

required to make such analysis if a rule would not have such an effect. The Commission certifies that this rule will not have such an impact on small entities as it merely clarifies existing requirements. An analysis under the RFA therefore, is not required.

Document Availability

12. In addition to publishing the full text of this document in the **Federal Register**, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print the contents of this document via the Internet through FERC's Home Page (<http://www.ferc.gov>) and in FERC's Public Reference Room during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time) at 888 First Street, NE., Room 2A, Washington DC 20426.

13. From FERC's Home Page on the Internet, this information is available in the Commission's document management system, eLibrary. The full text of this document is available on eLibrary in PDF and Microsoft Word format for viewing, printing, and/or downloading. To access this document in eLibrary, type the docket number excluding the last three digits of this document in the docket number field.

14. User assistance is available for eLibrary and the FERC's Web site during normal business hours. For assistance, please contact the Commission's Online Support at 1-866-208-3676 (toll free) or TTY (202) 502-8659, or e-mail at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov. You may also contact the Public Reference Room at (202) 502-8371 or e-mail at public.referenceroom@ferc.gov.

Effective Date

15. These regulations are effective immediately upon publication in the **Federal Register**. In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), the Commission finds that good cause exists to make this Final Rule effective immediately upon publication. It concerns only a matter of procedure affecting formatting of filings.

16. The provisions of 5 U.S.C. 801 regarding Congressional review of Final Rules does not apply to this Final Rule, because the rule concerns agency procedure and practice and will not substantially affect the rights of non-agency parties.

17. The Commission is issuing this as a final rule without a period for public comment. Under 5 U.S.C. 553(b), notice and comment procedures are unnecessary where a rulemaking concerns only agency procedure and practice, or where the agency finds that notice and comment is unnecessary. This rule concerns only a clarification of a matter of agency procedure and will

not significantly affect regulated entities or the general public.

List of Subjects in 18 CFR Part 385

Administrative practice and procedure, Electric utilities, Penalties, Pipelines, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

By the Commission.

Magalie R. Salas,
Secretary.

■ In consideration of the foregoing, the Commission amends part 385, chapter I, title 18, Code of Federal Regulations, as follows.

PART 385—RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

■ 1. The authority citation for part 385 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 551–557; 15 U.S.C. 717–717z; 3301–3432; 16 U.S.C. 791a–825r; 2601–2645; 28 U.S.C. 2461; 31 U.S.C. 3701, 9701; 42 U.S.C. 7101–7352; 49 U.S.C. 60502; 49 App. U.S.C. 1085 (1988).

■ 2. Section 385.203 is amended by revising paragraph (a)(7) to read as follows:

§ 385.203 Content of pleadings and tariff or rate filings (Rule 203).

(a) * * *

(7) The position taken by the participant filing any pleading, to the extent known when the pleading is filed, and the basis in fact and law for such position, including a separate section entitled “Statement of Issues,” listing each issue presented to the Commission in a separately enumerated paragraph that includes representative Commission and court precedent on which the participant is relying; any issue not so listed will be deemed waived;

■ 3. Section 385.713 is amended by revising paragraph (c)(2) to read as follows:

§ 385.713 Request for rehearing (Rule 713).

(c) * * *

(2) Conform to the requirements in Rule 203(a), which are applicable to pleadings, including, but not limited to, the requirement for a separate section entitled “Statement of Issues,” listing each issue in a separately enumerated paragraph that includes representative Commission and court precedent on which the party is relying; any issue not so listed will be deemed waived; and

* * *

[FR Doc. 05–19004 Filed 9–22–05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

32 CFR Part 272

RIN 0790–AH90

Administration and Support Basic Research

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DoD.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This document provides general policy guidance and principles for the conduct of DoD Components' Basic Research programs. It implements a general policy on the support of scientific research that is contained in the 1954 Executive Order 10521, “Administration of Scientific Research by Agencies of the Federal Government,” March 17, 1954. It also implements guiding principles for the government-university research partnership that are contained in Executive Order 13185, “To Strengthen the Federal Government-University Research Partnership.”

DATE: This final rule is effective September 23, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Herbst, (703) 696–0372.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Executive Order 12866

This is a “significant regulatory Action,” as defined in Executive Order 12866, in so far as the Office of Management and Budget reviewed and approved it for publication. This rule will not: (1) Have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more or adversely affect in a material way the economy, a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health or safety, or State, local, or tribal governments or communities; (2) create a serious inconsistency or otherwise interfere with an action taken or planned by another agency; (3) materially alter the budgetary impact of entitlements, grants, user fees, or loan programs or the rights and obligations of recipients thereof; or (4) raise novel legal or policy issues arising out of legal mandates, the President's priorities, or the principles set forth in Executive Order 12866.

Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (5 U.S.C. 605(b))

This regulatory action will not have a significant adverse impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Unfunded Mandates Act of 1995 (Sec. 202, Pub. L. 104-4)

This regulatory action does not contain a Federal mandate that will result in the expenditure by State, local, and tribal governments, in aggregate, or by the private sector of \$100 million or more in any one year.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35)

This regulatory action will not impose any additional reporting or recordkeeping requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Federalism (Executive Order 13132)

This regulatory action does not have Federalism implications, as set forth in Executive Order 13132. It will not have substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.

List of Subjects in 32 CFR Part 272

National defense; Research; Science and technology.

■ Accordingly, Title 32 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter I, Subchapter M is amended by revising part 272 to read as follows:

PART 272—ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT OF BASIC RESEARCH BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Sec.

272.1 Purpose.

272.2 Applicability.

272.3 Definition of basic research.

272.4 Policy.

272.5 Responsibilities.

Appendix A to part 272—Principles for the Conduct and Support of Basic Research.

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 301 and 10 U.S.C. 113.

§ 272.1 Purpose

This part implements the:

(a) Policy on the support of scientific research in Executive Order 10521, “Administration of Scientific Research by Agencies of the Federal Government” (3 CFR, 1954–1958 Comp., p. 183), as amended; and

(b) Guiding principles for the government-university research partnership in Executive Order 13185, “To Strengthen the Federal Government-University Research Partnership” (3 CFR 2000 Comp., p. 341).

§ 272.2 Applicability.

This part applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Departments, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Combatant

Commands, the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities in the Department of Defense (hereafter referred to collectively as the “DoD Components”).

§ 272.3 Definition of basic research.

Basic research is systematic study directed toward greater knowledge or understanding of the fundamental aspects of phenomena and of observable facts without specific applications towards processes or products in mind. It includes all scientific study and experimentation directed toward increasing fundamental knowledge and understanding in those fields of the physical, engineering, environmental, and life sciences related to long-term national security needs. It is farsighted high payoff research that provides the basis for technological progress.

§ 272.4 Policy.

It is DoD policy that:

(a) Basic research is essential to the Department of Defense’s ability to carry out its missions because it is:

(1) A source of new knowledge and understanding that supports DoD acquisition and leads to superior technological capabilities for the military; and

(2) An integral part of the education and training of scientists and engineers critical to meeting future needs of the Nation’s defense workforce.

(b) The Department of Defense shall:

(1) Conduct a vigorous program of high quality basic research in the DoD Component laboratories; and

(2) Support high quality basic research done by institutions of higher education, other nonprofit research institutions, laboratories of other Federal agencies, and industrial research laboratories.

(c) The DoD Components’ conduct and support of basic research shall be consistent with the principles stated in Appendix A to this part.

§ 272.5 Responsibilities.

(a) The Director of Defense Research and Engineering, under the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (USD(AT&L)), shall:

(1) Provide technical leadership and oversight, issue guidance for plans and programs; develop policies; conduct analyses and studies; and make recommendations for DoD basic research.

(2) Recommend approval, modification, or disapproval of the DoD Components’ basic research programs

and projects to eliminate unpromising or unnecessarily duplicative programs, and to stimulate the initiation or support of promising ones.

(3) Recommend, through the USD(AT&L) to the Secretary of Defense, appropriate funding levels for DoD basic research.

(4) Develop and maintain a metrics program to measure and assess the quality and progress for DoD basic research, a required element of which is an independent technical review:

(i) At least biennially; and

(ii) With participation by all the Military Departments and all the other DoD Components that have basic research programs.

(5) Monitor the implementation of this part and issue any additional direction and guidance that may be necessary for that purpose.

(b) The Directors of the Defense Agencies supporting basic research and the Secretaries of the Military Departments, within their organizational purview, shall implement this part.

Appendix A to Part 272—Principles for the Conduct and Support of Basic Research

1. Basic research is an investment. The DoD Components are to view and manage basic research investments as a portfolio, with assessments of program success based on aggregate returns. There should be no expectation that every individual research effort will succeed because basic research essentially is an exploration of the unknown and specific outcomes are not predictable.

2. Basic research is a long-term activity that requires continuity and stability of support. Individual basic research efforts sometimes return immediate dividends, with transitions directly from research laboratories to defense systems in the field. However, most often the full benefits of basic research are not apparent until much later. Therefore, the DoD Components must engage in long-term planning and funding of basic research to the maximum possible extent.

3. Balance is essential in the portfolio of basic research investments. A wide range of scientific and engineering fields is of potential interest to the Department of Defense and the DoD Components. It is important to develop a balanced portfolio that includes investments not only in established research areas with promise for evolutionary advances, but also in areas that entail higher risk and offer potential for revolutionary advances with correspondingly higher benefits.

