

Surgeon General, the American Dental Association and State authorities. The evaluations resulting from the review process will contribute significantly to the reappraisal of fluoride's status in revised drinking water regulations by providing an understanding of the frequency, extent and effect of dental fluorosis, and the effect of fluoride in water on dental caries.

2. *Treatment Options and Costs.* In the area of fluoride treatment and associated costs, EPA has underway a number of projects having a direct bearing on the issue raised by the petitioner. These projects include:

(a) Field studies of treatment processes including activated alumina and reverse osmosis, for the removal of inorganic contaminants from water.

(b) An evaluation of operating costs and effectiveness of low and high-pressure reverse osmosis for the removal of specific contaminants, including fluoride, from drinking water.

(c) A project involving the use of a mobile pilot plant to evaluate and compare ion exchange, reverse osmosis and activated alumina for the removal of fluoride and other ground-water contaminants.

(d) Evaluation of performance and cost of full-scale treatment facilities for the removal of fluoride by activated alumina.

(e) Comparative evaluation of full-scale and individual fluoride removal systems, involving cost and efficacy evaluations in both existing and new installations.

(f) In addition to the data generated by EPA studies, data from existing fluoride removal plants are being compiled so that up-to-date actual cost figures will be available.

C. *Decision of the Administrator*

EPA hereby acknowledges receipt of the petition from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. EPA will review the information supplied by the petitioner, along with all information related to the health effects of elevated fluoride levels and treatment costs during its ongoing regulatory development process. The objective of this process is to develop Revised Primary Drinking Water Regulations. The development of Revised Primary Drinking Water Regulations is already underway.

The present target date for comprehensive proposed Revised Primary Drinking Water Regulations is the fall of 1983. However, in response to the petition, EPA will accelerate the development process for the fluoride portion of those regulations and will

make a decision regarding revised fluoride regulations as soon as the current epidemiology studies are completed, reported, and reviewed, and revised treatment and economic impact assessments are completed. The current schedule would allow a decision in approximately August of 1982.

Dated: November 17, 1981.

Anne M. Gorsuch,
Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary

43 CFR Subtitle A

Prohibition of Flood Insurance for Undeveloped Coastal Barriers

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to issue proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of the Interior intends to issue a proposed rule on or about August 13, 1982, which will delineate those coastal barriers along the Atlantic Coast and Gulf of Mexico which are determined to be undeveloped and unprotected as defined in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1981. He will also issue a proposed definitional framework which amplifies the language of the Act and provides the basis for consistent and accurate delineation of boundaries. Data summaries on each designated unit will accompany the maps. The Secretary will take this action pursuant to Title III, Part 4 of OBRA, which requires that he designate those coastal barriers which are undeveloped so that no new Federal flood insurance shall be provided on or before October 1, 1983 for any new construction or substantial improvements of structures located on those undeveloped coastal barriers. The draft definitional framework will be made available for review and comment on December 8, 1981. The draft maps and data summaries will be made available on January 15, 1982 for a 60-day comment period. Comments on the draft definitional framework, maps and data summaries should be received prior to the close of the comment period on March 15, 1982. Proposed designations for submission to the Congress will be based on the actual-on-the-ground conditions in existence as of this date, March 15, 1982.

DATES:

Draft definitions to be released for

public review and comment on or about: December 8, 1981.

Draft maps and data summaries to be released for public review and comment on or about: January 15, 1982.

Comments on the definitions, maps and data summaries to be received on or before: March 15, 1982.

On-the-ground conditions for proposed designations established as of this date: March 15, 1982.

Proposed designations and Report to Congress: August 13, 1982.

Final designations: October 15, 1982.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr. Ric Davidge, Chairman, Coastal Barriers Task Force, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240, (202-343-5347).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 13, 1981, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act was enacted. Title III, Part 4 of this legislation concerned Flood, Crime, and Riot Insurance. Within that Part, section 341, subsections (a)-(c) and (e), amended specific portions of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968. Section 341, subsection (d)(1) of that Act, also amended the National Flood Insurance Act by adding a new section. That new section, section 1321(a)-(c) of the National Flood Insurance Act, is entitled "Undeveloped Coastal Barriers". Section 341, subsection (d)(2) of OBRA while not an amendment to the National Flood Insurance Act, also establishes responsibilities within the Department of the Interior with regard to undeveloped coastal barriers.

This document is to provide a notice of the procedure and methodology with which the Department of the Interior intends to develop and implement its responsibilities under new section 1321 of the National Flood Insurance Act to designate undeveloped coastal barriers and its responsibilities with regard to section 341(d)(2) of OBRA to conduct a study of undeveloped coastal barriers. This notice identifies the key responsibilities established by this legislation and advises the public where additional information may be obtained and where comments should be sent. It is also designed to identify a process through which the Department of the Interior will consider the requirements of the Executive Order on Federal Regulation, E.O. 12291; the Regulatory Flexibility Act; the Paperwork Act of 1980; the National Environmental Policy Act, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality and by this

Department; and, Departmental regulations.

