

February 1997 to ascertain the most desirable time of operation for the bridges. The meetings and survey concluded that the idea hours of operation would be from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., between May 1 and October 31 each year.

The City of Manistee and MDOT have stated no objections to this change since the total number of operational hours remain the same and there are no additional costs involved for the owners/operators of the bridges. Coast Guard operations on Manistee Lake will not be affected by this revision. The three commercial shipping companies who transit the bridges have stated no objections to this change.

Commander, Ninth Coast Guard District, approved a temporary deviation from the regulations for the bridges from May 31, 1997 to August 31, 1997. The temporary deviation, published elsewhere in today's **Federal Register**, was authorized to test the proposed schedule before making a permanent change to the regulations.

Under the proposed schedule, from May 1 to October 31, the bridges would only be required to open on signal between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. Between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., the bridges would open if at least a 2-hour advance notice is provided by vessels intending to transit the draws. The operations of the bridges between November 1 and April 30 would remain the same.

Regulatory Evaluation

This proposed rule is not a significant regulatory action under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866 and does not require an assessment of potential costs and benefits under section 6(a)(3) of that order. It has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget under that order. It is not significant under the regulatory policies and procedures of the Department of Transportation (DOT) (44 FR 11040; February 26, 1979). The Coast Guard expects the economic impact of this proposed rule to be so minimal that a full Regulatory Evaluation under paragraph 10e of the regulatory policies and procedures of DOT is unnecessary. This action was initiated by the City of Manistee, on behalf of the marina operators on Manistee Lake, to increase access to recreational facilities located above the bridge and to enhance the economic potential of commerce in the area.

Small Entities

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), the Coast Guard must consider the economic impact on small entities of a rule for which a general notice of proposed rulemaking

is required. "Small entities" may include (1) small businesses and not-for-profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in their fields and (2) governmental jurisdictions with populations of less than 50,000.

Because this rulemaking was initiated on behalf of the marina operators on Manistee Lake in order to increase use of recreational facilities, thereby enhancing potential economic commerce, no adverse economic impact is anticipated on a substantial number of small businesses. Any comments submitted in response to this finding will be evaluated under the criteria described earlier in the preamble for comments.

Collection of Information

This rule contains no collection-of-information requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

Federalism

The Coast Guard has analyzed this rule under the principles and criteria contained in Executive Order 12612 and has determined that this rule does not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

Environment

The Coast Guard considered the environmental impact of this proposed rule and concluded that, under paragraph 2.B.2 of Commandant Instruction M16475.1B, (as revised by 59 FR 38654, July 29, 1994), this rule is categorically excluded from further environmental documentation. A "Categorical Exclusion Determination" is available in the docket for inspection or copying where indicated under ADDRESSES.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 117

Bridges.

For reasons set out in the preamble, 33 CFR part 117 is revised as follows:

PART 117—DRAWBRIDGE OPERATION REGULATIONS

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

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 499; 49 CFR 1.46; 33 CFR 1.05(g); section 117.255 also issued under the authority of Pub. L. 102-587, 106 Stat. 5039.

2. Section 117.637 is amended by revising paragraph (a)(1) to read as follows:

§ 117.637 Manistee River.

(a) * * *

(1) From May 1 through October 31 from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., the bridges shall open on signal. From 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., the bridges need not open unless notice is given at least two hours in advance of a vessel's time of intended passage through the draws.

* * * * *

Dated: May 7, 1997.

G.F. Woolever,

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

[FR Doc. 97-13510 Filed 5-21-97; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Chapter I

[FRL-5828-2]

Announcement of Stakeholders Meeting on National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for Radon-222

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of stakeholders meeting.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will be holding a one-day public meeting on June 26, 1997. The purpose of this meeting is to present information on EPA plans for activities to develop a proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for radon-222, and solicit public input on major technical and implementation issues, and on preferred approaches for continued public involvement. This meeting is a continuation of stakeholder meetings that started in 1995 to obtain input on the Agency's Drinking Water Program. These meetings were initiated as part of the Drinking Water Program Redirection efforts to help refocus EPA's drinking water priorities and to support strong, flexible partnerships among EPA, States, local governments, and the public. At the upcoming meeting, EPA is seeking input from state drinking water and radon programs, the regulated community (public water systems), public health and safety organizations, environmental and public interest groups, and other stakeholders on a number of issues related to developing the NPDWR for radon. EPA encourages the full participation of stakeholders throughout this process.

