitor intraday risk increases presented by Clearing Member trading activities so that it may call for additional margin when it deems necessary and appropriate."<sup>153</sup>

Together, the proposed discretion to issue margin calls and related governance processes relating to the Intraday Risk Charge and Intraday Monitoring Thresholds are consistent with OCC's established internal policies and procedures.<sup>154</sup> Additionally, the Proposed Rule Change would clearly document the multi-layered decision-making process and explicitly specify parties and their responsibilities, thus helping to foster accountability and

aiding OCC in fulfilling its risk management obligations.

Accordingly, the proposed changes to further detail OCC's processes for governing its Intraday Risk Charge and the Intraday Monitoring Thresholds are consistent with the requirements of Rule 17Ad-22(e)(2)(v) under the Exchange Act.<sup>155</sup>

#### V. Conclusion

On the basis of the foregoing, the Commission finds that the Proposed Rule Change is consistent with the requirements of the Exchange Act, and in particular, the requirements of Section 17A of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder.<sup>156</sup>

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Exchange Act,<sup>157</sup> that the Proposed Rule Change (SR-OCC-2024-010) be, and hereby is, approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>158</sup>

**Sherry R. Haywood,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06041 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8011-01-P**

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

**[Release No. 34-102765; File No. SR-NYSE-2025-10]**

### Self-Regulatory Organizations; New York Stock Exchange LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Amend Its Price List

April 3, 2025.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1)<sup>1</sup> of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")<sup>2</sup> and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,<sup>3</sup> notice is hereby given that on March 31, 2025, New York Stock Exchange LLC ("NYSE" or the "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the self-regulatory organization. The Commission is publishing this notice to

<sup>149</sup> 17 CFR 240.17ad-22(e)(2)(v).

<sup>150</sup> *Id.*

<sup>151</sup> See OCC I at 5.

<sup>152</sup> *Id.* at 2.

<sup>153</sup> *Id.*

<sup>154</sup> OCC provided its Margin Policy as a confidential Exhibit 5B to File No. SR-OCC-2024-010.

solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

#### I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend its Price List to adopt fees for orders routed pursuant to the Midpoint Ping routing strategy. The proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's website at [www.nyse.com](http://www.nyse.com), at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

#### II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the self-regulatory organization included statements concerning the purpose of, and basis for, the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of those statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant parts of such statements.

#### A. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and the Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

##### 1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend the NYSE Price List to adopt fees for orders routed pursuant to the Midpoint Ping routing strategy, as defined in Rule 7.37(c)(9)(A). The Exchange proposes to implement the fee change effective April 1, 2025.

##### Background

The Exchange operates in a highly competitive market. The Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") has repeatedly expressed its preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. In Regulation NMS, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system "has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies."<sup>4</sup>

While Regulation NMS has enhanced competition, it has also fostered a

<sup>1</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496, 37499 (June 29, 2005) (File No. S7-10-04) (Final Rule) ("Regulation NMS").

<sup>2</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

<sup>3</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

<sup>4</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>5</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78a.

<sup>6</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

“fragmented” market structure where trading in a single stock can occur across multiple trading centers. When multiple trading centers compete for order flow in the same stock, the Commission has recognized that “such competition can lead to the fragmentation of order flow in that stock.”<sup>5</sup> Indeed, cash equity trading is currently dispersed across 16 exchanges,<sup>6</sup> numerous alternative trading systems,<sup>7</sup> and broker-dealer internalizers and wholesalers, all competing for order flow. Based on publicly available information, no single exchange currently has more than 20% market share.<sup>8</sup> Therefore, no exchange possesses significant pricing power in the execution of cash equity order flow. More specifically, the Exchange’s share of executed volume of equity trades in Tapes A, B and C securities combined is currently less than 12%.<sup>9</sup>

The Exchange believes that the ever-shifting market share among the exchanges from month to month demonstrates that market participants can move order flow, or discontinue or reduce use of certain categories of products. While it is not possible to know a firm’s reason for shifting order flow, the Exchange believes that one such reason is because of fee changes at any of the registered exchanges or non-exchange venues to which a firm routes order flow. Accordingly, competitive forces constrain exchange transaction fees because market participants can readily trade on competing venues if they deem pricing levels at those other venues to be more favorable.

#### Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange has amended its rules to provide for the optional Midpoint Ping routing strategy, which is available for MPL-IOC Orders.<sup>10</sup> An MPL-IOC Order designated with the Midpoint Ping routing strategy would first check the Exchange Book for available shares.

<sup>5</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 61358, 75 FR 3594, 3597 (January 21, 2010) (File No. S7-02-10) (Concept Release on Equity Market Structure).

<sup>6</sup> See Cboe U.S. Equities Market Volume Summary, available at [https://markets.cboe.com/us/equities/market\\_share](https://markets.cboe.com/us/equities/market_share). See generally <https://www.sec.gov/fast-answers/divisionsmarketregmgr/exchangesshml.html>.

<sup>7</sup> See FINRA ATS Transparency Data, available at <https://otctransparency.finra.org/otctransparency/AtsIssueData>. A list of alternative trading systems registered with the Commission is available at <https://www.sec.gov/foia/docs/atslist.htm>.

<sup>8</sup> See Cboe Global Markets U.S. Equities Market Volume Summary, available at [https://markets.cboe.com/us/equities/market\\_share/](https://markets.cboe.com/us/equities/market_share/).

<sup>9</sup> See *id.*

<sup>10</sup> See Rule 7.37(c)(9)(A); see also Securities Exchange Act Release No. 102603 (March 11, 2025), 90 FR 12382 (March 17, 2025) (SR-NYSE-2025-06).

Any remaining quantity of the order would then route as an MPL-IOC Order to one or more other NYSE Group equity exchanges sequentially, in accordance with the Exchange’s routing table (as described in Rule 7.37(c)(9) and published on the Exchange’s website). At each routing destination, the order would check the book for available shares, and any further unexecuted quantity would then route to the next destination on the routing table, as applicable. Any shares that remain unexecuted after the order has been routed to each destination on the routing table (to the extent that there were shares remaining to be routed) will be cancelled.

In connection with the upcoming availability of the Midpoint Ping routing strategy on April 7, 2025,<sup>11</sup> the Exchange proposes to amend the NYSE Price List to adopt routing fees that will apply to orders routed pursuant to the Midpoint Ping routing strategy.

- Under “Transactions in stocks with a per share stock price of \$1.00 or more,” in “Routing Fee—per share,” the Exchange proposes to add new rule text to provide for a routing fee of “\$0.0030 for orders routed pursuant to the Midpoint Ping routing strategy (as defined in Rule 7.37(c)(9)(A)).”<sup>12</sup>
- In the section titled “Transaction Fees and Credits For Tape B and C Securities” in the first bullet under “Routing Fees,” relating to securities at or above \$1.00, the Exchange proposes to add text specifying “\$0.0030 per share for orders routed pursuant to the Midpoint Ping routing strategy (as defined in Rule 7.37(c)(9)(A)).”<sup>13</sup>

The Exchange believes that this routing functionality would offer member organizations the opportunity to access midpoint liquidity on other trading venues (and, specifically, on the Exchange’s affiliated equity exchanges). This routing functionality is completely optional, and member organizations can readily select from among various providers of routing services, including other exchanges and non-exchange venues. Member organizations that choose not to utilize this routing

<sup>11</sup> See <https://www.nyse.com/trader-update/history#110000947845>.

<sup>12</sup> For orders in securities priced below \$1.00 routed pursuant to the Midpoint Ping routing strategy, the routing fee of 0.3% of total dollar value of the transaction set forth in the table under the section titled “Transactions in stocks with a per share stock price less than \$1.00” in “Routing Fee—per share in any stock with a per share stock price below \$1.00” will apply.

<sup>13</sup> For orders in securities priced below \$1.00 routed pursuant to the Midpoint Ping routing strategy, the routing fee of 0.30% of total dollar value of the transaction set forth in the second bullet under “Routing Fees” will apply.

strategy would continue to be able to trade on the Exchange as they currently do.

#### 2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,<sup>14</sup> in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and (5) of the Act,<sup>15</sup> in particular, because it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its members, issuers and other persons using its facilities and does not unfairly discriminate between customers, issuers, brokers or dealers.

As discussed above, the Exchange operates in a highly competitive market. The Commission has repeatedly expressed its preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. In Regulation NMS, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system “has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies.”<sup>16</sup> While Regulation NMS has enhanced competition, it has also fostered a “fragmented” market structure where trading in a single stock can occur across multiple trading centers. When multiple trading centers compete for order flow in the same stock, the Commission has recognized that “such competition can lead to the fragmentation of order flow in that stock.”<sup>17</sup>

The Exchange believes that the ever-shifting market share among the exchanges from month to month demonstrates that market participants can shift order flow, or discontinue or reduce use of certain categories of products, in response to fee changes. Accordingly, changes to exchange transaction fees can have a direct effect on the ability of an exchange to compete for order flow.

The Midpoint Ping routing strategy is intended to provide member organizations with the option to, after interacting with interest on the Exchange Book, route remaining quantities of MPL-IOC Orders to other NYSE Group equity exchanges. This routing functionality is provided by the Exchange on a voluntary basis, and no

<sup>14</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

<sup>15</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

<sup>16</sup> See *supra* note 4.

<sup>17</sup> See *supra* note 5.

rule or regulation requires that the Exchange offer it. Nor does any rule or regulation require market participants to route orders in this manner. As noted above, the Exchange operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily select between various providers of routing services with different product offerings and different pricing. The Exchange believes the proposed fees are reasonable, as they are within the range of other routing fees the Exchange currently charges.

The Exchange believes its proposal equitably allocates its fees among market participants. The Exchange believes that the proposal represents an equitable allocation of fees because it would apply uniformly to all member organizations, in that all member organizations will have the ability to utilize the Midpoint Ping routing strategy, and each such member organization would be charged the proposed fee when utilizing the functionality. Without having a view of member organizations' activity on other exchanges and off-exchange venues, the Exchange has no way of knowing whether this proposed rule change would serve as a disincentive to utilize the order type. However, the Exchange believes that a number of member organizations would seek to utilize the functionality, which would facilitate access to midpoint liquidity on other trading venues.

The Exchange reiterates that the routing functionality offered by the Exchange is completely optional and that the Exchange operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily select between various providers of routing services with different product offerings and different pricing. The Exchange believes that the proposed fee structure for orders routed pursuant to the Midpoint Ping routing strategy is a fair and equitable approach to pricing.

The Exchange believes that the proposal is not unfairly discriminatory. The Exchange believes it is not unfairly discriminatory as the proposal to charge a fee would be assessed on an equal basis to all member organizations that use the Midpoint Ping routing strategy. Moreover, this proposed rule change neither targets, nor will it have a disparate impact on, any particular category of market participant. The Exchange believes that this proposal does not permit unfair discrimination because the changes described in this proposal would be applied to all similarly situated member organizations. Accordingly, no member organization already operating on the Exchange would be disadvantaged by

the proposed allocation of fees. The Exchange further believes that the proposed rule change would not permit unfair discrimination among member organizations because the Midpoint Ping routing strategy would remain available to all member organizations on an equal basis, and each such participant would be charged the same fee for using the functionality.

Finally, the submission of orders to the Exchange is optional for member organizations in that they could choose whether to submit orders to the Exchange and, if they do, the extent of its activity in this regard. The Exchange believes that it is subject to significant competitive forces, as described below in the Exchange's statement regarding the burden on competition.

For the foregoing reasons, the Exchange believes that the proposal is consistent with the Act.

#### *B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition*

In accordance with Section 6(b)(8) of the Act,<sup>18</sup> the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change would not impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange believes that the proposed change furthers the Commission's goal in adopting Regulation NMS of fostering integrated competition among orders, which promotes "more efficient pricing of individual stocks for all types of orders, large and small."<sup>19</sup> The Exchange does not believe that the proposed fee change represents a significant departure from previous pricing offered by the Exchange or pricing offered by the Exchange's competitors. Member organizations may opt to disfavor the Exchange's pricing if they believe that alternatives offer them better value. Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed change will impair the ability of member organizations or competing venues to maintain their competitive standing in the financial markets.

*Intramarket Competition.* The Exchange believes the proposed amendment to its Price List would not impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Midpoint Ping routing strategy is available to all member organizations, and all member organizations that use the functionality to route their orders would be charged the proposed fee. This routing functionality is provided by the Exchange on a voluntary basis, and no

rule or regulation requires that the Exchange offer it. Member organizations have the choice whether or not to use the Midpoint Ping routing strategy, and those that choose not to utilize it will not be impacted by the proposed rule change. The Exchange also does not believe the proposed rule change would impact intramarket competition, as the proposed fee would apply equally to all member organizations that choose to utilize the Midpoint Ping routing strategy, and therefore the proposed change would not impose a disparate burden on competition among market participants on the Exchange.

*Intermarket Competition.* The Exchange operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily choose to send their orders to other exchange and off-exchange venues if they deem fee levels at those other venues to be more favorable. As noted above, the Exchange's market share of intraday trading is currently less than 12%. In such an environment, the Exchange must continually adjust its fees and rebates to remain competitive with other exchanges and with off-exchange venues. Because competitors are free to modify their own fees and credits in response, and because market participants may readily adjust their order routing practices, the Exchange does not believe its proposed fee change can impose any burden on intermarket competition.

#### *C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others*

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

### **III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action**

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act,<sup>20</sup> and Rule 19b-4(f)(2) thereunder<sup>21</sup> the Exchange has designated this proposal as establishing or changing a due, fee, or other charge imposed on any person, whether or not the person is a member of the self-regulatory organization, which renders the proposed rule change effective upon filing. At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of

<sup>18</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(8).

<sup>19</sup> See *supra* note 4.

<sup>20</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

<sup>21</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

#### IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

##### Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission's internet comment form (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an email to [rule-comments@sec.gov](mailto:rule-comments@sec.gov). Please include file number SR-NYSE-2025-10 on the subject line.

##### Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to file number SR-NYSE-2025-10. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's internet website (<https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection. All submissions should refer to file number SR-NYSE-2025-10 and should be submitted on or before April 30, 2025.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>22</sup>

**Sherry R. Haywood,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06034 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8011-01-P**

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 59008)

**James Stallings,**

*Associate Administrator, Office of Disaster Recovery & Resilience.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06058 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8026-09-P**

## SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**[Disaster Declaration #20985 and #20986; KENTUCKY Disaster Number KY-20016]**

### Presidential Declaration Amendment of a Major Disaster for Public Assistance Only for the Commonwealth of Kentucky

**AGENCY:** U.S. Small Business Administration.

**ACTION:** Amendment 4.

**SUMMARY:** This is an amendment of the Presidential declaration of a major disaster for Public Assistance Only for the Commonwealth of Kentucky (FEMA-4860-DR), dated March 4, 2025.

*Incident:* Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides.

**DATES:** Issued on April 1, 2025.

*Incident Period:* February 14, 2025, through March 7, 2025.

*Physical Loan Application Deadline Date:* May 5, 2025.

*Economic Injury (EIDL) Loan Application Deadline Date:* December 4, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** Visit the MySBA Loan Portal at <https://lending.sba.gov> to apply for a disaster assistance loan.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Alan Escobar, Office of Disaster Recovery & Resilience, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street SW, Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416, (202) 205-6734.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The notice of the President's major disaster declaration for Private Non-Profit organizations in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, dated March 4, 2025, is hereby amended to include the following areas as adversely affected by the disaster.

