

Water pollution control, Water resources, Waterways.

Dated: March 24, 1987

Lee M. Thomas,  
Administrator.

For reasons set out in the preamble, 40 CFR Part 110 is revised to read as follows:

## PART 110—DISCHARGE OF OIL

- Sec.
- 110.1 Definitions.
  - 110.2 Applicability.
  - 110.3 Discharge into navigable waters of such quantities as may be harmful.
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  - 110.10 Notice.
  - 110.11 Discharge at Deepwater Ports.

Authority: Secs. 311 (b)(3) and (b)(4) and 501(a), Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1321 (b)(3) and (b)(4) and 1361(a)); sec. 18(m)(3) of the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 (33 U.S.C. 1517(m)(3)); E.O. 11735, 38 FR 21243, 3 CFR Parts 1971-1975 Comp., p. 793.

### § 110.1 Definitions.

As used in this part, the following terms shall have the meaning indicated below:

"Act" means the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq., also known as the Clean Water Act;

"Administrator" means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);

"Applicable water quality standards" means State water quality standards adopted by the State pursuant to section 303 of the Act or promulgated by EPA pursuant to that section;

"Contiguous zone" means the entire zone established or to be established by the United States under article 24 of the Convention on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone;

"Deepwater port" means an offshore facility as defined in section (3)(10) of the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 (33 U.S.C. 1502(10));

"Discharge, when used in relation to section 311 of the Act, includes, but is not limited to, any spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, or dumping, but excludes (A) discharges in compliance with a permit under section 402 of the Act, (B) discharges resulting from circumstances identified and reviewed and made a part of the public record with respect to a permit issued or modified under section 402 of the Act,

and subject to a condition in such permit, and (C) continuous or anticipated, intermittent discharges from a point source, identified in a permit or permit application under section 402 of the Act, that are caused by events occurring within the scope of relevant operating or treatment systems;

"MARPOL 73/78" means the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, Annex I, which regulates pollution from oil and which entered into force on October 2, 1983;

"Navigable waters" means the waters of the United States, including the territorial seas. The term includes:

(a) All waters that are currently used, were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide;

(b) Interstate waters, including interstate wetlands;

(c) All other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, and wetlands, the use, degradation, or destruction of which would affect or could affect interstate or foreign commerce including any such waters;

(1) That are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes;

(2) From which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce;

(3) That are used or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce;

(d) All impoundments of waters otherwise defined as navigable waters under this section;

(e) Tributaries of waters identified in paragraphs (a) through (d) of this section, including adjacent wetlands; and

(f) Wetlands adjacent to waters identified in paragraphs (a) through (e) of this section: Provided, That waste treatment systems (other than cooling ponds meeting the criteria of this paragraph) are not waters of the United States;

"NPDES" means National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System;

"Offshore facility" means any facility of any kind located in, on, or under any of the navigable waters of the United States, and any facility of any kind that is subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and is located in, on, or under any other waters, other than a vessel or a public vessel;

"Oil" when used in relation to section 311 of the Act, means oil of any kind or in any form, including, but not limited to,

petroleum, fuel oil, sludge, oil refuse, and oil mixed with wastes other than dredged spoil. "Oil," when used in relation to section 18(m)(3) of the Deepwater Port Act of 1974, has the meaning provided in section 3(14) of the Deepwater Port Act of 1974;

"Onshore facility" means any facility (including, but not limited to, motor vehicles and rolling stock) of any kind located in, on, or under any land within the United States, other than submerged land;

"Person" includes an individual, firm, corporation, association, and a partnership;

"Public vessel" means a vessel owned or bareboat chartered and operated by the United States, or by a State or political subdivision thereof, or by a foreign nation, except when such vessel is engaged in commerce;

"Sheen" means an indescent appearance on the surface of water;

"Sludge" means an aggregate of oil or oil and other matter of any kind in any form other than dredged spoil having a combined specific gravity equivalent to or greater than water;

"United States" means the States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands;

"Vessel" means every description of watercraft or other artificial contrivance used, or capable of being used, as a means of transportation on water other than a public vessel; and

"Wetlands" means those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency or duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include playa lakes, swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas such as sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, prairie river overflows, mudflats, and natural ponds.

### § 110.2 Applicability

The regulations of this part apply to the discharge of oil prohibited by section 311(b)(3) of the Act. This includes certain discharges into or upon the navigable waters of the United States or adjoining shorelines or into or upon the waters of the contiguous zone, or in connection with activities under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act or the Deepwater Port Act of 1974, or that may affect natural resources belonging to, appertaining to, or under the exclusive management authority of the United States (including resources

under the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act). The regulations of this part also define the term "discharge" for purposes of section 18(m)(3) of the Deepwater Port Act of 1974, as provided under § 110.11 of this part.

**§ 110.3 Discharge into navigable waters of such quantities as may be harmful.**

For purposes of section 311(b) of the Act, discharges of oil into or upon the navigable waters of the United States or adjoining shorelines in such quantities that it has been determined may be harmful to the public health or welfare of the United States, except as provided in § 110.7 of this part, include discharges of oil that:

(a) Violate applicable water quality standards, or

(b) Cause a film or sheen upon or discoloration of the surface of the water or adjoining shorelines or cause a sludge or emulsion to be deposited beneath the surface of the water or upon adjoining shorelines.

**§ 110.4 Discharge into contiguous zone of such quantities as may be harmful.**

For purposes of section 311(b) of the Act, discharges of oil into or upon the waters of the contiguous zone in such quantities that it has been determined may be harmful to the public health or welfare of the United States, except as provided in § 110.7 include discharges of oil that:

(a) Violate applicable water quality standards, or

(b) Cause a film or sheen upon or discoloration of the surface of the water or adjoining shorelines or cause a sludge or emulsion to be deposited beneath the surface of the water or upon adjoining shorelines.

**§ 110.5 Discharge beyond contiguous zone of such quantities as may be harmful.**

For purposes of section 311(b) of the Act, discharges of oil into or upon waters seaward of the contiguous zone in connection with activities under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act or the Deepwater Port Act of 1974, or that may affect natural resources belonging to, appertaining to, or under the exclusive management authority of the United States (including resources under the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act) in such quantities that it has been determined may be harmful to the public health or welfare of the

United States, except as provided in § 110.7 include discharges of oil that:

(a) Violate applicable water quality standards, or

(b) Cause a film or sheen upon or discoloration of the surface of the water or adjoining shorelines or cause a sludge or emulsion to be deposited beneath the surface of the water or upon adjoining shorelines.

**§ 110.6 Discharge prohibited.**

As provided in section 311(b)(3) of the Act, no person shall discharge or cause or permit to be discharged into or upon the navigable waters of the United States or adjoining shorelines or into or upon the waters of the contiguous zone or into or upon waters seaward of the contiguous zone in connection with activities under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act or the Deepwater Port Act of 1974, or that may affect natural resources belonging to, appertaining to, or under the exclusive management authority of the United States (including resources under the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act) any oil in such quantities as may be harmful as determined in §§ 110.3, 110.4, and 110.5, except as the same may be permitted in the contiguous zone and seaward under MARPOL 73/78, Annex I, as provided in 33 CFR 151.09.

**§ 110.7 Exception for vessel engines.**

For purposes of section 311(b) of the Act, discharges of oil from a properly functioning vessel engine are not deemed to be harmful, but discharges of such oil accumulated in a vessel's bilges shall not be so exempt.

**§ 110.8 Dispersants.**

Addition of dispersants or emulsifiers to oil to be discharged that would circumvent the provisions of this part is prohibited.

**§ 110.9 Demonstration projects.**

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this part, the Administrator may permit the discharge of oil, under section 311 of the Act, in connection with research, demonstration projects, or studies relating to the prevention, control, or abatement of oil pollution.

**§ 110.10 Notice.**

Any person in charge of a vessel or of an onshore or offshore facility shall, as soon as he or she has knowledge of any discharge of oil from such vessel or

facility in violation of § 110.6, immediately notify the National Response Center (NRC) (800-424-8802; in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, 426-2675). If direct reporting to the NRC is not practicable, reports may be made to the Coast Guard or EPA predesignated On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) for the geographic area where the discharge occurs. All such reports shall be promptly relayed to the NRC. If it is not possible to notify the NRC or the predesignated OCS immediately, reports may be made immediately to the nearest Coast Guard unit, provided that the person in charge of the vessel or onshore or offshore facility notifies the NRC as soon as possible. The reports shall be made in accordance with such procedures as the Secretary of Transportation may prescribe. The procedures for such notice are set forth in U.S. Coast Guard regulations, 33 CFR Part 153, Subpart B and in the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan, 40 CFR Part 300, Subpart E. (Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under the control number 2050-0046)

**§ 110.11 Discharge at deepwater ports.**

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) below, for purposes of section 18(m)(3) of the Deepwater Port Act of 1974, the term "discharge" shall include but not be limited to, any spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, or dumping into the marine environment of quantities of oil that:

(1) Violate applicable water quality standards, or

(2) Cause a film or sheen upon or discoloration of the surface of the water or adjoining shorelines or cause a sludge or emulsion to be deposited beneath the surface of the water or upon adjoining shorelines.

(b) For purposes of section 18(m)(3) of the Deepwater Port Act of 1974, the term "discharge" excludes:

(1) Discharges of oil from a properly functioning vessel engine, (including an engine on a public vessel), but not discharges of such oil accumulated in a vessel's bilges (unless in compliance with MARPOL 73/78, Annex I); and

(2) Discharges of oil permitted under MARPOL 73/78, Annex I.

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