

and political pressures to allow noncompatible development. It is the FAA's view that the active cooperation and coherent efforts of all parties involved are required to successfully plan and implement an airport noise compatibility program that meets the community's economic, political, and aviation needs. That is a central goal of the part 150 program and the rationale for its extensive consultation and community involvement elements.

Effective date of the policy

Several commenters made recommendations on dates for the provisions of the policy to become effective after its publication in the **Federal Register**. Their recommended dates ranged from "as soon as possible," to 90 days, to "no earlier than 18 months." In selecting a date to implement this final policy, the FAA balanced the desire to implement a beneficial program change as rapidly as possible with the practical transition considerations of ongoing part 150 programs. In the notice for public comment, the FAA anticipated a transition period of at least 180 days from the date of issuance of a final policy to avoid disrupting airport operators' noise compatibility programs that have already been submitted to the FAA and are undergoing statutory review. The notice also suggested an additional margin of time to a maximum of 1 year to allow airport operators adequate opportunity to amend previously completed noise compatibility programs or programs currently under development, in consultation with local jurisdictions, to emphasize preventive rather than remedial measures for new development. Accordingly, and after careful consideration of the public comments on this issue and the extended time since FAA issued notice of this proposed policy, the FAA selects a transition period to end December 31, 1997. This should afford airport operators, local land use control authorities, developers, and others with ample opportunity to revise their plans, programs, land use controls, and building codes.

Issue: Use of statements from the proposed policy: We note that

statements in the proposed policy (60 FR 14701) have been misread.

FAA Response: These statements recognized the role that state and local governments play in airport noise compatibility planning. They did not reach the issue of whether zoning decisions that regulate airports development and operations within an airport's existing boundaries may be federally preempted. The statement "Neither the FAA nor any agency of the Federal Government has zoning authority" has been deleted because it led to some confusion.

Notice of Proposed FAA Policy

Accordingly, by this publication the FAA is formally notifying airport operators and sponsors, airport users, the officials of all public agencies and planning agencies whose area, or any portion of whose area, of jurisdiction are within the noise contours as depicted on an airport's part 150 noise exposure map, and all persons owning property within, considering acquisition of property within, considering moving into such areas, or having other interests in such areas, of the following proposed final FAA policy concerning future approval under 14 CFR part 150 and eligibility of AIP and PFC funding of certain noise mitigation measures.

Proposed Final Policy Statement

Beginning January 1, 1998, the FAA will approve under part 150 only remedial noise mitigation measures for existing noncompatible development and only preventive noise mitigation measures in areas of potential new noncompatible development. As of the same date, edibility for AIP noise set-aside funding and PFC funding will be determined using criteria that are consistent with this policy. Specifically, remedial noise mitigation measures for new noncompatible development occurring after the effective date of this final policy will not be approved by the FAA under part 150 and will not be eligible for AIP noise set-aside funding or approved for the use of PFC funding, regardless of previous FAA approvals of such measures under part 150, the status of implementation of an individual airport's part 150 program, or the status of any pending application to use AIP funds or PFC revenue for noise

mitigation purposes. This policy also applies to projects that are eligible under the noise set-aside without a part 150 program. Eligibility for remedial noise mitigation measures for bypassed lots or additions to existing structures within noise impacted neighborhoods, additions to existing noise impacted schools or other community facilities required by demographic changes within their service areas, and formerly noise compatible uses that have been rendered noncompatible as a result of airport expansion or changes in airport operations, and other reasonable exceptions to this policy on similar grounds must be justified by airport operators in submittals to the FAA and will be considered by the FAA on a case-by-case basis. This policy does not affect noise mitigation that is included in FAA-approved environmental documents for airport development projects.

Issued in Washington, DC, on May 20, 1997.

Paul R. Dykeman,

Deputy Director of Environment and Energy.

[FR Doc. 97-13953 Filed 5-27-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

16 CFR Part 436

Franchise Rule Public Workshop Conferences

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission.

ACTION: Public workshop conferences.

SUMMARY: The Federal Trade Commission ("FTC" or "Commission") will hold six public workshop conferences in connection with the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("ANPR") on the Trade Regulation Rule entitled "Disclosure Requirements and Prohibitions Concerning Franchising and Business Opportunity Ventures," 16 CFR Part 436 (the "Franchise Rule" and "Rule"). In addition, the Commission will continue to accept comments on the ANPR until December 31, 1997.

DATES: The public workshop conferences will be held as follows:

Conf. No.	Topics	Location	Dates
1	Trade Show Promoters	Washington, DC	July 28, 29.
2	Business Opportunities	Chicago, IL	Aug. 21, 22.
3	UFOC, Internet, International Co-Branding, Alternative Law Enforcement	New York, NY	Sept. 18, 19.
4	Business Opportunities	Dallas, TX	Oct. 20, 21.
5	UFOC, Internet, International, Co-Branding, Alternative Law Enforcement	Seattle, WA	Nov. 6, 7.
6	Business Opportunities	Washington, DC	Nov. 20, 21.