DATES: The stakeholder meeting on the NPDWR for radon will be held on June 26, 1997 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: To register for the meeting, please contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 by June 12,

1997. Those registered for the meeting will receive background materials prior to the meeting. Members of the public who cannot attend the meeting in person may participate via conference call and should register with the Safe Drinking Water Hotline as well. Members of the public who cannot participate via conference call or in person may submit comments in writing by July 10, 1997 to Sylvia Malm, at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW (4607), Washington, DC, 20460. The meeting will be held in Washington, DC. The address of the meeting site will be included with the background materials.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information on meeting logistics, please contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. For information on the activities related to developing the NPDWR for radon and other EPA activities under the Safe Drinking Water Act, contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. For information on radon in indoor air, contact the National Safety Council's National Radon Hotline at 1-800-SOS-RADON.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

On July 18, 1991 (56 FR 33050), EPA proposed a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) and National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for radon and other radionuclides in public water supplies. EPA proposed to regulate radon at 300 pCi/L. Commenters on the 1991 proposed NPDWR for radon raised several concerns, including cost of implementation, especially for small systems, and the larger risk to public health from radon in indoor air from soil under buildings.

On August 6, 1996, Congress passed amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), which establishes a new charter for the nation's public water systems, States, and EPA in protecting the safety of drinking water. The amendments [§ 1412(b)(13)] direct EPA to develop an MCLG and NPDWR for radon. EPA is required to (1) Withdraw the 1991 proposed MCLG and NPDWR for radon-222; (2) arrange for the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to conduct an independent risk assessment for radon in drinking water and an independent assessment of risk reduction benefits from various mitigation measures to reduce radon in indoor air; (3) publish a radon health risk reduction and cost analysis for possible radon Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for public comment by

February, 1999; (4) propose an MCLG and NPDWR for radon by August, 1999; (5) publish a final MCLG and NPDWR for radon by August, 2000.

If the MCL is "more stringent than necessary to reduce the contribution to radon in indoor air from drinking water to a concentration that is equivalent to the national average concentration of radon in outdoor air," EPA is also required to promulgate an alternative MCL and publish guidelines for state multimedia mitigation programs to mitigate radon levels in air. The alternative MCL would "reduce the contribution from radon in water to radon in indoor air to a concentration that is equivalent to the national average concentration of radon in air." States may develop and submit to EPA for approval a multimedia mitigation program to mitigate radon levels in indoor air. EPA shall approve State multimedia mitigation programs if they are expected to achieve equivalent or greater health risk reduction benefits than compliance with the MCL. If EPA approves a State multimedia mitigation program, public water supply systems within the State may comply with the alternative MCL. If EPA does not approve a State program, or the State does not propose a program, public water supply systems may propose multimedia mitigation programs to EPA, under the same procedures outlined for States.

B. Request for Stakeholder Involvement

EPA is committed to proposing a timely NPDWR for radon that incorporates the best available science, treatment technologies, occurrence data, cost/benefit analyses, and stakeholder input on technical and implementation issues. EPA has evaluated comments on the 1991 proposed NPDWR for radon and will be considering those comments in developing the regulation.

The meeting will cover a broad range of issues including: (1) Radon in drinking water MCL development (treatment technologies, occurrence, analytical methods); (2) multimedia mitigation program; and (3) stakeholder involvement processes. Background materials on radon in drinking water issues will be sent to all registered participants in advance of the meeting. Issues for discussion and stakeholder input will be based on the materials provided and include (but may not be limited to) the following:

- (1) Any new information or data;
- (2) Issues and concerns related to rule development;
- (3) Issues and concerns related to implementing a multimedia mitigation program from the perspective of your

state, water systems, public health and safety organizations, environmental and public interest groups, and the public; and

(4) Recommendations on the most beneficial points in the process for stakeholder input and preferred approaches for stakeholder input.

EPA has announced this public meeting to hear the views of stakeholders on EPA's plans for activities to develop a NPDWR for radon. The public is invited to provide comments on the issues listed above and other issues related to the radon in drinking water regulation during the June 26, 1997 meeting or in writing by July 10, 1997.

Dated: May 15, 1997.

Richard Kuhlman,

Acting Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, Environmental Protection Agency.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 68

[FRL-5828-9]

List of Regulated Substances and Thresholds for Accidental Release Prevention; Proposed Amendments

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing modifications to the list of regulated substances and threshold quantities the accidental release prevention regulations authorized by section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act as amended. EPA is proposing to vacate the listing and related threshold for hydrochloric acid solutions with less than 37% concentrations of hydrogen chloride. The current listing and threshold for all other regulated substances, including hydrochloric acid solutions with 37% or greater concentrations and the listing and threshold for anhydrous hydrogen chloride, are unaffected by today's proposed amendment. Today's action implements, in part, a settlement agreement between EPA and the General Electric Company (GE) to resolve GE's petition for review of the rulemaking listing regulated substances and establishing thresholds under the accidental release prevention regulations.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before June 23, 1997, unless a hearing