

changes that significantly depart from the conditions described in the petition and proposed approval found in Docket ID No. EPA-R06-RCRA-2025-3129 must be reported to the Region 6 Administrator if the changes have the potential to affect migration of hazardous constituents from the put piles:

1. If Clean Harbors plans to make changes to the unit(s)' design, construction, or operation, such a change must be proposed, in writing, and include a demonstration to the Region 6 Administrator at least 30 days prior to making the change. The Region 6 Administrator will determine whether the proposed change invalidates the terms of the approved variance and will determine the appropriate response. A proposed change must first be approved by the Region 6 Administrator before taking any action.

2. If Clean Harbors discovers a site condition that does not occur as modeled or predicted in the petition, this change must be reported, in writing, to the Region 6 Administrator within 10 days of discovery. The Region 6 Administrator will determine whether the reported change from expected conditions alters the terms of the approved variance and thus requires further action.

#### V. Public Comment Period

EPA announced its proposal to approve Clean Harbors NMV petition, and provided 30-day public comment period on December 11, 2025. The comment period closed on January 12, 2026 (90 FR 236, December 11, 2025). EPA received one comment that is beyond the scope of this action and the Agency responds to the comment in a Response to Comments document in Docket ID No. EPA-R06-RCRA-2025-3129.

#### VI. Conclusion

The agency concludes that Clean Harbors has demonstrated, to a reasonable degree of certainty, that there will be no migration of hazardous constituents beyond the unit boundary for treated hazardous wastes temporarily stored in put piles within permitted Subtitle C hazardous waste Landfill Cell 15 while awaiting verification of compliance with the LDR standards. Accordingly, EPA hereby approves the NMV for Clean Harbors' Lone Mountain facility, subject to the terms and conditions stated herein and as presented in the petition found in the docket.

#### List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 268

Environmental protection, Hazardous waste, and Variances.

Dated: February 12, 2026.

**Walter Mason,**

*Regional Administrator, Region 6.*

[FR Doc. 2026-03879 Filed 2-25-26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6560-50-P**

### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

#### 47 CFR Part 0

[MD Docket No. 26-18; FCC 26-5; FR ID 331772]

#### Delegations of Authority

**AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** In this document, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) modifies its rules regarding the delegated authority of the Chairman and the Managing Director to settle claims filed against the agency under the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) and the Military Personnel and Civilian Employees' Claims Act (MPCECA).

**DATES:** These rules are effective February 26, 2026.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Steven Fecarotta, 202-418-7178, [Steven.Fecarotta@fcc.gov](mailto:Steven.Fecarotta@fcc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This is a summary of the Commission's Order, in MD Docket No. 26-18, FCC 26-5, adopted on February 2, 2026 and released on February 5, 2026. The full text of this document can be downloaded at <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-26-5A1.pdf>.

The rules in this document do not contain new or modified information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521. In addition, therefore, it does not contain any new or modified information collection burden for small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees, pursuant to the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002, Public Law 107-198, 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(4).

The Commission will not send a copy of the Order pursuant to the Congressional Review Act, *see* 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A), because the adopted rules are rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice that do not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties.

The Commission's previous rules limited the authority of the Chairman

and the Managing Director to settle claims under the FTCA that did not exceed \$5,000, even though the FTCA provides that heads of Federal agencies may settle claims up to \$25,000. Under the previous rule, a full Commission vote was required to settle FTCA claims above \$5,000. The cost of living has significantly increased since the initial rule was adopted. The amended rule revises the delegated authority of the Chairman and the Managing Director, increasing their authority to settle FTCA claims to \$25,000, consistent with the FTCA. Similarly, the Commission's rules limited the authority of the Managing Director to settle MPCECA claims that did not exceed \$6,500, even though the MPCECA provides that heads of Federal agencies may settle MPCECA claims up to \$40,000. The amended rule revises the delegated authority of the Managing Director, increasing its authority (upon concurrence of the Commission's Office of General Counsel) to settle MPCECA claims to \$40,000, consistent with the MPCECA.

#### List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 0

Authority delegations (Government agencies), Organization and functions (Government agencies).

Federal Communications Commission.

**Marlene Dortch,**

*Secretary.*

#### Final Rules

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Federal Communications Commission amends 47 CFR part 0 as follows:

### PART 0—COMMISSION ORGANIZATION

■ 1. The authority citation for part 0 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 47 U.S.C. 151, 154(i), 154(j), 155, 225, 409, and 1754, unless otherwise noted.

#### Subpart B—Delegations of Authority

■ 2. Amend § 0.211 by revising paragraph (d) to read as follows:

##### § 0.211 Chairman.

\* \* \* \* \*

(d) To act within the purview of the Federal Tort Claims Act, as amended, 28 U.S.C. 2672, upon tort claims directed against the Commission where the amount of damages does not exceed \$25,000.

\* \* \* \* \*

■ 3. Amend § 0.231 by revising paragraph (d) to read as follows:

**§ 0.231 Authority delegated.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(d) The Managing Director, or his designee, upon securing the concurrence of the General Counsel, is delegated authority, within the purview of the Federal Tort Claims Act, as amended, 28 U.S.C. 2672, to grant tort claims directed against the Commission where the amount of the claim does not exceed \$25,000. In addition thereto, the Managing Director, or his designee, upon securing the concurrence of the General Counsel, is delegated authority to act in the disposition of claims arising under the Military Personnel and Civilian Employees' Claims Act, as amended, 31 U.S.C. 3701 and 3721, where the amount of the claim does not exceed \$40,000.

\* \* \* \* \*

[FR Doc. 2026-03844 Filed 2-25-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service****50 CFR Part 17**[FWS-R2-ES-2021-0015;  
FXES1111090FEDR-267-FF09E21000]

RIN 1018-BB27

**Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removal of Northern and Southern Distinct Population Segments of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken From the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife in Compliance With Court Order**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** In response to a court order, we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) are removing the northern and the southern distinct population segments (DPSs) of the lesser prairie-chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*) from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife. Additionally, we are rescinding the rule issued under section 4(d) of the Act for the northern DPS. As a result of the court's orders, the regulatory protections under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) no longer apply to either DPS.

**DATES:** This rule is effective February 26, 2026. However, the court's orders had legal effect upon filing on March 29, 2025, and August 12, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** This final rule is available on the internet at [https://](https://www.regulations.gov)

[www.regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) at Docket No. FWS-R2-ES-2021-0015.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Clay Nichols, Biologist, Southwest Regional Office, 817-277-1100, [clay\\_nichols@fws.gov](mailto:clay_nichols@fws.gov). 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:****Background**

On September 8, 2016, we received a petition from WildEarth Guardians, Defenders of Wildlife, and Center for Biological Diversity to list the lesser prairie-chicken as an endangered species throughout its entire range or in three distinct population segments (DPSs) under the Endangered Species Act (Act). On November 25, 2022, we published a final rule listing the northern DPS of the lesser prairie-chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*) as a threatened species and the southern DPS of the lesser prairie-chicken as an endangered species (87 FR 72674). The final rule was effective March 27, 2023 (88 FR 4087). Please see our proposed listing rule (86 FR 29432 at 29434; June 1, 2021) for a complete discussion of previous Federal actions.

On March 21, 2023, the States of Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas filed a lawsuit challenging the Service's November 25, 2022, final listing rule for the lesser prairie-chicken and the protective regulations under section 4(d) of the Act (4(d) rule) for the northern DPS (*State of Texas, et al. v. Dep't of the Interior, et al.*, No. 23-cv-00047 (W.D. TX)). On March 21, 2023, the Permian Basin Petroleum Association; the National Cattlemen's Beef Association; Texas Cattle Feeder's Association; Kansas Livestock Association; Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association; New Mexico Cattle Grower's Association; Kansas Independent Oil & Gas Association; Petroleum Alliance of Oklahoma; Chaves County, New Mexico; Roosevelt County, New Mexico; and Lea County, New Mexico, similarly filed a lawsuit challenging the final listing rule and 4(d) rule (*Permian Basin Petroleum Association, et al., v. Dep't of the Interior*, No. 23-cv-00049 (W.D. TX); this case was consolidated into No. 23-cv-00047 above). On July 20, 2023, the Kansas Natural Resource Coalition; Cameron Edwards; Lone Butte Farm, LLC; Schilling Land, LLC; and JDC

Farms, Inc. filed a lawsuit challenging the 4(d) rule for the northern DPS (*Kansas Natural Resource Coalition, et al. v. United States Fish and Wildlife Service, et al.*, No. 7:23-cv-00159 (W.D. Tex.)). On March 29, 2025, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas vacated the 4(d) rule for the northern DPS of the lesser prairie-chicken (*Kan. Nat. Res. Coal., v. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Serv.*, No. 7:23-cv-00159 (W.D. Tex.) ECF No. 39). On August 12, 2025, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas issued an order vacating the final listing rule for both the northern and southern DPSs of the lesser prairie-chicken (*State of Texas, v. Dep't of the Interior*, No. 23-cv-00047 (W.D. TX) ECF No. 109).

**Administrative Procedure**

This rulemaking is necessary to comply with the March 29, 2025, and August 12, 2025, court orders. Therefore, the Service Director has determined, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(4)(B), that prior notice and opportunity for public comment are impractical and unnecessary. Because the court orders had legal effect immediately upon being filed on March 29, 2025, and August 12, 2025, the Director has further determined, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553 (d)(3), that the agency has good cause to make this rule effective immediately upon publication.

**Effects of the Rule**

As a result of the March 29, 2025, and August 12, 2025, district court orders, all protections under the Act were removed for the northern and southern DPSs of the lesser-prairie chicken. We are issuing this rule to amend the regulations to reflect that removal of protections. This rule removes the northern and southern DPSs of the lesser prairie-chicken from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife at 50 CFR 17.11(h). This rule also removes the rule issued under section 4(d) of the Act for the northern DPS at 50 CFR 17.41(k).

**List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17**

Endangered and threatened species, Exports, Imports, Plants, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation, Wildlife.

**Regulation Promulgation**

Accordingly, we amend part 17, subchapter B of chapter I, title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as set forth below: