

delineated area recommendation, the agency may take the steps described in this section. If an agency elects to request a review of the GSA's delineated area recommendation, GSA will continue to work on the requirements development and other activities related to the requesting agency's space request. GSA will not issue a solicitation to satisfy an agency's space request until all requested reviews have been resolved.

(1) For space actions of less than 25,000 square feet, an agency may request a review of GSA's delineated area recommendation by submitting a written request to the responsible Assistant Regional Administrator for the Public Buildings Service. The request for review must state all facts and other considerations and must justify the requesting agency's proposed delineated area in light of Executive Order 12072 and other applicable statutes, regulations, and policies. The Assistant Regional Administrator will issue a decision within fifteen (15) working days. The decision of the Assistant Regional Administrator will be final and conclusive.

(2) For space actions of 25,000 square feet or greater, a requesting agency may request a review of GSA's delineated area recommendation by submitting a written request to the Commissioner of the Public Buildings Service that the matter be referred to an interagency council for decision. The interagency council will be established specifically to consider the appeal and will be comprised of the Administrator of General Services or his/her designee, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, or his/her designee, and such other Federal official(s) as the Administrator may appoint.

(n) The presence of the Federal Government in the National Capital Region (NCR) is such that the distribution of Federal installations will continue to be a major influence in the extent and character of development. These policies shall be applied in the GSA National Capital Region, in conjunction with regional policies established by the National Capital Planning Commission and consistent with the general purposes of the National Capital Planning Act of 1959 (66 Stat. 781), as amended. These policies shall guide the development of strategic plans for the housing of Federal agencies within the National Capital Region.

(o) Consistent with the policies cited in paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (e) of this section, the use of buildings of historic architectural, or cultural significance within the meaning of section 105 of the Public Buildings Cooperative Use Act of 1976 (90 Stat. 2505) will be considered as alternative sources for meeting Federal space needs.

(p) As used in § 101-17.205, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) "CBA" means the centralized community business area and adjacent areas of similar character, including other specific areas which may be recommended by local officials in accordance with Executive order 12072.

(2) "Delineated area" means the specific boundaries within which space will be obtained to satisfy an agency space requirement.

(3) "Rural area" means any area that (i) is within a city or town if the city or town has a population of less than 10,000 or (ii) is not within the outer boundaries of a city or town if the city or town has a population of 50,000 or more and if the adjacent urbanized and urbanizing areas have a population density of more than 100 per square mile.

(4) "Urban area" means any Metropolitan Area (MA) as defined by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and any non-MA that meets one of the following criteria:

(i) A geographical area within the jurisdiction of any incorporated city, town, borough, village, or other unit of general local government, except county or parish, having a population of 10,000 or more inhabitants.

(ii) That portion of the geographical area within the jurisdiction of any county, town, township, or similar governmental entity which contains no incorporated unit of general local government, but has a population density equal to or exceeding 1,500 inhabitants per square mile; or

(iii) That portion of any geographical area having a population density equal to or exceeding 1,500 inhabitants per square mile and situated adjacent to the boundary of any incorporated unit of general local government which has a population of 10,000 or more inhabitants. (Reference: Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1968, 40 U.S.C. § 535.)

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

49 CFR Parts 1201 and 1262

[STB Ex Parte No. 539]

Removal of Obsolete Valuation Regulations

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Surface Transportation Board (the Board) is removing obsolete regulations concerning rail valuation from the Code of Federal Regulations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beryl Gordon, (202) 927-5610. [TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 927-5721.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Effective January 1, 1996, the ICC Termination Act of 1995, Pub. L. No. 104-88, 109 Stat. 803 (ICCTA) abolished the Interstate Commerce Commission (the Commission) and established within the Department of Transportation. Section 204 of the ICCTA provides that "[t]he Board shall promptly rescind all regulations established by the

[Commission] that are based on provisions of law repealed and not substantively reenacted by this Act." The rail property valuation provisions of former 49 U.S.C. 10781-10786, including § 10784, which is the statutory basis for the Part 1262 rail valuation regulations, have been repealed. We are therefore removing the now obsolete Part 1262 regulations,¹ as well as Instruction 1-3(g) in Part 1201,² which refers to part 1262. Interested persons are encouraged to bring to the Board's attention any other regulations affected by the removal of former 49 U.S.C. 10784.

Because this action merely reflects, and is required by, the enactment of the ICCTA and will not have an adverse effect on the interests of any person, this action will be deemed to be effective as of January 1, 1996.

Prior to the elimination of § 10784, in *Uniform System of Records of Property Changes for Railroad Companies*, Ex Parte No. 512 (ICC served Aug. 26, 1992) and published at 57 FR 38810 (1992), the Commission had proposed eliminating the same regulations we are removing here. A comment in opposition to the rule change was filed. Because we are removing here the rules proposed for elimination in Ex Parte No. 512, in a separate decision we are withdrawing the proposed rule changes and discontinuing the Ex Parte No. 512 proceeding. We will address there the comment opposing the change.

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

List of Subjects 49 CFR Parts 1201 and 1262

Railroads, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Decided: February 28, 1996.

¹ The Valuation Act of 1913 directed the Commission to establish a valuation for all railroad property. An initial valuation was completed in 1920. Under 49 U.S.C. former 10784, after the initial valuation, the Commission was required to keep itself informed of changes in costs and valuations of railroad property. It was for that purpose that the Commission promulgated the Part 1262 regulations requiring carriers to provide reports and information about changes in property values.

² We are also revising the authority section of Part 1201 by removing the authorities at Subpart A and Subpart B and adding a new authority section for Part 1201. It should be noted that the Subpart B authority referenced sections of the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973 and the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 that were codified in Title 49 in the now-repealed § 10362. In place of that section, we are now using for authority new 49 U.S.C. 11142 and 11164.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan, Vice Chairman Simmons, and Commissioner Owen.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble and under the authority of 49 U.S.C. 721(a), title 49, chapter X of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as set forth below:

PART 1201—RAILROAD COMPANIES

1. The authority citations at Subpart A and Subpart B are removed and a new authority citation for part 1201 is added to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 553 and 49 U.S.C. 11142 and 11164.

Subpart A—[Amended]

2. In Subpart A, General Instructions, Instruction 1–3 is amended by removing paragraph (g).

PART 1262—[REMOVED]

3. Part 1262 is removed.

[FR Doc. 96–5412 Filed 3–6–96; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 675

[Docket No. 960129019–6019–01; I.D. 030196A]

Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; Offshore Component Pollock in the Aleutian Islands Subarea

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for pollock by vessels catching pollock for processing by the offshore component in the Aleutian Islands subarea (AI) of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the first allowance of the pollock total allowable catch (TAC) apportioned to vessels harvesting pollock for processing by the offshore component in the AI.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12 noon, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), March 2, 1996, until 12 noon, A.l.t., April 15, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Furuness, 907–586–7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The groundfish fishery in the BSAI exclusive economic zone is managed by NMFS according to the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (FMP) prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under authority of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Fishing by U.S. vessels is governed by regulations implementing the FMP at 50 CFR parts 620 and 675.

In accordance with § 675.20(a)(7)(ii), the first allowance of pollock for vessels catching pollock for processing by the offshore component in the AI was established by the Final 1996 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish (61 FR 4311, February 5, 1996) as 19,669 metric tons (mt).

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Director), has determined in accordance with § 675.20(a)(8), that the first allowance of pollock TAC for vessels catching pollock for processing

by the offshore component in the AI soon will be reached. Therefore, the Regional Director has established a directed fishing allowance of 18,669 mt with consideration that 1,000 mt will be taken as incidental catch in directed fishing for other species in the AI. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for pollock by vessels catching pollock for processing by the offshore component in the AI. This closure is effective noon, A.l.t., March 2, 1996, through noon, A.l.t., April 15, 1996. Under § 675.20(a)(2)(ii), the second allowance is available from noon, A.l.t., August 15 through the end of the fishing year.

Maximum retainable bycatch amounts for applicable gear types may be found in the regulations at § 675.20(h).

Classification

This action is taken under § 675.20 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: March 1, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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