4. Coordination with other Federal agencies is important. The DoD Components are to consider other Federal agencies’ basic research investments when making investment decisions, both to avoid unintended overlapping of support and to leverage those agencies’ investments as appropriate.

5. Merit review is used to select basic research projects for support. It is crucial that the Department of Defense invest in the highest quality research for defense needs. Merit review relies on the informed advice of qualified individuals who are independent of the individuals proposing to do the research. The principal merit review factors used in selecting among possible projects are technical merit and potential long-term relevance to defense missions.

Dated: September 19, 2005.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 05-18985 Filed 9-22-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-06-M

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[CGD05-05-117]

RIN 1625-AA09

Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Trent River, NC

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Temporary final rule.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is temporarily changing the regulations that govern the operation of the U.S. 70 Bridge across the Trent River, at mile 0.0, at New Bern, NC. This rule allows the bridge to remain in the closed-to-navigation position from 6 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., on October 1, 2005, to facilitate the Neuse River Bridge Run.

DATES: This rule is effective from 6 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on October 1, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Documents indicated in this preamble as being available in the docket, as part of docket CGD05-05-117 and are available for inspection or copying at Commander (obr), Fifth Coast Guard District, Federal Building, 1st Floor, 431 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, Virginia 23704-5004 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is (757) 398-6629. Fifth District maintains the public docket for this rulemaking.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gary S. Heyer, Bridge Management Specialist, Fifth Coast Guard District, at (757) 398-6629.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Good Cause for Not Publishing a NPRM

We did not publish a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) for this regulation. Under 5 U.S.C. 553(b) (B),

the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for not publishing an NPRM. Publishing an NPRM is impracticable and contrary to the public interest as the Neuse River run is scheduled for October 1st, and immediate action is necessary to minimize the potential danger to the public. The bridge closure is a necessary measure to facilitate public safety that allows for the orderly movement of participants and vehicular traffic before, during and after the run.

Good Cause for Making Rule Effective in Less Than 30 Days

Under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for making this rule effective in less than 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**. A 30-day delayed effective date is impracticable and contrary to the public interest as the event is scheduled for October 1, 2005, and immediate action is necessary to ensure public safety and provide for the orderly movement of participants and vehicular traffic during the run.

Background and Purpose

North Carolina Department of Transportation, who owns and operates the drawbridge, has requested a temporary deviation from the operating regulations to facilitate the Neuse River Bridge Run. The run is an annual event, attracting participants from the surrounding cities and states.

The existing regulations are outlined at 33 CFR 117.843(a). The bridge has a vertical clearance of 13 feet at mean high water in the closed position, unlimited vertical clearance in the full open position. The Coast Guard has informed the known users of the waterway of the closure periods for the bridge so that these vessels can arrange their transits to minimize any impact during the Neuse River Bridge Run.

Regulatory Evaluation

This rule is not a "significant regulatory action" under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review, and does not require an assessment of potential costs and benefits under section 6(a)(3) of that Order. The office of Management and Budget has not reviewed it under that Order. It is not "significant" under the regulatory policies and procedures of the Department of Homeland Security. This conclusion is based fact that the Coast Guard has informed the known users of the waterway of this rule and that the mariners can plan their trips in accordance with scheduled closure period.

Small Entities

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601-612), we have considered whether this rule would have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The term "small entities" comprises small businesses, not-for-profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in their fields, and governmental jurisdictions with populations of less than 50,000.

The Coast Guard certifies under 5 U.S.C. 605(b) that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. This conclusion is based on the fact that the Coast Guard has informed the know users of the waterway, which consist mostly of recreational boaters and fisherman, of this rule and that the mariners can plan their trips in accordance with scheduled closure period.

Assistance for Small Entities

Under section 213(a) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-121), we offered to assist small entities in understanding the rule so that they could better evaluate its effects on them and participate in the rulemaking process.

Small businesses may send comments on the actions of Federal employees who enforce, or otherwise determine compliance with, Federal regulations to the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and the Regional Small Business Regulatory Fairness Boards. The Ombudsman evaluates these actions annually and rates each agency's responsiveness to small business. If you wish to comment on actions by employees of the Coast Guard, call 1-888-REG-FAIR (1-888-734-3247).

Collection of Information

This rule calls for no new collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520).

Federalism

A rule has implications for federalism under Executive Order 13132, Federalism, if it has a substantial direct effect on State or local governments and would either preempt State law or impose a substantial direct cost of compliance on them. We have analyzed this rule under that Order and have determined that it does not have implications for federalism.