The first day of each conference will run from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., and the second day will run from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. The first day of each conference will consist of a roundtable discussion on the various issues described below. Members of the public will also have the opportunity to comment on the issues raised during the roundtable discussions. The second day will be reserved for members of the general public who wish to make statements for the record on any of the topics raised by the ANPR.

ADDRESSES: Parties interested in participating in one or more of the Public Workshop Conferences should submit a request to participate on or before July 1, 1997, to Myra Howard, Division of Marketing Practices, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580. The Commission will also accept requests to participate received at the following E-mail address: "FRANPR@ftc.gov", and at the Commission's ANPR hotline telephone number: (202) 326-3573.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Toporoff, (202) 326-3135, or Myra Howard, (202) 326-2047, Division of Marketing Practices, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, 6th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Part A—Overview of the Commission's ANPR

On February 28, 1997, the Commission published an ANPR announcing the Commission's proposal to commence a rulemaking proceeding to amend the Franchise Rule. 62 FR 9115 (February 28, 1997). The ANPR requested comment on whether the Franchise Rule should be amended to: (1) Revise the Rule's disclosure requirements based upon the Uniform Franchise Offering Circular Guidelines ("UFOC") model; (2) distinguish between disclosures for business opportunities and for franchises; (3) exempt trade show promoters from liability as "brokers;" (4) require trade show exhibitors to have their disclosure documents available for public inspection; (5) require franchisors to inform prospective franchisees that franchisors are permitted to disclose earnings information, and where franchisors elect not to do so, to require such franchisors to state that they make no earnings representations and do not authorize their salespersons to make them; (6) clarify that the Rules does not apply to the sale of franchises to be located outside the United States; (7)

clarify the applicability of the Rule to the sale of franchises over the Internet; and (8) clarify the applicability of the Rule to the sale of co-branded franchise systems. In addition, the ANPR asked whether the Commission should develop a program to reduce or waive civil penalties for certain violations of the Franchise Rule.

Part B—Extension of Comment Period

The ANPR stated that comments must be submitted on or before April 30, 1997. The Commission is now extending the comment period until after the final public workshop conference is held, as set forth below, in order to provide the public with maximum opportunity to participate in the rulemaking process. Therefore, submissions of views, drafts of proposed amendments to the Rule, and any other written, oral, or visual materials will be accepted throughout the conference period, and up until December 31, 1997. All such comments will also be made part of the public record.

Part C—Overview of the Public Workshop Conferences

The ANPR announced that Commission staff would hold several public workshop conferences. These conferences are intended to serve several purposes: (1) To allow Commission staff and interested parties the opportunity to discuss openly issues raised in the ANPR and in the comments to the ANPR; (2) to offer the general public an opportunity to make statements on the record concerning the issues raised in the ANPR; and (3) to assist Commission staff in drafting a proposed amended rule.

Accordingly, the first day of each public workshop conference will consist of a roundtable discussion centered on a specific topic or topics, as noted below. In addition to discussing and analyzing the issues, the participants will be asked to offer concrete suggestions on revising the Rule in those specific areas. Participation by the general public the first day will be limited to a discussion of the topics raised that day. The second day of each conference will be reserved for the general public to share their comments and concerns about any of the issues raised in the ANPR. Statements by members of the general public may be limited to a few minutes, depending on the number of persons who wish to make statements. All discussions and comments will be transcribed and placed on the public record.

The Commission staff will select a limited number of parties to join in the roundtable discussions. To the extent

possible, Commission staff will select parties to represent the following affected interests: franchisors; franchisees; business opportunity promoters; business opportunity purchasers; franchise and business opportunity trade show organizers; franchise and business opportunity brokers; franchisor, franchise, business opportunity, and other trade or industry associations; franchise consultants; economists and academicians; Federal, State and local law enforcement and regulatory authorities; and any other interests that Commission staff may identify and deem appropriate for representation.

Parties representing the above-referenced interests will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

1. The party must submit a comment. First priority will be given to those parties who submit their comment by July 1, 1997. After that date, parties may be considered as participants on a space-available basis.

2. The party must also notify Commission staff in writing, via E-mail, or via the hotline number, of its interest in being a roundtable participant and, if required, authorization to represent an affected interest, on or before July 1, 1997. The party must also identify which conference or conferences that party wishes to attend. Those parties submitting their requests after July 1, 1997, will also be considered on a space-available basis.

3. The party's participation would promote a balance of interests represented at the conference.

4. The party's participation would promote the consideration and discussion of the topics being discussed at the conference.

5. The party has experience or expertise in activities affected by the Franchise Rule.

6. The party adequately reflects the views of the affected interest(s).

7. The number of parties selected will not be so large as to inhibit effective discussion among them.

The Commission strongly encourages all interested parties to participate in the public workshop conferences, as the transcripts from the conferences will be an important part of the public record in this rulemaking proceeding. Individuals wishing to make statements on the record the second day of any conference need not submit a request to participate, and the Commission will make every effort to provide time for all members of the general public to make statements regarding any of the ANPR issues. Each conference will be facilitated by a Commission staff member. Prior to each conference,

participants will be provided with tentative agendas as well as copies of the comments submitted in response to the ANPR.