*Primary Counties:* Bullitt, Hopkins, Jefferson, Lewis, Magoffin, Russell, Trigg.

All other information in the original declaration remains unchanged.

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

**[Docket No.: FAA-2018-0768; Summary Notice No. 2025-21]**

### Petition for Exemption; Summary of Petition Received; Beverly Hills Aerials, LLC

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice contains a summary of a petition seeking relief from specified requirements of Federal Aviation Regulations. The purpose of this notice is to improve the public's awareness of, and participation in, the FAA's exemption process. Neither publication of this notice nor the inclusion nor omission of information in the summary is intended to affect the legal status of the petition or its final disposition.

**DATES:** Comments on this petition must identify the petition docket number and must be received on or before April 29, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments identified by docket number FAA-2018-0768 using any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the online instructions for sending your comments electronically.

- *Mail:* Send comments to Docket Operations, M-30; U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W12-140, West Building Ground Floor, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

- *Hand Delivery or Courier:* Take comments to Docket Operations in Room W12-140 of the West Building Ground Floor at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590-0001, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

- *Fax:* Fax comments to Docket Operations at (202) 493-2251.

*Privacy:* In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its rulemaking process. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal

<sup>22</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

information the commenter provides, to <http://www.regulations.gov>, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at <http://www.dot.gov/privacy>.

**Docket:** Background documents or comments received may be read at <http://www.regulations.gov> at any time. Follow the online instructions for accessing the docket or go to the Docket Operations in Room W12-140 of the West Building Ground Floor at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590-0001, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Alexander Kem at [Alexander.S.Kem@FAA.gov](mailto:Alexander.S.Kem@FAA.gov) or 202-267-7571, Office of Rulemaking, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20591.

This notice is published pursuant to 14 CFR 11.85.

Issued in Washington, DC.

**Dan Ngo,**  
Manager, Part 11 Petitions Branch, Office of Rulemaking.

#### Petition for Exemption

**Docket No.:** FAA-2018-0768.

**Petitioner:** Beverly Hills Aerials, LLC.

**Section(s) of 14 CFR Affected:**

§§ 61.23(a), 61.23(c), 61.101(e)(4), 61.101(e)(5), 61.113(a), 61.113(b), 61.315(a), 61.315(c) 2), 61.315(c)(3), 91.7(a), 91.119(c), 91.121, 91.403(b), 91.405(a), 91.407(a)(1), 91.409(a)(1), 91.409(a)(2), 91.417(a), and 91.417(b).

**Description of Relief Sought:** Beverly Hills Aerials, LLC requested an amendment to Exemption No. 18594, as amended, for relief from 14 CFR 61.23(a)(2) and 91.119(c) to remove the requirement of their PIC to hold a third-class medical certificate and to conduct their operations less than 500 feet from all person, vessel, vehicle, or structure.

[FR Doc. 2025-06037 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

##### Federal Aviation Administration

**[Docket No.: FAA-2024-1316; Summary Notice No. 2025-18]**

**Petition for Exemption; Summary of Petition Received; Czechmate L-39 Demo Team**

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice contains a summary of a petition seeking relief from specified requirements of Federal Aviation Regulations. The purpose of this notice is to improve the public's awareness of, and participation in, the FAA's exemption process. Neither publication of this notice nor the inclusion nor omission of information in the summary is intended to affect the legal status of the petition or its final disposition.

**DATES:** Comments on this petition must identify the petition docket number and must be received on or before April 29, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments identified by docket number FAA-2024-1316 using any of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the online instructions for sending your comments electronically.

- **Mail:** Send comments to Docket Operations, M-30; U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W12-140, West Building Ground Floor, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

- **Hand Delivery or Courier:** Take comments to Docket Operations in Room W12-140 of the West Building Ground Floor at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590-0001, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

- **Fax:** Fax comments to Docket Operations at (202) 493-2251.

**Privacy:** In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its rulemaking process. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to <http://www.regulations.gov>, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at <http://www.dot.gov/privacy>.

**Docket:** Background documents or comments received may be read at <http://www.regulations.gov> at any time. Follow the online instructions for accessing the docket or go to the Docket Operations in Room W12-140 of the West Building Ground Floor at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590-0001, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nia Daniels, (202) 267-7626, Office of Rulemaking, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20591.

This notice is published pursuant to 14 CFR 11.85.

Issued in Washington, DC.

**Dan Ngo,**  
Manager, Part 11 Petitions Branch, Office of Rulemaking.

#### Petition for Exemption

**Docket No.:** FAA-2024-1316.

**Petitioner:** Czechmate L-39 Demo Team.

**Section of 14 CFR Affected:**  
§ 91.319(c).

**Description of Relief Sought:** Czechmate L-39 Demo Team requests an exemption from Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations § 91.319(c) to allow Czechmate to operate the L-39 aircraft over a densely populated area at a flyover event over Michigan Stadium on Saturday, August 30th, 2025.

[FR Doc. 2025-06036 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

##### Federal Highway Administration

**Notice of Final Federal Agency Actions on Transportation Project in Washington State**

**AGENCY:** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Notice of Limitation on Claims for Judicial Review.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces actions taken by the FHWA that are final. The action relates to the SR 510 Yelm Loop—New Alignment Phase 2 Project, located in the City of Yelm, Thurston County. The Project will construct approximately three miles of new highway composed of one travel lane in each direction, starting at Cullens Road (at the terminus of Phase 1) and ending at the intersection of SR 507 and 170th Street. The highway will be classified limited access between Cullens Road and 103rd Avenue, and managed access between 103rd Avenue and SR 507.

The FHWA's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) provides details on the Selected Alternative for the proposed improvements.

**DATES:** A claim seeking judicial review of the Federal agency actions on the listed highway project will be barred unless the claim is filed on or before September 8, 2025. If the Federal law that authorizes judicial review of a claim provides a time period of less than 150 days for filing such claim, then that shorter time period still applies.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Liana Liu, P.E., Area Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, 711 S Capitol

Way, Suite 501, Olympia, WA 98501–1284, (360) 753–9553, [liana.liu@dot.gov](mailto:liana.liu@dot.gov) or [Washington.FHWA@dot.gov](mailto:Washington.FHWA@dot.gov), or Victoria Book, Environmental & Hydraulics Manager, WSDOT Olympic Region, P.O. Box 47440, Olympia, WA 98504–7440, (360) 570–6707, [victoria.book@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:victoria.book@wsdot.wa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given that FHWA has taken final agency actions within the meaning of 23 U.S.C. 139(l)(1) by issuing a NEPA FONSI for the SR 510 Yelm Loop—New Alignment Phase 2 Project in Thurston County, Washington. The action(s) by FHWA and the laws under which such actions were taken, are described in the FONSI and the associated agency records. That information is available by contacting FHWA at the addresses provided above.

The project will complete construction of a two-phased limited access highway located in the City of Yelm. The project will provide a new east-west roadway to reduce congestion in Yelm's downtown core. The new road would minimize intersections and prohibit driveway access in order to increase capacity, shorten travel times, and reduce the potential for collisions. A FONSI for the project was signed on March 12, 2025.

Information about the FONSI and associated records are available from FHWA at the addresses provided above and can be found at: <https://wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/search-projects/sr-510-yelm-loop-new-alignment-phase-2>. This notice applies to all Federal agency decisions related to the FONSI as of the issuance date of this notice and all laws under which such actions were taken, including but not limited to:

1. *General:* National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) [42 U.S.C. 4321–4347]; Federal-Aid Highway Act [23 U.S.C. 109].

2. *Air:* Clean Air Act, as amended [42 U.S.C. 7401–7671(q)].

3. *Land:* Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 [16 U.S.C. 4601]; Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 [49 U.S.C. 303].

4. *Wildlife:* Endangered Species Act [16 U.S.C. 1531–1544 and 1536], Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act [16 U.S.C. 661–667(d)], Migratory Bird Treaty Act [16 U.S.C. 703–712], Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act [16 U.S.C. 668–668c], Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976, as amended [16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*].

5. *Historic and Cultural Resources:* Section 106 of the National Historic

Preservation Act of 1966, as amended [16 U.S.C. 470(f) *et seq.*]; Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act [16 U.S.C. 469–469(c)];

6. *Social and Economic:* Civil Rights Act of 1964 [42 U.S.C. 2000d *et seq.*]; Farmland Protection Policy Act [7 U.S.C. 4201–4209].

7. *Wetlands and Water Resources:* Clean Water Act (Section 319, Section 401, Section 402, Section 404) [33 U.S.C. 1251–1377]. Safe Drinking Water Act [42 U.S.C. 300(f) *et seq.*].

8. *Executive Orders:* Executive Order 11990 Protection of Wetlands; Executive Order 11988 Floodplain Management; Executive Order 11593 Protection and Enhancement of Cultural Resources; Executive Order 13007 Indian Sacred Sites; Executive Order 13287 Preserve America; Executive Order 13175 Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments; Executive Order 11514 Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality; Executive Order 13112 Invasive Species; Executive Order 13045 Protection of Children From Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks.

*Authority:* 23 U.S.C. 139(l)(1).

**Ralph J. Rizzo,**

*FHWA Division Administrator, Olympia, WA.*

[FR Doc. 2025–06104 Filed 4–8–25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910–RY–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

**[Docket No. FMCSA–2014–0071]**

### Hours of Service of Drivers: McKee Foods Transportation, LLC, Application for Exemption

**AGENCY:** Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Notice of final disposition; renewal of exemption.

**SUMMARY:** FMCSA announces its final decision to renew the exemption granted to McKee Foods Transportation, LLC (MFT), USDOT #1025678, from the hours-of-service (HOS) regulations pertaining to the use of a sleeper berth. The exemption renewal allows MFT team drivers to take the equivalent of 10 consecutive hours off duty by splitting sleeper berth time into two periods totaling 10 hours, provided neither of the two periods is less than two hours. FMCSA has analyzed the exemption application and the public comments and has determined that the exemption, subject to the terms and conditions set

forth below, is likely to achieve a level of safety that is equivalent to or greater than the level that would be achieved absent such exemption.

**DATES:** The exemption is effective for the period of April 20, 2025, through April 20, 2030.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mrs. Pearlie Robinson, Driver and Carrier Operations Division; Office of Carrier, Driver and Vehicle Safety Standards, FMCSA; 202–366–4225; [pearlie.robinson@dot.gov](mailto:pearlie.robinson@dot.gov). If you have questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, contact Dockets Operations, (202) 366–9826.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### I. Public Participation

##### *Viewing Comments and Documents*

To view comments, go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), insert the docket number “FMCSA–2014–0071” in the keyword box, and click “Search.” Next, sort the results by “Posted (Newer–Older),” choose the first notice listed, and click “Browse Comments.”

To view documents mentioned in this notice as being available in the docket, go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), insert the docket number “FMCSA–2014–0071” in the keyword box, click “Search,” and choose the document to review. If you do not have access to the internet, you may view the docket online by visiting Dockets Operations on the ground floor of the DOT West Building, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 366–9317 or (202) 366–9826 before visiting Dockets Operations.

#### II. Legal Basis

FMCSA has authority under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b) to grant exemptions from Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs). FMCSA must publish a notice of each exemption request in the **Federal Register** (49 CFR 381.315(a)). The Agency must provide the public an opportunity to inspect the information relevant to the application, including the applicant’s safety analysis. The Agency must provide an opportunity for public comment on the request.

The Agency reviews safety analyses and public comments submitted and determines whether granting the exemption would likely achieve a level of safety equivalent to, or greater than, the level that would be achieved absent such exemption, pursuant to the standard in 49 U.S.C. 31315(b)(1). The Agency must publish its decision in the

**Federal Register** (49 CFR 381.315(b)). If granted, the notice will identify the regulatory provision from which the applicant will be exempt, the effective period, and all terms and conditions of the exemption (49 CFR 381.315(c)(1)). If the exemption is denied, the notice will explain the reason for the denial (49 CFR 381.315(c)(2)). The exemption may be renewed (49 CFR 381.300(b)).

### III. Background

#### *Current Regulatory Requirements*

FMCSA's HOS regulations in 49 CFR part 395 limit the time commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers may drive and also require certain off-duty periods to ensure that individuals stay awake and alert while driving. Section 395.1(g)(1)(ii) allows a driver using the sleeper berth exception to accumulate the equivalent of at least 10 consecutive hours off duty by taking a combination of either two periods of sleeper-berth time or a combination of off-duty time and sleeper-berth time (in both cases totaling 10 hours) if: (1) neither rest period is shorter than 2 hours; (2) one rest period is at least 7 consecutive hours long; and (3) driving time before and after each rest period, when added together does not exceed 11 hours driving and does not violate the 14-hour driving "window" limit.

#### *Application for Renewal of Exemption*

MFT has requested a renewal of its exemption "for the maximum available period" from the sleeper berth requirements, which previously were set forth in 49 CFR 395.1(g)(1)(ii)(A)(1-2). FMCSA revised the sleeper berth provisions in 2020 so that the relevant requirements are now codified at 49 CFR 395.1(g)(1)(ii)(A) and (B) [85 FR 33396, June 1, 2020]. MFT's application for exemption was described in a **Federal Register** notice on July 10, 2024 (89 FR 56787) and will not be repeated here as the facts have not changed. FMCSA reopened the public comment period and added to the docket a supplemental document titled "McKee Foods Transportation Sleeper Berth Exemption Provisions Interpretation" on October 22, 2024 (89 FR 84438).

### IV. Equivalent Level of Safety

In its original application, MFT stated that it is committed to maintaining its outstanding safety record by focusing on continuous improvement, promoting technologies to enhance safety, conducting thorough inspections and having well-communicated policies in place to address both safety and compliance-related topics. To ensure an equivalent level of safety, MFT

reiterates the safeguards it included with its 2014 application: (1) Every week, all transportation operations shut down one hour prior to sundown on Friday until one hour after sundown on Saturday, resulting in an automatic minimum 26-hour off-duty home time for all drivers each weekend. This is in addition to home time during the week; (2) All tractors are equipped with speed limiters; (3) Drivers will continue using electronic logging devices (ELDs) (previously referred to as electronic on-board recording devices) to track their duty time and HOS compliance; (4) Drive time is reduced from 11 hours to 10 hours. Team drivers are limited to 10 hours of driving prior to completing their required 10 hours of sleeper-berth time; and (5) Behavior-based event data is monitored from the ELD to enhance safety measures to help reduce the probability of accidents on the road.

### V. Public Comments

The Agency received 63 comments, 41 supporting the exemption, 13 opposing it, and 9 neither supporting nor opposing the exemption but offering general comments about the HOS regulations. The Truck Safety Coalition (TSC), Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways (CRASH), and Parents Against Tired Truckers (PATT) filed joint comments opposing the exemption. These three organizations noted that FMCSA found in its 2020 HOS rulemaking that short sleeper berth increments were not sufficient to obtain restorative rest. They also stated that FMCSA had denied a comparable request in the recent past from Matthew Kilmer (88 FR 43410). They asserted that the safeguards McKee proposed in 2014 are not sufficient and all carriers are now required to use ELDs. They also noted that MFT did not share if the speed limiters are required to be used and at what speed they are set.

Trucking With the Schmitts wrote, "This request MUST be denied," citing a concern that the exemption could "open the door for a huge number of similar exemption requests." AWM Associates, LLC, shared the concern that the exemption would cause an influx of similar requests and suggested that FMCSA should consider revising the sleeper berth regulations because "to extend the variation to one carrier is an economic disadvantage to the remainder of the trucking community." An anonymous individual commented, "McKee Foods does not have any special situation, or drivers that somehow need less sleep, to warrant such a request."

Other themes in opposition included: (1) the split is not safe; (2) the HOS rules

should be the same for all companies; (3) if McKee's team drivers are safer using the requested split sleeper berth exemption, then the HOS rules should be revised to allow all teams to use the same provisions; and (4) no special rules should be applied to anyone, companies, corporations or individuals.

The Tennessee Trucking Association (TTA), the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), and James Stark were among the commenters who supported the exemption. TTA said, "[MFT] have received the Tennessee Trucking Association Fleet Safety Award the last 7 years. In my opinion they are very dedicated to safety, and I see no reason why you shouldn't grant them the HOS exemption again." The NAM noted that "Their [MFT's] April 2024 Driver Out-of-Service Rate is approximately one-sixth the national average, and their April 2024 DOT Accident Rate per Million Miles [sic] is more than two-and-a-half times lower than the national average." James Stark said, "Absolutely allow drivers to split sleeper berth hours, as they see fit with two periods of no less than 3 hours per period."

Other themes in support of the exemption included: (1) exemption should be implemented nationwide; (2) flexible hours for team driving are imperative for safety; and (3) all drivers should be allowed the 5/5 split option.

### V. FMCSA Safety Analysis and Agency Decision

In response to the joint comments filed by TSC, CRASH, and PATT, the Agency is aware that preventing fatigue is a complex process considering numerous factors such as time of day, amount and timing of sleep, time awake and time on task. In its 2020 HOS final rule, FMCSA concluded that there was not sufficient data to support reducing the longer sleeper berth period to 6 hours (85 FR 33423). FMCSA continues to lack sufficient data to conclude that a 6/4 or 5/5 sleeper berth split applied across all motor carrier operations would achieve a level of safety equivalent to the current regulations. With respect to MFT's operations, however, MFT has operated under the exemption with specific terms and conditions, including a 26-hour off duty period every week, and daily driving time limit of 10 hours, since March 2015. FMCSA has not observed any adverse safety impact from MFT's operation under the exemption for 10 years.

With regard to comments about the Agency's denial of Matthew Kilmer's application, Mr. Kilmer requested an exemption allowing himself as a driver

and all other CMV drivers to use a 5/5 sleeper berth split. The Agency denied the exemption because the applicant failed to explain how he would likely achieve a level of safety equivalent to the current regulatory requirements. Unlike Matthew Kilmer's application for exemption, MFT provided a list of safety protocols. As noted above, MFT has operated for 10 years under the exemption without adverse safety impacts.

The Agency reviewed MFT's application, comments to the docket, and the company's safety record including crashes and inspection data from April 2020 to December 2024. Since 2015 when the exemption was first granted, this exemption has not had an adverse effect on MFT's safety record. FMCSA therefore concludes that renewing the exemption for another five years, under the terms and conditions listed below, will likely maintain a level of safety that is equivalent to, or greater than, the level of safety achieved without the exemption.

## VI. Exemption Decision

### A. Grant of Renewal of Exemption

This exemption from the requirements of 49 CFR 395.1(g)(1)(ii)(B) is effective from April 20, 2025, through April 20, 2030, 11:59 p.m. local time.

### B. Applicability of Exemption

This exemption applies to MFT team drivers only. When operating under this exemption, team drivers employed by MFT are provided a limited exemption from the sleeper-berth requirements of 49 CFR 395.1(g)(1)(ii)(B) to allow them to split sleeper-berth time into two periods totaling at least 10 hours, provided neither of the two periods is less than 2 hours in length (an 8/2, 7/3, 6/4, or 5/5 split). All other provisions of 49 CFR part 395 continue to apply, including the calculation provisions in 49 CFR 395.1(g)(1)(iii). The guidance document dated September 21, 2015, which was posted to the docket with Document ID FMCSA-2014-0071-0042, no longer applies because it was based on the 2015 HOS regulations that are no longer in effect.

### C. Terms and Conditions

(1) Each week, all MFT transportation operations will shut down between one hour prior to sundown on Friday and one hour after sundown on Saturday, allowing drivers using the exemption a minimum 26 hours off-duty period, in addition to a minimum of two days at home during the week.

(2) All tractors will be equipped with speed limiters, which must be used by drivers operating under the exemption.

(3) Drivers are limited to 10 hours of driving time, rather than 11 hours, during the work shift specified in 49 CFR 395.3(a)(1).

(4) MFT will monitor behavior-based event data from the ELD to enhance safety measures to reduce the probability of crashes.

(5) MFT and its drivers must comply with all other requirements of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (49 CFR parts 350–399).

(6) MFT drivers must have a copy of this notice in their possession while operating under the terms of the exemption. This notice serves as the exemption document and must be presented to law enforcement officials upon request.

(7) MFT may be investigated to evaluate compliance with the terms and conditions of this exemption, in addition to the FMCSRs.

### D. Preemption

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315(d), as implemented by 49 CFR 381.600, during the period this exemption is in effect, no State shall enforce any law or regulation that conflicts with or is inconsistent with this exemption with respect to a firm or person operating under the exemption. States may, but are not required to, adopt the same exemption with respect to operations in intrastate commerce.

### E. Notification to FMCSA

MFT must notify FMCSA within 5 business days of any accidents (as defined by 49 CFR 390.5), involving the operation of any of its CMVs while utilizing this exemption. The notification must include the following information:

- (a) Name of the exemption: "MFT"
- (b) Date of the accident
- (c) City or town, and State, in which the accident occurred, or closest to the accident scene
- (d) Driver's name and license number
- (e) Vehicle number and State license number
- (f) Number of individuals suffering physical injury
- (g) Number of fatalities
- (h) The police-reported cause of the accident
- (i) Whether the driver was cited for violation of any traffic laws, motor carrier safety regulations
- (j) A printout of the driver's ELD records for the date of the crash and the prior seven days.

Reports filed under this provision shall be emailed to [MCPSD@DOT.GOV](mailto:MCPSD@DOT.GOV).

### F. Termination

FMCSA does not believe MFT, or the drivers covered by this exemption, will

experience any deterioration of their safety record. The exemption will be rescinded if: (1) MFT or drivers operating under the exemption fail to comply with the terms and conditions of the exemption; (2) the exemption has resulted in a lower level of safety than was maintained before it was granted; or (3) continuation of the exemption would not be consistent with the goals and objects of 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b).

**Sue Lawless,**

*Assistant Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06060 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-EX-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-2024-0052]

### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Request for Comment; Examining the Effectiveness of Lane Departure Warning and Lane Keep Assist Advanced Driver Assistance Systems for Improving Driver Response

**AGENCY:** National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments on a new information collection.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) summarized below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. This document describes a new collection of information for which NHTSA intends to seek OMB approval titled "Examining the Effectiveness of Lane Departure Warning and Lane Keep Assist Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) for Improving Driver Response." A *Federal Register* Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this information collection was published on September 3, 2024. One comment was received in response, recommending the collection of an additional data point. NHTSA agrees with the comment and has incorporated the change in the respective form.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before May 9, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection, including suggestions for reducing burden, should be submitted to OMB at [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). To find this particular information collection, select “Currently under Review—Open for Public Comment” or use the search function.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For additional information or access to background documents, contact Jeremiah Singer, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Washington, DC 20590; email [jeremiah.singer@dot.gov](mailto:jeremiah.singer@dot.gov); telephone (202) 366-7679. Please identify the relevant collection of information by referring to its OMB Control Number.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), a Federal agency must receive approval from the OMB before it collects certain information from the public, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information by a Federal agency unless the collection displays a valid OMB control number. In compliance with these requirements, this notice announces that the following information collection request will be submitted to OMB.

**Title:** Examining the Effectiveness of Lane Departure Warning and Lane Keep Assist Advanced Driver Assistance Systems for Improving Driver Response.

**OMB Control Number:** New.

**Form Numbers:** NHTSA Form 1840—Recruitment Screener; NHTSA Form 1841—Informed Consent; NHTSA Form 1842—Vision-Hearing Form; NHTSA Form 1843—Knowledge Experience Questionnaire; NHTSA Form 1844—Session 1 Post-Condition Questionnaire; NHTSA Form 1845—Session 1 Post-Session Questionnaire; NHTSA Form 1846—Session 2 Post-Route Questionnaire LDW; NHTSA Form 1847—Session 2 Post-Route Questionnaire LDW/LKA.

**Type of Request:** New information collection.

**Type of Review Requested:** Regular.

**Length of Approval Requested:** 3 years from date of approval.

**Summary of the Collection of Information:** The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is seeking approval to conduct 11 voluntary information collections as part of a one-time research study involving up to 80 licensed drivers of various ages to examine the effectiveness of LDW and LKA ADAS for improving driver response.

Recruitment of study respondents will be from the area near the testing facility

in Blacksburg, Virginia, and surrounding areas. The target for the study is a total of 50 participants; however, the research team has provided sufficient additional recruitment such that the target sample will be achieved given expected reductions in respondents due to ineligibility and attrition. The respondents will participate in two separate driving data collection sessions during the course of the research after undergoing a series of evaluations for suitability of inclusion in the study.

Respondents will be asked to complete a brief questionnaire related to their previous knowledge of, and experience with, LDW systems and LKA systems. Respondents will next perform a series of controlled driving tests on the Virginia Smart Roads facilities with one of the test vehicles that has been instrumented with a Data Acquisition System (DAS). The DAS includes video cameras and sensors that allow for collecting continuous data that encompasses driver behavior and vehicle performance. Each series of controlled driving tests on the Smart Roads will last about 2 hours and will be preceded by a 15-minute familiarization with the vehicle, followed by a 30-minute post-driving questionnaire and debriefing session. The drivers who complete the first session will return a different day for a second driving session in which they will be instructed to drive a prescribed route on public roads in Southwest Virginia. This second driving session will last approximately 4 hours, with a 15-minute break in the middle of the session; this will be preceded by a 45-minute preparation and followed by a 30-minute post-driving questionnaire and debriefing. The planned data collection activities discussed herein have been approved by an Institutional Review Board.

**Description of the Need for the Information and Proposed Use of the Information:** As part of NHTSA's mission to save lives, prevent injuries, and reduce traffic-related health care and other economic costs, the agency conducts research as a foundation for the development of motor vehicle standards and traffic safety programs. Lane departure crashes, including single-vehicle run-off-road crashes, non-collision rollovers, sideswipe crashes, and head-on crashes between two vehicles traveling in opposite directions, account for a large proportion of fatal and injury crashes on U.S. roads. LSS, a type of lateral-control ADAS, predominantly comprise two complementary technologies: LDW and LKA systems. LDW detects and alerts

drivers when their vehicle is about to leave the current travel lane, whereas LKA redirects the lateral movement of the vehicle to prevent it from leaving the current travel lane.

Numerous studies have found that LSS reduce the likelihood of a crash. Based on the comparison of multiple prevention systems and warning-only systems, studies have suggested that prevention systems are more effective than warning-only systems. Crash situations typically unfold quickly; thus, a driver's response to the warning may be too late to prevent a crash, particularly when the driver is distracted, drowsy, or fails to notice the warning quickly. While studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of LSS at reducing the intended crash types and the potential of LSS to save countless lives with widespread use, these systems are unfortunately associated with a “nuisance” factor resulting from false or unnecessary alerts. This leads to system deactivation, with indications that drivers turn LDW systems off as much as 50 percent of the time due to annoying alerts and overly aggressive steering corrections. Once deactivated, all potential safety benefits of LSS are lost, highlighting the importance of reducing false or unnecessary alerts to maximize driver acceptance and the likelihood that the system remains enabled. LSS, if properly designed, evaluated, and used, have the potential to reduce the occurrence of, or at the very least mitigate the severity of, a significant number of lane-departure crashes. NHTSA needs to learn more about the effectiveness of LSS, the human factors that affect LDW and LKA performance, and the system characteristics that will favor better acceptance. This data collection has been designed to evaluate key LSS-related technologies, with a particular focus on driver and system performance, as well as driver acceptance. The outcomes will provide a wide variety of stakeholders with valuable information about LSS design features to maximize the safety benefits of these systems and will inform NHTSA in future activities involving these systems.

NHTSA will use the information collected to produce a technical report containing summary statistics and tables that will be made available publicly through the agency website and the National Transportation Library.

**60-Day Notice:** A **Federal Register** notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting public comments on the following information collection was published on September 3, 2024 (89 FR 71777). NHTSA received one public

comment from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). The commenter began with, “TxDOT agrees with NHTSA’s conclusion that more research is required to understand the effectiveness of lane support systems, the human factors affecting LDW and LKA technologies, and the features in these systems that lead to increased acceptance and adoption. TxDOT requested that NHTSA “consider asking participants if they received any specialized training, at the time of a new vehicle’s purchase, on the use and operations of LDW and LKA systems. TxDOT stated its belief that this information will provide a more comprehensive view of the efficacy of these technologies. NHTSA concurs with this comment and has added a question to NHTSA Form 1843—Knowledge Experience Questionnaire to that effect. While this question has been added to the collection, NHTSA does not anticipate a notable increase in the length of time to complete NHTSA Form 1843 and, therefore, there are no changes in burden from that which was published in the 60-day notice.

**Affected Public:** Respondents to this collection will be members of the public recruited from Blacksburg, Virginia, and surrounding areas. Effort will be made to recruit equal numbers of adult males and females, including participants aged 25 to 65 with different levels of experience owning or driving a vehicle with LSS. A representative sample is not necessary to satisfy the objectives of the study; therefore, a convenience sample of individuals meeting eligibility criteria will be sufficient.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** The target for the study is for 50 participants total to complete both sessions with valid data collected for each. However, eligibility and attrition must be accounted for throughout the individual information collections included in this request. As previously stated, there are 11 individual information collections in this request. The number of respondents annually for each collection is as follows:

Recruitment Screener—113; Informed Consent—28; Vision-Hearing Form—27; Knowledge Experience Questionnaire—27; Session 1: Controlled Driving—27; Session 1: Post-Condition Questionnaire—27; Session 1: Post-Session Questionnaire—27; Session 2: Naturalistic Driving: LDW Subset—16; Session 2: Post-Route Questionnaire LDW—16; Session 2: Naturalistic Driving: LDW/LKA Subset—11; Session 2: Post-Route Questionnaire LDW/LKA—11.

**Frequency:** This is a one-time information collection.

**Estimated Number of Responses:** 654.

**Estimated Annual Burden Hours:** The estimated annual burden for this one-time information collection is 272 annual burden hours (based on a 3-year approval period). Further details are provided below. This ICR includes 11 individual information collections described below.

### 1. Recruitment Screener

An estimated 113 respondents annually will answer a Recruitment Screener over the phone to determine if they qualify for the study. Participants will be screened over the phone to determine eligibility, with recruitment personnel recording responses on a paper form using an anonymized identifier. Respondents are expected to take an average of 15 minutes to complete the questionnaire and will complete this questionnaire once, resulting in 28 annual burden hours.

### 2. Informed Consent

Based on an estimate that 25 percent of those who begin the screening process will be eligible and interested in participating in the study, 28 respondents annually will be scheduled for an appointment to go to the contractor’s facilities in Blacksburg, Virginia, for the consenting process and, subsequently, the full study. The consenting process includes an overview of the study, an explanation of the consent form, and an opportunity for the potential participants to ask questions and get clarification. Those individuals who consent to the study and enroll will complete the Informed Consent form and move on to the next process. This consenting process is expected to take 30 minutes, resulting in 14 annual burden hours.