New section 1321 of the National Flood Insurance Act—entitled *Undeveloped Coastal Barriers*—establishes limits on the availability of flood insurance with regard to certain undeveloped coastal barriers.

Subsection (a) provides that "(no) new flood insurance coverage shall be provided under this title on or before October 1, 1983, for any new construction or substantial improvements of structures located on undeveloped coastal barriers which shall be designated by the Secretary of the Interior." All flood insurance issued prior to that date will remain in effect regardless of location. The exclusion on flood insurance coverage will only be applicable to new construction or substantial improvements after October 1, 1983, on undeveloped coastal barriers, as designated by the Secretary of the Interior. Subsection (b), and its legislative history, provide definitions of the term "coastal barrier" and the word "undeveloped". This subsection also provides that certain already protected coastal barriers shall be excepted from these definitions and shall not be designated. These provisions will be implemented in the following manner.

First, the Department has determined that implementation of this new section will require the development of a definitional framework in order to designate undeveloped coastal barriers with precision. This effort has been initiated within the Department. The Department intends to further refine the statutory definition of terms "coastal barrier", "undeveloped", and similar terms within the latitude afforded by this legislation and its legislative history prior to final designation of undeveloped coastal barriers.

Second, the Department intends to integrate into the process of developing this definitional framework, and designations of undeveloped coastal barriers the requirements of E.O. 12291, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, and the National Environmental Policy Act to the degree they are applicable.

Third, the Department has also determined that public participation in the development of draft definitional framework, maps and data summaries will be beneficial. Accordingly, the Department has issued this Notice and will provide the public with a minimum of a 60 day comment period on draft maps and data summaries and will take additional steps to assure public participation during that comment period. In addition, the draft definitional framework will be made available to

members of Congress, State and local officials and the public on or about December 8, 1981.

Fourth, it is contemplated that draft maps (indicating application of the draft definitional framework to coastal barriers) and data summaries will be available for public review and comment on or about January 15, 1982. The boundaries of undeveloped coastal barriers will be based upon the best data available to the Department at the time of printing. It is expected, however, that updating of that data both by the Department and the public will be necessary. The Department intends to develop proposed designations for submission to Congress based on actual on-the-ground conditions in existence at the close of the comment period. This is presently scheduled to be March 15, 1982. This approach means that changes in the geomorphic status or development status of potential undeveloped coastal barriers will be taken into consideration as of that date. To facilitate this process, comments submitted within one week after the close of the comment period will be accepted to ensure that the Department has the most accurate information possible as of that point in time. This approach is necessary to ensure that proposed designations can be provided the Congress in a timely manner.

Fifth, the Department intends to issue a final definitional framework and final designations in the fall of 1982. These final designations will follow transmission of the proposed delineations and the study to Congress as required by section 341(d)(2) of OBRA. These designations will be based on the definitional concepts adopted, after public comment, to implement the law.

The second component of the Department of the Interior's responsibilities with regard to undeveloped coastal barriers as provided by the terms of the OBRA is the study required by section 341(d)(2) of that Act. That provision requires that:

(2) The Secretary of the Interior shall conduct a study for the purpose of designating the undeveloped coastal barriers which will be affected by the amendment made by paragraph (1). Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall transmit to the Congress a report of the findings and conclusions of such study together with a proposed designation of the undeveloped coastal barriers and any recommendation regarding the definition of the term "coastal barrier" as enacted by such amendment.

This study shall be conducted as a part of the process of developing definitions and designations as

discussed above. It will also be closely integrated with the NEPA process. A significant portion of this study will be based upon new information received as a result of comments on the draft maps and definitions issued earlier and from other sources. As required by law, this study (including recommendations regarding the definition of the term "coastal barrier" and "undeveloped" if any) and the Department's proposed definitions and designations—as they may be revised following the close of the public review and comment period—will be provided to the Congress prior to August 13, 1982. Further public review and comment will also be provided at that time. Transmission of the study and proposed designations to the Congress will, in essence, provide the public with a second comment period prior to final designation.

G. Ray Arnett,
Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 81

[Docket No. 81-657]

Vessel Traffic Service System (VTS) Communications in the Houston VTS Area; Correction

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule; correction.

SUMMARY: This document corrects a proposed rule on the Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) System communication in the Houston VTS area that appeared at page 50573 in the Federal Register of Wednesday, October 14, 1981 (46 FR 50573). The action is necessary to correct typographical errors in the west longitudes in the Appendix.

ADDRESS: Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Linda R. Figueroa, Private Radio Bureau, (202) 632-7175.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Errata, PR Docket No. 81-657

Released: November 18, 1981.

In the matter of amendment of Parts 81 and 83 of the rules to make the frequency 156.55 MHz available exclusively for Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) communications in the Houston VTS radio protected area.