

Proposed Rules

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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.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

7 CFR Part 1210

[Docket No. FV-01-704-610 REVIEW]

Watermelon Research and Promotion Plan; Section 610 Review

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Review of the Watermelon Research and Promotion Plan.

SUMMARY: This action summarizes the results of a review of the Watermelon Research and Promotion Plan (Plan) by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's, (Department), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) under the criteria contained in section 610 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA). Based upon its review, AMS has determined that the Plan should be continued without change.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons may obtain a copy of the review. Requests for copies should be sent to the Docket Clerk, Research and Promotion, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, Stop 0244, Room 2535-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0244; telephone (202) 720-9915; Fax (202) 205-2800; or E-mail: Daniel.manzoni@usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Margaret Irby, Research and Promotion Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, Stop 0244, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 2535-S, Washington, DC 20250-0244; telephone (202) 720-9915; Fax (202) 205-2800; or E-mail: margaret.irby@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Plan [7 CFR Part 1210] is authorized under the Watermelon Research and Promotion Act (Act), as amended, [7 U.S.C. 4901-4916].

Under the Plan, the National Watermelon Promotion Board (Board) collects assessments on watermelons

produced in or imported into the United States to carry out coordinated programs of research, development, advertising, and promotion designed to strengthen, maintain, and expand domestic and foreign markets for watermelons.

AMS published in the **Federal Register** [63 FR 8014; February 18, 1999] its plan to review certain regulations, including the Plan, under the criteria contained in § 610 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) [5 U.S.C. 601-612]. An updated Plan was published in the **Federal Register** on January 4, 2002 [67 FR 525].

AMS published a notice of review and request for written comments on the Plan in the March 17, 2000, issue of the **Federal Register** [65 FR 14485]. No written comments were received.

The review was undertaken to determine whether the Plan should be continued without change, amended, or rescinded (consistent with the objectives of the Act) to minimize the impacts on small entities. In conducting this review, AMS considered the following factors: (1) The continued need for the Plan; (2) the nature of complaints or comments received from the public concerning the Plan; (3) the complexity of the Plan; (4) the extent to which the Plan overlaps, duplicates, or conflicts with other Federal rules, and, to the extent feasible, with State and local governmental rules; and (5) the length of time since the Plan has been evaluated or the degree to which technology, economic conditions, or other factors have changed in the area affected by the Plan.

Currently, there are 2,200 producers, 620 handlers, and 280 importers covered under the Plan. Producers of less than 10 acres and importers of less than 150,000 pounds of watermelons annually are exempt.

AMS provides federal oversight of the watermelon research and promotion program. The Plan is not unduly complex, and AMS has not identified any federal rules, or State and local regulations that duplicate, overlap, or conflict with the Plan. Over the years, regulation changes have been made to address industry operation changes and to improve program administration. The goal of these evaluations is to assure that the Plan and the regulations implemented under it fit the needs of the industry and are consistent with the Act. With the exception of a challenge

concerning the constitutionality of assessments for promotion under the Plan, which the Department is currently defending, AMS has not received complaints about the Plan.

Based upon its review, AMS has determined that the Plan should be continued without change. AMS plans to continue working with the watermelon industry in maintaining an effective program.

Dated: September 22, 2003.

A.J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 03-24351 Filed 9-25-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

30 CFR Part 206 and 210

RIN 1010-AD04

Federal Oil Valuation Proposed Rule

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: The MMS, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, published on August 20, 2003, a Federal Oil Valuation Proposed Rule (68 FR 50087). This **Federal Register** document extends the comment period end date.

DATES: Submit written comments on or before November 10, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Address your comments and suggestions regarding this proposal to Sharron L. Gebhardt, Regulatory Specialist.

By regular U.S. mail: Minerals Management Service, Minerals Revenue Management, Records and Information Management Team, P.O. Box 25165, MS 320B2, Denver, Colorado 80225-0165; or

By overnight mail or courier: Minerals Management Service, Minerals Revenue Management, Building 85, Room A-614, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225; or

By e-mail: MRM.comments@mms.gov. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file and avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Also, please include "Attn: 'Federal Oil Valuation Proposed Rule Comment'" and your name and return address in

your Internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation that we have received your Internet message, call the contact person listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharron L. Gebhardt, Regulatory Specialist, Records and Information Management Team, Minerals Revenue Management, MMS, at telephone (303) 231-3211, fax (303) 231-3781, e-mail sharron.gebhardt@mms.gov, or P.O. Box 25165, MS320B2, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225-0165.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: All correspondence, records, or information received in response to this Notice are subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. All information provided will be made public unless the respondent identifies which portions are proprietary. Please highlight the proprietary portions, including any supporting documentation, or mark the page(s) that contain proprietary data. Proprietary information is protected by the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 (30 U.S.C. 1733), the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552 (b)(4)), the Indian Minerals Development Act of 1982 (25 U.S.C. 2103) and Department regulations (43 CFR 2).

Dated: September 12, 2003.

Lucy Querques Denett,

Associate Director for Minerals Revenue Management.

[FR Doc. 03-24420 Filed 9-25-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 147

[CGD08-03-028]

RIN 1625-AA76

Safety Zone for Outer Continental Shelf Facility in the Gulf of Mexico for Green Canyon 645

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard proposes the establishment of a safety zone around a petroleum and gas production facility in Green Canyon 645 of the Outer Continental Shelf in the Gulf of Mexico while the facility is being constructed and after the construction is completed. The construction site and facility need to be protected from vessels operating outside the normal shipping channels and fairways, and placing a safety zone

around this area would significantly reduce the threat of allisions, oil spills and releases of natural gas. The proposed rule would prohibit all vessels from entering or remaining in the specified area around the facility's location except for the following: An attending vessel; a vessel under 100 feet in length overall not engaged in towing; or a vessel authorized by the Eighth Coast Guard District Commander.

DATES: Comments and related material must reach the Coast Guard on or before November 25, 2003.

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments and related material to Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District (m), Hale Boggs Federal Bldg., 501 Magazine Street, New Orleans LA, 70130, or comments and related material may be delivered to Room 1341 at the same address between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is (504) 589-6271. Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District (m) maintains the public docket for this rulemaking. Comments and material received from the public, as well as documents indicated in this preamble as being available in the docket, will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at the location listed above during the noted time periods.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lieutenant (LT) Kevin Lynn, Project Manager for Eighth Coast Guard District Commander, Hale Boggs Federal Bldg., 501 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, telephone (504) 589-6271.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Requests for Comments

We encourage you to participate in this rulemaking by submitting comments and related material. If you do so, please include your name and address, identify the docket number for this rulemaking [CGD08-03-028], indicate the specific section of this document to which each comment applies, and give the reason for each comment. Please submit all comments and related material in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying. If you would like to know they reached us, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope. We will consider all comments and material received during the comment period. We may change this proposed rule in view of them.

Public Meeting

We do not plan to hold a public meeting. However, you may submit a request for a meeting by writing to Commander, Eighth Coast Guard

District (m) at the address under **ADDRESSES** explaining why one would be beneficial. If we determine that a public meeting would aid this rulemaking, we will hold one at a time and place announced by a later notice in the **Federal Register**.

Background and Purpose

The Coast Guard proposes the establishment of a safety zone around a petroleum and gas production facility in the Gulf of Mexico: Holstein, Green Canyon Block 645 (GC 645), located at position 27°19'17" N, 90°32'08" W. The proposed safety zone would be in effect while the facility is being constructed and after the construction is completed.

This proposed safety zone is in the deepwater area of the Gulf of Mexico. For the purposes of this rule it is considered to be in waters of 304.8 meters (1,000 feet) or greater depth extending to the limits of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) contiguous to the territorial sea of the United States and extending to a distance up to 200 nautical miles from the baseline from which the breadth of the sea is measured. Navigation in the area of the proposed safety zone consists of large commercial shipping vessels, fishing vessels, cruise ships, tugs with tows and the occasional recreational vessel. The deepwater area of the Gulf of Mexico also includes an extensive system of fairways. The fairways nearest the proposed safety zone include the East-West Gulf of Mexico Safety Fairway and Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP) Shipping Safety Fairway. Significant amounts of vessel traffic occur in or near the various fairways in the deepwater area.

BP Exploration & Production Inc., hereafter referred to as "BP" has requested that the Coast Guard establish a safety zone in the Gulf of Mexico around the Holstein construction site and for the zone to remain in effect after construction is completed.

The request for the safety zone was made due to the high level of shipping activity around the site of the facility and the safety concerns for construction personnel, the personnel on board the facility after it is completed, and the environment. BP indicated that the location, production level, and personnel levels on board the facility make it highly likely that any allision with the facility during and after construction would result in a catastrophic event. The Holstein will be a high production oil and gas spar drilling facility, capable of producing approximately 100,000 barrels of oil per day and 90 million cubic feet of gas per