### 3. Vision-Hearing Form

NHTSA anticipates a minimal amount of attrition following the consenting process; thus 27 respondents annually are expected to complete the Vision-Hearing Form. This collection involves an experimenter administering a vision and hearing evaluation to ensure that respondents meet the basic vision requirements of driver’s licensure in Virginia (20/40) and to confirm that they can hear instructions provided by the experimenter when looking away. This evaluation is expected to take 5 minutes, resulting in 2 annual burden hours.

### 4. Knowledge Experience Questionnaire

Following the vision and hearing evaluation, the 27 annual respondents will be asked to complete a 10-minute Knowledge Experience Questionnaire

related to their previous knowledge of and experience with the systems under evaluation. Completion of this form will take 10 minutes per respondent and is to be completed once, resulting in 5 annual burden hours.

### 5. Session 1: Controlled Driving

To assess preferences regarding LDW modality and timing under dynamic scenarios, study participants will experience a series of controlled driving tests with the LDW mockup vehicle on the Smart Roads test track at the contractor’s facility. Each participant will drive continuously on closed loops while experiencing modality and timing conditions (independent and in combination, where applicable) incorporated in the LDW mockup vehicle, while data are collected by the DAS. No other traffic will be present on the part of the Smart Roads in use during participant sessions. After the participant performs a few loops to become familiar with the vehicle and the test track without instructions to depart the lane, they will be instructed to gradually deviate towards one of the lines until the departure warnings are triggered. Drivers will then be instructed to carefully perform a corrective maneuver back to the center of the lane after the warning. Not including the questionnaire elements referenced below, this driving session is expected to take 100 minutes, including vehicle familiarization, drive time, and breaks. For 27 respondents annually, this results in 45 annual burden hours.

### 6. Session 1: Post-Condition Questionnaire

During the behind-the-wheel session, drivers will verbally answer questions administered by the experimenter. This “post-condition” questionnaire, with an estimated completion time of 5 minutes, will be administered up to 12 times for a total time of 60 minutes per participant. Note that this allotted time is in addition to the actual driving time. Administered to 27 respondents annually, this results in a total of 27 annual burden hours.

### 7. Session 1: Post-Session Questionnaire

Following completion of the full driving session, respondents will be asked to complete a final post-drive questionnaire, capturing feedback pertaining to all conditions experienced. The estimated completion time is 5 minutes. Administered to 27 respondents annually, this results in 2 annual burden hours. At the conclusion of this first driving session and questionnaires, participants will receive

instruction to return on another day for the second session.

To assess driver response to *naturally* occurring LDW and LKA actuations, two independent driving data collection efforts will be conducted on public roads in Southwest Virginia (the community surrounding the VTTI facility). The drivers who have completed the controlled driving sessions will return to the contractor's facilities for a second session, during which they will be assigned to one of two groups (16 respondents in the first group and 11 respondents in the second group) and asked to individually drive a prescribed route using one of the test vehicles, experiencing different modality, activation timing, and variation of LDW, LKA, and LDW/LKA conditions while driving as they normally would. The respondents will not need to repeat the consent form, evaluations, or instructional processing prior to this semi-naturalistic driving session.

#### 8. Session 2: Naturalistic Driving: LDW Subset

Each respondent in the first group, 16 respondents annually, will drive a prescribed route using the LDW mockup vehicle. Each driving session will be part of a sub-study that aims to clarify the effects of the two independent LDW design variables (modality and activation timing) on driver performance safety indicators (e.g., frequency of lateral excursions and

unintended departure events, and the magnitudes of these events). At the halfway point, a member of the research team will switch the modality/timing combination. A remote experimenter tool will allow the experimenter to monitor the session and allow interfacing with the DAS. The total driving session duration for each participant will be approximately 4 hours. With orientation to the research vehicle and prescribed route, along with a 15-minute break at the halfway point, the total estimated time to complete this driving session is approximately 5 hours and 10 minutes. For 16 respondents annually, this equates to 83 annual burden hours.

#### 9. Session 2: Post-Route Questionnaire LDW

At the halfway point, when the respondents take their 15-minute break, they will also complete the "post-route" questionnaire. This is estimated to take 10 minutes but is distinct from their break time. They will complete this same questionnaire after completing their second half of the drive. For 16 respondents annually, this equates to 5 annual burden hours.

#### 10. Session 2: Naturalistic Driving: LDW/LKA Subset

Each participant from the second group, 11 respondents annually, will complete the same prescribed drive but will use the LDW/LKA factory vehicle rather than the LDW mockup vehicle. This experiment will address objective

driver performance and subjective qualitative preferences under four system activation modes (none, LDW only, LKA only, and LDW with LKA). At the halfway point, a member of the research team will switch the modality/timing combination. A remote experimenter tool will allow the experimenter to monitor the session and allow interfacing with the DAS. The total driving session duration for each participant will be approximately 4 hours. Including orientation to the research vehicle and prescribed route, along with a 15-minute break at the halfway point, the total estimated time to complete this driving session is approximately 5 hours and 10 minutes. For 11 respondents annually, this equates to 57 annual burden hours.

#### 11. Session 2: Post-Route Questionnaire LDW/LKA

At the halfway point when respondents take their 15-minute break, they will also complete the "post-route" questionnaire. This is estimated to take 10 minutes but is distinct from their break time. They will complete this same questionnaire a second time after completing their second half of the drive. For 11 respondents annually, this equates to 4 annual burden hours.

The 11 information collections described above are summarized in the following table, showing the number of annual respondents, frequency of response, time per response, and associated burden.

Information collection	Number of respondents	Frequency of response	Time per response (minutes)	Burden hours
Recruitment Screener .....	113	1	15	28
Informed Consent .....	28	1	30	14
Vision-Hearing Form .....	27	1	5	2
Knowledge Experience Questionnaire .....	27	1	10	5
Session 1: Controlled Driving .....	27	1	100	45
Session 1: Post-Condition Questionnaire .....	27	12	5	27
Session 1: Post-Session Questionnaire .....	27	1	5	2
Session 2: Naturalistic Driving: LDW Subset .....	16	1	310	83
Session 2: Post-Route Questionnaire LDW .....	16	2	10	5
Session 2: Naturalistic Driving: LDW/LKA Subset .....	11	1	310	57
Session 2: Post-Route Questionnaire LDW/LKA .....	11	2	10	4
<b>Total .....</b>				<b>272</b>

#### Estimated Total Annual Burden Cost: \$0.

The respondents will not incur any reporting or recordkeeping cost from the information collection.

**Public Comments Invited:** You are asked to comment on any aspects of this information collection, including (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper

performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the

burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

**Authority:** The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. chapter 35, as

amended; 49 CFR 1.49; and DOT Order 1351.29A.

**Cem Hatipoglu,**  
Associate Administrator, Office of Vehicle Safety Research.

[FR Doc. 2025-06077 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-P

## U.S.-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION

### Notice of Open Public Hearing

**AGENCY:** U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of open public hearing.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of the following hearing of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission. The Commission is mandated by Congress to investigate, assess, and report to Congress annually on “the national security implications of the economic relationship between the United States and the People’s Republic of China.” Pursuant to this mandate, the Commission will hold a public hearing in Washington, DC on April 24, 2025 on “China’s Domestic Energy Challenges and Its Growing Influence Over International Energy Markets.”

**DATES:** The hearing is scheduled for Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Members of the public will be able to attend in person at or near the U.S. Capitol and adjacent Congressional office buildings (specific building and room number to be announced) or view a live webcast via the Commission’s website at [www.uscc.gov](http://www.uscc.gov). Visit the Commission’s website for updates to the hearing location or possible changes to the hearing schedule. Reservations are not required to view the hearing online or in person.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Any member of the public seeking further information concerning the hearing should contact Jameson Cunningham, 444 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 602, Washington, DC 20001; telephone: 202-624-1496, or via email at [jcunningham@uscc.gov](mailto:jcunningham@uscc.gov). Reservations are not required to attend the hearing.

**ADA Accessibility:** For questions about the accessibility of the event or to request an accommodation, please contact Jameson Cunningham via email at [jcunningham@uscc.gov](mailto:jcunningham@uscc.gov). Requests for an accommodation should be made as soon as possible, and at least five business days prior to the event.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Background:** This is the fifth public hearing the Commission will hold during its 2025 reporting cycle. The

hearing will explore China’s strategies to achieve greater energy self-sufficiency and expand energy production amid rising domestic demand. The hearing will also examine overseas investment in energy infrastructure by Chinese entities and resulting cybersecurity and supply chain risks to host nations.

Lastly, the hearing will address China’s role in supply chains of critical minerals needed in the energy sector, including dominance of refining and evolving use of export controls on critical minerals.

The hearing will be co-chaired by Commissioner Carte Goodwin and Commissioner Hal Brands. Any interested party may file a written statement by April 24, 2025 by transmitting it to the contact above. A portion of the hearing will include a question and answer period between the Commissioners and the witnesses.

**Authority:** Congress created the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission in 2000 in the National Defense Authorization Act (Pub. L. 106-398), as amended by Division P of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (Pub. L. 108-7), as amended by Public Law 109-108 (November 22, 2005), as amended by Public Law 113-291 (December 19, 2014).

Dated: April 4, 2025.

**Christopher P. Fioravante,**  
Deputy Executive Director, U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

[FR Doc. 2025-06105 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 1137-00-P

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

**[OMB Control No. 2900-0865]**

### Agency Information Collection Activity: Certification Requirements for Funeral Honors Providers

**AGENCY:** National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before June 9, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments must be submitted through [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

*Program-Specific information:* Brian Hurley, 202-957-2093, [Brian.Hurley1@va.gov](mailto:Brian.Hurley1@va.gov).

*VA PRA information:* Dorothy Glasgow, 202-461-1084, [VAPRA@va.gov](mailto:VAPRA@va.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the PRA of 1995, Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, NCA invites comments on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of NCA’s functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of NCA’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

**Title:** Certification Requirements for Funeral Honors Providers.

**OMB Control Number:** 2900-0865. <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRA/PRASearch> (Once at this link, you can enter the OMB Control Number to find the historical versions of this Information Collection).

**Type of Review:** Revision of a currently approved collection.

**Abstract:** This information (VA Form 40-10190) is needed to ensure that funeral honors activities performed on VA property maintain the honor and dignity of the national cemetery and do not negatively impact the safety of cemetery visitors. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The burden decreased since the previous approval due to a decrease in the number of respondents and responses. The number of respondents declined to 303 from the previous approval of 380 respondents in 2022. Due to fewer respondents, the cost to respondents declined from \$887 in 2022 to an estimated \$792 resulting in \$95 in respondent cost savings. The cost to the

Federal Government decreased due to the annual responses and printing cost declining since the previous approval.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 25 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden per Respondent:* 5 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* One-time.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 303.

*Authority:* 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*

**Dorothy Glasgow,**

*Acting, VA PRA Clearance Officer, Office of Enterprise and Integration/Data Governance Analytics, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 2025-06079 Filed 4-8-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320-01-P**

# Reader Aids

## CUSTOMER SERVICE AND INFORMATION

<b>Federal Register/Code of Federal Regulations</b>	<b>202-741-6000</b>
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<b>Laws</b>	<b>741-6000</b>
<b>Presidential Documents</b>	<b>741-6000</b>
Executive orders and proclamations	
<b>The United States Government Manual</b>	<b>741-6000</b>
<b>Other Services</b>	
Electronic and on-line services (voice)	<b>741-6020</b>
Privacy Act Compilation	<b>741-6050</b>

## ELECTRONIC RESEARCH

### World Wide Web

Full text of the daily Federal Register, CFR and other publications is located at: [www.govinfo.gov](http://www.govinfo.gov).

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[www.federalregister.gov](http://www.federalregister.gov).

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**FEDREGTOC** (Daily Federal Register Table of Contents Electronic Mailing List) is an open e-mail service that provides subscribers with a digital form of the Federal Register Table of Contents. The digital form of the Federal Register Table of Contents includes HTML and PDF links to the full text of each document.

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**Reference questions.** Send questions and comments about the Federal Register system to: [fedreg.info@nara.gov](mailto:fedreg.info@nara.gov)

The Federal Register staff cannot interpret specific documents or regulations.

## FEDERAL REGISTER PAGES AND DATE, APRIL

14329-14410	1
14411-14548	2
14549-14714	3
14715-14896	4
14897-15110	7
15111-15200	8
15201-15300	9

## Federal Register

Vol. 90, No. 67

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

## CFR PARTS AFFECTED DURING APRIL

At the end of each month the Office of the Federal Register publishes separately a List of CFR Sections Affected (LSA), which lists parts and sections affected by documents published since the revision date of each title.

<b>3 CFR</b>	Ch. II .....	14595
<b>Proclamations:</b>	Ch. III .....	14595
10908 .....	14705	
10909 .....	14897	
10910 .....	15201	
10911 .....	15203	
10912 .....	15205	
10913 .....	15207	
<b>Executive Orders:</b>		
12171 (amended by EO 14251) .....	14553	
14250 .....	14549	
14251 .....	14553	
14252 .....	14559	
14253 .....	14563	
14254 .....	14699	
14255 .....	14701	
14256 .....	14899	
14257 .....	15041	
14258 .....	15209	
<b>Administrative Orders:</b>		
Notices:		
Notice of March 28, 2025 .....	14329	
<b>10 CFR</b>		
30 .....	15211	
40 .....	15211	
60 .....	15211	
61 .....	15211	
63 .....	15211	
70 .....	15211	
72 .....	15211	
590 .....	14411	
<b>Proposed Rules:</b>		
72 .....	14917	
<b>12 CFR</b>		
1610 .....	14412	
<b>14 CFR</b>		
39 .....	14331, 14561, 14569, 14571, 14574, 14715, 14717, 14719, 14723, 14903, 15111, 15114, 15116	
71 .....	14334	
97 .....	14334, 14336, 14576, 14578	
<b>Proposed Rules:</b>		
Ch. I .....	14595	
39 .....	14343, 14346, 14589, 14920, 14922, 14924, 14927, 14929	
47 .....	14592	
71 .....	14349, 14593, 15124, 15125	
Ch. II .....	14595	
Ch. III .....	14595	
141 .....	14738	
<b>23 CFR</b>		
<b>Proposed Rules:</b>		
Ch. I .....	14595	
<b>47 CFR</b>		
73 .....	14736, 15212	
<b>Proposed Rules:</b>		
54 .....	14429, 15129	
<b>48 CFR</b>		
501 .....	15212	
552 .....	15212	
<b>Proposed Rules:</b>		
Ch. 12 .....	14595	
<b>49 CFR</b>		
<b>Proposed Rules:</b>		
Subtitle A .....	14595	
Subtitle B .....	14595	

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Ch. I .....	14595	Ch. VI.....	14595	300.....	14422	<b>Proposed Rules:</b>
Ch. II .....	14595	<b>50 CFR</b>		648.....	14915	300.....
Ch. III .....	14595			679.....	14586	648.....
Ch. V .....	14595		92.....	14417		679.....
						15129
						14350, 14597
						14771

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## LIST OF PUBLIC LAWS

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**Note:** No public bills which have become law were received by the Office of the Federal Register for inclusion

in today's **List of Public Laws.**

Last List March 20, 2025

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## Public Laws Electronic Notification Service (PENS)

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PENS is a free email notification service of newly

enacted public laws. To subscribe, go to [https://portalgard.gsa.gov/\\_layouts/PG/register.aspx](https://portalgard.gsa.gov/_layouts/PG/register.aspx).

**Note:** This service is strictly for email notification of new laws. The text of laws is not available through this service.

**PENS** cannot respond to specific inquiries sent to this address.