

Reference: RGL 86-11

Subject: PUBLIC NOTICE-COMMENTS

Title: ACKNOWLEDGING PUBLIC NOTICE COMMENTS

Issued: 11/18/86 Expires: 12/31/88

Originator: DAEN-CWO-N

Description: PERSONALIZED COMMENTS SHOULD BE ACKNOWLEDGED; HOWEVER MASS PRODUCED AND ROUTINE COMMENTS NEED NOT BE ACKNOWLEDGED.

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1. The purpose of this guidance is to explain a change in the final regulations regarding the requirement to acknowledge public notice comments.
 2. In the final regulations, the second sentence of 33 CFR 325.2(a)(3) was changed from: "Receipt of the comments will be acknowledged and they will be made a part of the administrative record of the application" to: "Receipt of the comments will be acknowledged, when appropriate, and they will be made a part of the administrative record of the application."
 3. Consider the following in deciding when it is "appropriate" to acknowledge receipt of comments. To many citizens, writing to a federal government official is a significant act of public involvement and their interest and effort should be acknowledged. Such personalized comments should be acknowledged with assurances that the comments will be considered. However, mass-produced comments and other routine communications need not be acknowledged.
 4. District engineers should use fast, efficient means in acknowledging comments to avoid unnecessary burdens on the operation of the regulatory program.
 5. This guidance expires 31 December 1988 unless sooner revised or rescinded.

FOR THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS: