

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 112

[FRL-7437-3]

RIN 2050-AC62

Oil Pollution Prevention and Response; Non-Transportation-Related Onshore and Offshore Facilities

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Interim final rule.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or we) is extending for a period of sixty days the dates for a facility to amend its Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan and implement the amended Plan (or, in the case of facilities becoming operational after August 16, 2002, prepare and implement a Plan that complies with the newly amended requirements). We are taking this action to avoid the flood of individual extension requests it has become apparent we will otherwise receive from regulated facilities, and to allow for adequate consideration of comments we expect to receive on a proposed one-year extension of the dates published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**.

DATES: This interim final rule is effective on January 9, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The docket for this rulemaking is located in the EPA Docket Center at 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., EPA West, Suite B-102, Washington, DC 20460. The docket number for the final rule is OPA-2002-001. The docket is contained in the EPA Docket Center and is available for inspection by appointment only, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. You may make an appointment to view the docket by calling 202-566-0276. You may copy a maximum of 100 pages from any regulatory docket at no cost. If the number of pages exceeds 100, however, we will charge you \$0.15 for each page after 100. The docket will mail copies of materials to you if you are outside of the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information, contact the RCRA/CERCLA Call Center at 800-424-9346 or TDD 800-553-7672 (hearing impaired). In the Washington, DC metropolitan area, call 703-412-9810 or TDD 703-412-3323. For more detailed information on specific aspects of this rule, contact Hugo Paul Fleischman at 703-603-8769 (fleischman.hugo@epa.gov); or Mark W. Howard at 703-603-8715 (howard.markw@epa.gov), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460-0002, Mail Code 5203G.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The contents of this preamble are as follows:

- I. General Information
- II. Entities Affected by This Rule
- III. Statutory Authority
- IV. Background
- V. Today's Action
- VI. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

I. General Information

Introduction. By this interim final rule, the Environmental Protection Agency is extending by sixty days the dates in 40 CFR 112.3(a) and (b) for a facility to amend its Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan and implement the amended Plan (or, in the case of facilities becoming operational after August 16, 2002, prepare and implement a Plan that complies with the newly amended requirements). During the period of this sixty-day extension, it will not be necessary for a facility owner or operator to file an extension request pursuant to § 112.3(f). Furthermore, for facilities that have already applied for an extension pursuant to § 112.3(f), today's interim final rule should render such requests moot.

A. How Can I Get Copies of the Background Materials Supporting Today's Interim Final Rule or Other Related Information?

1. EPA has established an official public docket for this interim final rule under Docket ID No. OPA-2002-001. The official public docket consists of the documents specifically referenced in this interim final rule and other information related to this interim final rule. Although a part of the official

docket, the public docket does not include Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. The official public docket is the collection of materials that is available for public viewing at the EPA Docket Center located at 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., EPA West Building, Room B-102, Washington, DC 20004. This Docket Facility is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. To review docket materials, it is recommended that the public make an appointment by calling (202) 566-0276. The public may copy a maximum of 100 pages from any regulatory docket at no charge. Additional copies cost \$0.15/page.

2. **Electronic Access.** You may access this **Federal Register** document electronically through the EPA Internet under the "**Federal Register**" listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr>.

You may use EPA Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket/> to access the index listing of the contents of the official public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically. Once in the system, select "search," then key in the docket identification number.

Certain types of information will not be placed in the EPA Dockets. Information claimed as CBI, and other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute, which is not included in the official public docket, will not be available for public viewing in EPA's electronic public docket. EPA's policy is that copyrighted material will not be placed in EPA's electronic public docket but will be available only in printed, paper form in the official public docket. To the extent feasible, publicly available docket materials will be made available in EPA's electronic public docket. When a document is selected from the index list in EPA Dockets, the system will identify whether the document is available for viewing in EPA's electronic public docket. Although not all docket materials may be available electronically, you may still access any of the publicly available docket materials through the docket facility identified above.

II. Entities Affected by This Rule

Industry category	NAICS code
Crop and Animal Production	111-112
Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Extraction	211111
Coal Mining, Non-Metallic Mineral Mining and Quarrying	2121/2123/213114/213116
Electric Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution	2211
Heavy Construction	234
Petroleum and Coal Products Manufacturing	324
Other Manufacturing	31-33

Industry category	NAICS code
Petroleum Bulk Stations and Terminals	42271
Automotive Rental and Leasing	5321
Heating Oil Dealers	454311
Transportation (including Pipelines), Warehousing, and Marinas	482–486/488112–48819/4883/ 48849/492–493/71393
Elementary and Secondary Schools, Colleges	6111–6113
Hospitals/Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	622–623

The list of potentially affected entities in the above table may not be exhaustive. Our aim is to provide a guide for readers regarding those entities that EPA is aware potentially could be affected by this action. However, this action may affect other entities not listed in the table. If you have questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the person listed in the preceding section entitled **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

III. Statutory Authority

33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*; 33 U.S.C. 2720; E.O. 12777 (October 18, 1991), 3 CFR, 1991 Comp., p. 351

IV. Background

On July 17, 2002, at 67 FR 47042, EPA published final amendments to the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) rule. The rule was effective August 16, 2002. The rule included dates in § 112.3(a) and (b), by which a facility would have time to amend its SPCC Plan and implement its amended Plan (note that for facilities becoming operational after August 16, 2002, the rule contains dates for the preparation and implementation of a Plan in compliance with the amended rule). In light of new information, we have decided to extend those dates for a period of sixty days.

V. Today's Action

EPA is extending for a period of sixty days the dates in § 112.3(a) and (b). Since the promulgation of the SPCC rule in July 2002, EPA has received numerous complaints that the deadlines in the rule do not allow enough time for the regulated community to undertake the actions necessary to update (or prepare) their Plans in accordance with the amendments. Among the reasons given are that there is a shortage of Professional Engineers (PEs) in some areas, the need for the PE or his agent to make visits at sometimes remote facilities, and the need for the PE to certify that Plans meet requirements for which they have not yet had adequate training. It has also become apparent that unless the Agency issues this interim final rule, we will receive an

overwhelming number of requests for individual extensions under 40 CFR 112.3(f). Thus, the Agency believes that the present compliance dates are too short, and it would be an inefficient use of scarce Agency resources to address this problem by processing a great number of individual extension requests. Because the first deadline in the rule is February 17, 2003, the Agency believes that immediate, near-term relief is needed, and is therefore extending the current deadlines by sixty days.

We are issuing this interim final rule in conjunction with a concurrent proposal (published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**) to extend by one year the dates in § 112.3(a) and (b). We believe a sixty-day extension is needed as quickly as possible to avoid potential confusion for facility owners and unnecessary administrative burdens on the Agency. Therefore, EPA is invoking the good cause exception under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) in not providing an opportunity for comment before this action takes effect (5 U.S.C. 553(b)(3)). EPA believes that notice- and comment rulemaking before the existing compliance dates in the SPCC rule (*i.e.*, February 17, 2003) is impracticable and contrary to the public interest, inasmuch as there is insufficient time to offer meaningful opportunity for public comment and provide appropriate, considered response by the Agency. Therefore, EPA believes it is necessary to use the interim final rulemaking process to extend by sixty days the compliance dates in § 112.3(a) and (b) while we complete a notice-and-comment rulemaking process that proposes to extend these compliance dates for a period of one year. Moreover, with respect to the effective date of this interim final rule, EPA is invoking the good cause exception to the 30-day notice requirement of the APA because the purpose of this notice is to relieve a restriction (5 U.S.C. 553(d)(1)).

VI. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

A. Executive Order 12866—OMB Review

Under Executive Order 12866, (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993), the Agency must determine whether a regulatory action is “significant” and therefore subject to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review and the requirements of the Executive Order. The order defines “significant regulatory action” as one that is likely to result in a rule that may:

- (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 the Executive Order.

Under the terms of Executive Order 12866, it has been determined that this interim final rule is not a “significant regulatory action” because it would only extend for sixty days the compliance dates in § 112.3(a) and (b). It would have no other substantive effect.

B. Paperwork Reduction Act

This interim final rule does not impose an information collection burden under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

C. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (R.F.A.) as amended by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (SBREFA), 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.* generally requires an agency to prepare a regulatory flexibility analysis of any rule subject to notice and comment rulemaking requirements

under the Administrative Procedure Act or any other statute unless the agency certifies that the rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. Small entities include small businesses, small organizations, and small governmental jurisdictions.

For purposes of assessing the impacts of today's interim final rule on small entities, small entity is defined as: (1) A small business as defined in the Small Business Administration's (SBA) regulations at 13 CFR 121.201—the SBA defines small businesses by category of business using North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes, and in the case of farms and production facilities, which constitute a large percentage of the facilities affected by this rule, generally defines small businesses as having less than \$500,000 in revenues or 500 employees, respectively; (2) a small governmental jurisdiction that is a government of a city, county, town, school district or special district with a population of less than 50,000; and (3) a small organization that is any not-for-profit enterprise which is independently owned and operated and is not dominant in its field.

In determining whether a rule has a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities, the impact of concern is any significant *adverse* economic impact on small entities, since the primary purpose of the regulatory flexibility analyses is to identify and address regulatory alternatives “which minimize any significant economic impact of the proposed rule on small entities.” 5 U.S.C. 603 and 604. Thus, an agency may certify that a rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities if the rule relieves regulatory burden, or otherwise has a positive economic effect on all of the small entities subject to the rule. This interim final rule will temporarily reduce regulatory burden on all facilities by extending for sixty days the compliance dates in § 112.3(a) and (b). Further, the interim final rule will reduce costs for both existing and new facilities.

After considering the economic impacts of today's interim final rule on small entities, I certify that this action would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

D. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

Title II of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA), Public Law 104–4, establishes requirements for Federal agencies to assess the effects of

their regulatory actions on State, local, and tribal governments and the private sector. Under section 202 of UMRA, EPA generally must prepare a written statement, including a cost-benefit analysis, for proposed and final rules with “Federal mandates” that may result in expenditures to State, local, and tribal governments, in the aggregate, or to the private sector, of \$100 million or more in any one year. Before promulgating an EPA rule for which a written statement is needed, section 205 of UMRA generally requires EPA to identify and consider a reasonable number of regulatory alternatives and adopt the least costly, most cost-effective or least burdensome alternative that achieves the objectives of the rule. The provisions of section 205 do not apply when they are inconsistent with applicable law. Moreover, section 205 allows EPA to adopt an alternative other than the least costly, most-effective or least burdensome alternative if the Administrator publishes with the final rule an explanation why that alternative was not adopted.

Before EPA establishes any regulatory requirements that may significantly or uniquely affect small governments, including tribal governments, it must have developed under section 203 of UMRA a small government agency plan. The plan must provide for notifying potentially affected small governments, enabling officials of affected small governments to have meaningful and timely input in the development of EPA regulatory proposals with significant Federal intergovernmental mandates, and informing, educating, and advising small governments on compliance with the regulatory requirements.

EPA has determined that this interim final rule does not contain a Federal mandate that may result in expenditures of \$100 million or more for State, local, and tribal governments, in the aggregate, or the private sector in any one year. Today's interim final rule would reduce burden and costs on all facilities.

EPA has determined that this rule contains no regulatory requirements that might significantly or uniquely affect small governments. As explained above, the effect of the rule would be to reduce burden and costs for regulated facilities, including small governments that are subject to the rule.

E. Executive Order 13132—Federalism

Executive Order 13132, entitled “Federalism” (64 FR 43255, August 10, 1999), requires EPA to develop an accountable process to ensure “meaningful and timely input by State and local officials in the development of regulatory policies that have federalism

implications.” “Policies that have federalism implications” is defined in the Executive Order to include regulations that 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.”

This interim final rule does not have federalism implications. It would 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, as specified in Executive Order 13132. Under CWA section 311(o), EPA believes that States are free to impose additional requirements, including more stringent requirements, relating to the prevention of oil discharges to navigable waters. EPA encourages States to supplement the federal SPCC program and recognizes that some States have more stringent requirements. 56 FR 54612 (October 22, 1991). This interim final rule would not preempt state law or regulations. Thus, Executive Order 13132 does not apply to this rule.

F. Executive Order 13175—Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments

On November 6, 2000, the President issued Executive Order 13175 (65 FR 67249) entitled, “Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments.” Executive Order 13175 took effect on January 6, 2001, and revokes Executive Order 13084 (Tribal Consultation) as of that date.

Today's interim final rule would not significantly or uniquely affect communities of Indian tribal governments. Therefore, we have not consulted with a representative organization of tribal groups.

G. Executive Order 13045—Protection of Children From Environmental Health & Safety Risks

Executive Order 13045, “Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks” (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997), applies to any rule that: (1) Is determined to be “economically significant” as defined under Executive Order 12866; and, (2) concerns an environmental health or safety risk that EPA has reason to believe may have a disproportionate effect on children. If the regulatory action meets both criteria, the Agency must evaluate the environmental health or safety effects of the planned rule on children, and explain why the planned regulation is preferable to other potentially effective

and reasonably feasible alternatives considered by the Agency. EPA interprets Executive Order 13045 as applying only to those regulatory actions that are based on health or safety risks, such that the analysis required under section 5–501 of the Order has the potential to influence the regulation. This interim final rule is not subject to Executive Order 13045 because it is not economically significant as defined in Executive Order 12866, and because the Agency does not have reason to believe the environmental health or safety risks addressed by this action present a disproportionate risk to children.

H. Executive Order 13211—Actions That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use

This interim final rule is not a “significant energy action” as defined in Executive Order 13211, “Actions Concerning Regulations That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use” (66 FR 28355, May 22, 2001) because it is not likely to have a significant adverse effect on the supply, distribution, or use of energy.

I. National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act

Section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (“NTTAA”), Public Law 104–113, section 12(d) (15 U.S.C. 272 note) directs EPA to use voluntary consensus standards in its regulatory activities unless to do so would be inconsistent with applicable law or otherwise impractical. Voluntary consensus standards are technical standards such as materials specifications, test methods, sampling procedures, and business practices that are developed or adopted by voluntary consensus standards bodies. The

NTTAA directs EPA to provide Congress, through OMB, explanations when the Agency decides not to use available and applicable voluntary consensus standards.

This interim final rule does not involve technical standards. Therefore, NTTA is inapplicable.

J. Congressional Review Act

The Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*, as added by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, generally provides that before a rule may take effect, the agency promulgating the rule must submit a rule report, which includes a copy of the rule, to each House of Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States. EPA has submitted a report containing this rule and other required information to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States prior to publication of the rule in the **Federal Register**. This action is not a “major rule” as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 112

Environmental protection, Oil pollution, Penalties, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: January 3, 2003.

Christine Todd Whitman,
Administrator.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, title 40 CFR, chapter I, part 112 of the Code of Federal Regulations, is amended as follows:

PART 112—OIL POLLUTION PREVENTION

1. The authority for part 112 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*; 33 U.S.C. 2720; E.O. 12777 (October 18, 1991), 3 CFR, 1991 Comp., p. 351.

2. Section 112.3 is amended by revising paragraphs (a) and (b) to read as follows:

PART 112—OIL POLLUTION PREVENTION

Subpart A—Applicability, Definitions, and General Requirements for All Facilities and All Types of Oils

§ 112.3 Requirement to prepare and implement a spill prevention, control, and countermeasure plan.

(a) If your onshore or offshore facility was in operation on or before August 16, 2002, you must maintain your Plan, but must amend it, if necessary to ensure compliance with this part, on or before April 17, 2003, and must implement the amended Plan as soon as possible, but not later than October 18, 2003. If your onshore or offshore facility becomes operational after August 16, 2002, through October 18, 2003, and could reasonably be expected to have a discharge as described in § 112.1(b), you must prepare a Plan on or before October 18, 2003, and fully implement it as soon as possible, but not later than October 18, 2003.

(b) If you are the owner or operator of an onshore or offshore facility that becomes operational after October 18, 2003, and could reasonably be expected to have a discharge as described in § 112.1(b), you must prepare and implement a Plan before you begin operations.

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[FR Doc. 03–390 Filed 1–8–03; 8:45 am]

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