

[FR Doc. 00-3237 Filed 2-10-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 1410-31-P

POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 111

Loading Requirements for PVDS Mailings

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The Postal Service published in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 72044-45) a proposed revision to the Domestic Mail Manual to require that if Periodicals mail is on the same vehicle as Standard Mail prepared for Plant Verified Drop Shipment (PVDS), then the Periodicals mail must be loaded toward the tail end of the vehicle so that, for each destination entry, Periodicals mail can be offloaded first. The Postal Service is extending the comment period for this proposed rule.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before March 15, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be mailed or delivered to the Manager, Mail Preparation and Standards, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 6800, Washington DC 20260-2405. Fax: (202) 268-4336. Copies of all written comments will be available for inspection and photocopying at USPS Headquarters Library, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, 11th Floor N, Washington DC 20260-1540 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lynn Martin, (202) 268-6351 or Anne Emmerth, (202) 268-2363.

Stanley F. Mires,
Chief Counsel, Legislative.

[FR Doc. 00-3158 Filed 2-10-00; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Parts 445

[FRL 6535-5]

Effluent Limitations Guidelines, Pretreatment Standards, and New Source Performance Standards for the Metal Products and Machinery Point Source Category; Announcement of Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice; announcement of meeting.

SUMMARY: EPA will conduct a public meeting on the upcoming Metal Products and Machinery proposed rulemaking on March 3, 2000, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Office of Science and Technology within EPA's Office of Water is holding the public meeting in order to inform all interested parties of the current status of the Metal Products and Machinery (MP&M) effluent guideline. EPA intends to propose effluent limitations guidelines and standards for the MP&M industrial category in October 2000. The meeting is intended to be a forum in which EPA can report on the status of the rulemaking and interested parties can provide information and ideas to the Agency on key technical, economic, and implementation issues.

The meeting is open to the public, and limited seating for the public is available on a first-come, first-served basis. For information on the location and directions, see the **ADDRESSES** section below.

DATES: EPA will conduct a public meeting on the upcoming Metal Products and Machinery proposed rulemaking on March 3, 2000, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The Metal Products and Machinery public meeting will be held at the National Wildlife Visitor Center Auditorium of the Patuxent Research Refuge, 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD (301) 497-5760; "http://www.prr.r5.fws.gov/vclocation.html". Directions are as follows: *From Washington, D.C.* take Baltimore-Washington Parkway North (I-295N) to the Powder Mill Road exit. Turn right (East) onto Powder Mill Road. Go 1.9 miles and turn right into Visitor Center entrance (Scarlet Tanager Loop). Go 1.3 miles to parking lot. *From Baltimore* take Baltimore/Washington Parkway South (I-295S) to the Powder Mill Road exit. Turn left (East) onto Powder Mill Road. Go 1.9 miles and turn right into Visitor Center entrance (Scarlet Tanager Loop). Go 1.3 miles to parking lot.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shari Barash, Office of Water (4303), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460; telephone (202) 260-7130; email: barash.shari@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA is developing proposed effluent limitations guidelines and standards for the MP&M Point Source Category under authority of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et. seq.). The MP&M effluent limitations guidelines and standards proposal will apply to facilities that manufacture, rebuild, or maintain finished metal parts, products, or machines. The 18 industrial sectors

which are being examined for the MP&M regulation include the following: Aerospace; Aircraft; Bus & Truck; Electronic Equipment; Hardware; Household Equipment; Instruments; Metal Finishing and Electroplating Job Shops; Mobile Industrial Equipment; Motor Vehicles; Office Machines; Ordnance; Precious and Non-precious Metals; Railroad; Ships & Boats; Stationary Industrial Equipment; Printed Circuit Boards; and Other Metal Products. The meeting will provide an update on the development of the proposed rule to interested parties. EPA will provide an overview of the development of the regulation including a discussion of the data collection efforts, the potential treatment technology options, the potential subcategorization of industry segments, and the schedule for the MP&M rulemaking. The meeting will not be recorded by a reporter or transcribed for inclusion in the record for the MP&M rulemaking.

Documents related to the topics mentioned above and a more detailed agenda will be available at the meeting. For those unable to attend the meeting, a document summary will be available following the meeting and can be obtained by an e-mail or telephone request to Shari Barash at the previously mentioned address.

Dated: February 7, 2000.

Geoffrey H. Grubbs,

Director, Office of Science and Technology.

[FR Doc. 00-3215 Filed 2-10-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 25

[DA 00-222; Docket No. 99-81; RM-9328]

Authorization of 2 GHz Mobile Satellite Service Systems

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed Rules: Supplemental Comments.

SUMMARY: By this Public Notice, the Chief of the Federal Communications Commission's International Bureau seeks supplemental comment on authorizing 2 GHz Mobile Satellite Service (MSS) systems using a processing alternative that combines elements of the traditional band arrangement with the negotiated entry approach. This alternative is intended to provide incentives for MSS operators to expedite implementation of their

systems, while maximizing their flexibility during the incumbent relocation process.

DATES: Supplemental Comments on or before February 17, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Send Supplemental Comments to the Commission's Secretary, Magalie Roman Salas, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW, TW-A325, Washington, DC 20554. See Supplementary Information for information about electronic filing.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chris Murphy, Satellite Policy Branch, (202) 418-2373, or Howard Griboff, Satellite Policy Branch, at (202) 418-0657.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the *2 GHz MSS Notice*, the Commission sought comment on four spectrum assignment methodologies that could accommodate all nine Mobile Satellite Service (MSS) systems proposed in the 1990-2025/2165-2200 MHz frequency bands (2 GHz MSS).¹ The first is a "flexible band arrangement," in which the Commission would grant each proposed system 2.5 MHz in uplink and downlink spectrum, group systems in segments based on the particular technology used, and provide expansion spectrum between the assigned segments for additional system requirements.² In the second option, called the "negotiated entry" approach, the Commission would license all proposed systems across the entire band and allow the operators themselves to coordinate their operations, with the Commission being available to resolve disputes.³ In the third proposal, the "traditional band arrangement," the Commission would divide the spectrum equally and assign or designate the spectrum blocks to the proposed systems using system design as a function of spectrum allocation (*i.e.*, a CDMA-NGSO block, a TDMA-GSO block, etc.).⁴ The fourth option proposed to auction licenses in the event that none of the preceding three options is viable.⁵ The Commission also reserved the option of adopting a hybrid solution arising from the options described.⁶

The Commission received significant comment on the four proposed methodologies. By this Public Notice, the International Bureau seeks to augment the record on certain issues not directly addressed by commenters. Specifically, we seek additional comment on a hybrid processing alternative, combining elements of the traditional band arrangement with the negotiated entry approach. This new alternative is intended to provide incentives for MSS operators to expedite implementation of their systems, while maximizing their flexibility during the incumbent relocation process.⁷

In this alternative methodology, the Commission would subdivide the 2 GHz MSS uplink and downlink bands into distinct segments of equal bandwidth, with each segment representing an operator's "home" spectrum assignment in the band. Rather than assigning each segment according to system design, as proposed in the traditional band arrangement, each operator would be permitted to select from the then-available spectrum segments by submitting a request for its desired assignment once the first satellite in its system reaches its intended orbit. This mechanism is designed to provide market-based incentives for MSS operators to implement service quickly, since early entry may determine whether a system can choose its preferred "home" segment.

In addition to authorizing each system to a "home" spectrum segment, the Commission would authorize each satellite operator to provide service anywhere in the 2 GHz MSS spectrum, subject to inter-system coordination. In this regard, this part of the proposal is similar to the negotiated entry approach proposed in the *2 GHz MSS Notice*. The primary differences, however, are that under the new approach, operators would be permitted to use spectrum outside their "home" assignment only on a secondary basis with respect to other MSS operators, and an operator's total spectrum use would be limited to the same amount of spectrum that is authorized in the "home" segment. In the event that a later entrant selects spectrum for its "home" assignment that is being used by an earlier entrant, the earlier entrant would be required to move to other available spectrum or return to its "home" spectrum assignment. This part of the proposal is designed to allow systems to begin providing service in any available

frequencies of the 2 GHz MSS band during the incumbent relocation process, and facilitate inter-system coordination in the band when later systems implement.

We seek comment on these modifications to the traditional band arrangement and negotiated entry approach, and on implementing this hybrid spectrum assignment methodology. We also seek comment on whether these modifications would serve the public interest by providing additional incentives for MSS operators to expedite implementation of their systems.

Procedural Matters

Pursuant to §§ 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 1.415, 1.419, interested parties may file Supplemental Comments limited to the issues addressed in this Public Notice no later than February 17, 2000. In view of the pendency of this proceeding, we expect to adhere to the schedule set forth in this Public Notice and do not contemplate granting extensions of time. Supplemental Comments should reference IB Docket No. 99-81 and should include the DA number shown on this Public Notice. Supplemental Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS).⁸ Supplemental Comments filed through the ECFS can be sent as an electronic file via Internet to <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>. In completing the transmittal screen, parties responding should include their full name, mailing address, and the applicable docket number, IB Docket No. 99-81.

In the *2 GHz MSS Notice*, the Commission presented an Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis,⁹ as required by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA).¹⁰ If commenters believe that the proposals discussed in this Public Notice require additional RFA analysis, they should include a discussion of these issues in their Supplemental Comments.

For *ex parte* purposes, this proceeding continues to be a "permit-but-disclose" proceeding, in accordance with § 1.1200(a) of the Commission's rules, and is subject to the requirements set forth in § 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules.

¹ *The Establishment of Policies and Service Rules for the Mobile Satellite System in the 2 GHz Band*, IB Docket No. 99-81, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 14 FCC Rcd 4843, 4857-64 paras. 26-48 (1999); 64 FR 16880 (April 7, 1999) (*2 GHz MSS Notice*).

² *Id.* at 4858-61 paras. 31-39.

³ *Id.* at 4861-62 paras. 40-43.

⁴ *Id.* at 4863 paras. 44-45.

⁵ *Id.* at 4863-64 paras. 46-48.

⁶ *Id.* at 4858 paras. 30.

⁷ *See id.* at 4892 paras. 112-113 (seeking comment on how incumbent relocation may affect the ultimate choice of 2 GHz MSS spectrum assignment methods).

⁸ *See Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceeding*, 63 FR 24121 (May 1, 1998).

⁹ *2 GHz MSS Notice*, 14 FCC Rcd at 4895-97, Section V.B.

¹⁰ *See* 5 U.S.C. 603. The RFA, *see* 5 U.S.C. 601 *et. seq.*, has been amended by the Contract With America Advancement Act of 1996, Public Law No. 104-121, 110 Stat. 847 (1996) (CWAAA). Title II of the CWAAA is the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (SBREFA).

For further information, please contact: Chris Murphy, Satellite Policy Branch, (202) 418-2373, or Howard Griboff, Satellite Policy Branch, at (202) 418-0657.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 25

Satellites.

Federal Communications Commission.

Anna M. Gomez,

Deputy Chief, International Bureau.

[FR Doc. 00-3332 Filed 2-10-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AF89

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Proposed Endangered Status for the Ohlone Tiger Beetle (*Cicindela ohlone*)

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), propose endangered status pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended, for the Ohlone tiger beetle (*Cicindela ohlone*). This species is endemic to Santa Cruz County, California, and is threatened by habitat fragmentation and destruction due to urban development, habitat degradation due to invasion of nonnative vegetation, and vulnerability to local extirpations from random natural events. This proposal, if made final, would extend the Federal protection and recovery provisions of the Act to this species.

DATES: Comments from all interested parties received by April 11, 2000 will be considered. Public hearing requests must be received by March 27, 2000.

ADDRESSES: If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments and materials concerning this proposal by any one of several methods.

(1) You may submit written comments to the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, California 93003.

(2) You may send comments by e-mail to ohlonetigerbeetle@r1.fws.gov. Please submit these comments as an ASCII file and avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include "Attn: [RIN 1018-AF89]" and your name and return address in your e-mail message. If you do not receive a

confirmation from the system that we have received your e-mail message, contact us directly by calling our Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office at phone number 805/644-1766.

(3) You may hand-deliver comments to our Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, California 93003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Colleen Sculley, invertebrate biologist, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, at the above address (telephone 805/644-1766; facsimile 805/644-3958).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Ohlone tiger beetle (*Cicindela ohlone*) is a member of the Coleopteran family Cicindelidae (tiger beetles), which includes over 2,000 species worldwide and over 100 species in the United States (Pearson and Cassola 1992). Tiger beetles are day-active, predatory insects that prey on small arthropods. Because many tiger beetles often feed on insect species that are injurious to man and crops, they are regarded as beneficial (Pearson and Cassola 1992; Nagano 1982). Adult tiger beetles are medium-sized, elongate beetles characterized by their usually brilliant metallic green, blue, red, and yellow coloration highlighted by stripes and spots. Adults are ferocious, swift, and agile predators that seize small prey with powerful sickle-shaped jaws.

Tiger beetle larvae are also predatory. They live in small vertical or slanting burrows from which they lunge and seize passing invertebrate prey (Essig 1926; Essig 1942; Pearson 1988). When a prey item passes near a burrow, the larva grasps the prey with its strong mandibles (mouthparts) and pulls it into the burrow, and once inside the burrow, the larva will feed on the captured prey (Essig 1942; Pearson 1988). Tiger beetles share similar larval body forms throughout the world (Pearson and Cassola 1992). The larvae, either white, yellowish, or dusky in coloration, are grub-like and fossorial (subterranean), with a hook-like appendage on the fifth abdominal segment that anchors the larvae inside their burrows.

Tiger beetle larvae undergo three instars (larval development stages). This period can take 1 to 4 years, but a 2-year period is the most common (Pearson 1988). After mating, the tiger beetle female excavates a hole in the soil and oviposits (lays) a single egg (Pearson 1988; Kaulbars and Freitag 1993; Grey Hayes, University of California, Santa Cruz, pers. comm. 1998). Females of many species of *Cicindela* are extremely specific in choice of soil type for

oviposition (egg laying) (Pearson 1988). It is not known at this time how many eggs the Ohlone tiger beetle female lays, but other species of *Cicindela* are known to lay between 1 and 14 eggs per female (mean range 3.7 to 7.7), depending on the species (Kaulbars and Freitag 1993). After the larva emerges from the egg and becomes hardened, it enlarges the chamber that contained the egg into a tunnel (Pearson 1988). Before pupation (transformation process from larva to adult), the third instar larva will plug the burrow entrance and dig a chamber for pupation. After pupation, the adult tiger beetle will dig out of the soil and emerge. Reproduction may either begin soon after emergence or be delayed (Pearson 1988).

Tiger beetles are a well-studied taxonomic group with a large body of scientific literature; the journal *Cicindela* is devoted exclusively to tiger beetles. Scientists have studied the diversity and ecological specialization of tiger beetles, and amateur collectors have long been attracted by their bright coloration and swift movements. Tiger beetle species occur in many different habitats including riparian habitats, beaches, dunes, woodlands, grasslands, and other open areas (Pearson 1988; Knisley and Hill 1992). A common habitat component appears to be open sunny areas for hunting and thermoregulation (an adaptive behavior to use sunlight or shade to regulate body temperature) (Knisley *et al.* 1990; Knisley and Hill 1992). Individual species of tiger beetle are generally highly habitat-specific because of oviposition and larval sensitivity to soil moisture, composition, and temperature (Pearson 1988; Pearson and Cassola 1992; Kaulbars and Freitag 1993).

The Ohlone tiger beetle is endemic to Santa Cruz County, California, where it is known only from coastal terraces supporting remnant patches of native grassland habitat. Specimens of this species were first collected northwest of the City of Santa Cruz, California, in 1987, and were first described in 1993 (Freitag *et al.* 1993). Both male and female specimens have been collected.

The adult Ohlone tiger beetle is a relatively small beetle measuring 9.5 to 12.5 millimeters (mm) (0.37 to 0.49 inches (in)) long. The adults have large, prominent eyes and metallic green elytra (leathery forewings) with small light spots (Freitag *et al.* 1993). Their legs are long, slender, and coppery-green. Freitag *et al.* (1993) describe features that distinguish this species from closely related species of *Cicindela purpurea* and other *purpurea* group taxa.