Part D—Schedule of Public Workshop Conferences

The first public workshop will be held on July 28 and 29, 1997, at the Federal Trade Commission, Room 432, 6th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580. The roundtable discussion on July 28, 1997, will focus on the possible exemption of trade show promoters from the Rule's disclosure requirements and the development of possible voluntary industry standards.

The second public workshop conference will be held on August 21 and 22, 1997, at the Chicago Regional Office, Federal Trade Commission, 55 E. Monroe Street, Suite 1860, Chicago, Illinois 60603. The roundtable discussion on August 21, 1997, will focus on revisions to the business opportunity section of the Rule, including a definition of the term "business opportunity."

The third public workshop conference will be held on September 18 and 19, 1997, at the Jacob Javits Federal Building, 26 Federal Plaza, Floor 36, Conference Room 3604, New York, NY 10278. The roundtable discussion on September 18, 1997, will focus on whether the Commission should revise the Rule based upon the UFOC model and possible modifications; the sale of franchises through the Internet; the sale of co-branded franchise systems; and alternative approaches to Franchise Rule law enforcement.

The fourth public workshop conference will be held on October 20 and 21, 1997, at the Dallas Regional Office, Federal Trade Commission, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 2150, Dallas, Texas 75201. The roundtable discussion on October 20, 1997, will focus on proposals for a revised definition of the term "business opportunity," and specific proposed disclosure requirements for business opportunity sellers.

The fifth public workshop conference will be held on November 6 and 7, 1997, at the Seattle Regional Office, Federal Trade Commission, 915 Second Avenue, Suite 2886, Seattle, Washington 98174. The roundtable discussion on November 6, 1997, will focus on whether the Commission should revise the Rule based upon the UFOC model and possible modifications; the sale of franchises through the Internet; the sale of co-branded franchise systems; and alternative approaches to Franchise Rule law enforcement.

The final public workshop conference will be held on November 20 and 21, 1997, at the Federal Trade Commission, Room 432, 6th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580. The roundtable discussion on November 20, 1997, will focus on drafting revised business opportunity disclosures.

List of Subjects in 16 CFR Part 436

Advertising, Business and industry, Franchising, Trade practices.

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 41–58.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97–13870 Filed 5–27–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

30 CFR Part 251

RIN 101–AC10

Geological and Geophysical (G&G) Explorations of the Outer Continental Shelf

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Extending comment period for proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This document extends to July 29, 1997 the reopening of the comment period published on May 1, 1997 (62 FR 23705), the deadline for the submission of comments on the proposed revision of requirements governing Geological and Geophysical Explorations of the Outer Continental Shelf, that was published February 11, 1997.

DATES: We will consider all comments received by July 29, 1997. We will review comments at that time and may not fully consider comments received after July 29, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Mail or hand-carry written comments to the Department of the Interior; Minerals Management Service; 381 Elden Street; Mail Stop 4700; Herndon, Virginia 20170–4817; Attention: Rules Processing Team.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kumkum Ray, Engineering and Operations Division, at (703) 787–1600.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 15, 1997 MMS met with industry representatives to discuss issues raised by the proposed revisions of MMS's requirements governing geological and geophysical explorations of the Outer Continental Shelf that were published

February 11, 1997 (62 FR 6149). On the basis of the discussion MMS is extending the comment period to allow respondents more time to prepare detailed and comprehensive comments. We will publish a notice in the **Federal Register** to announce a meeting date and place to further discuss this rulemaking.

Dated: May 21, 1997.

E.P. Danenberger,

Chief, Engineering and Operations Division.

[FR Doc. 97–13848 Filed 5–27–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–MR–M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

33 CFR Parts 95, 100, 173, 174, 175, 177, 179, 181, and 183

46 CFR Part 25

[CGD 97–029]

Review of Regulations on Boating Safety

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard will conduct a comprehensive review of currently effective boating safety regulations during and after the meeting of the National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC) in October 1997. This Request describes which of them will come within the review and solicits comments from the boating community in response to issues that this Request will pose. The review is to determine which if any of those regulations need change. The Coast Guard will provide a summary of the comments received to the members of the NBSAC for them to consider before that meeting, and will itself consider all relevant comments as it determines which if any of those regulations need change.

DATES: Comments must reach the Coast Guard on or before July 28, 1997.

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments to the Executive Secretary, Marine Safety Council (G–LRA, 3406) [CGD 97–029], U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street SW., Washington, DC 20593–0001, or deliver them to room 3406 at the same address between 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is 202–267–1477.

The Executive Secretary maintains the public docket for this regulatory review. Comments, and documents as indicated in this preamble, will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at room 3406,