

Reform, to minimize litigation, eliminate ambiguity, and reduce burden.

Protection of Children

We have analyzed this proposed rule under Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks. This rule is not an economically significant rule and does not concern an environmental risk to health or risk to safety that may disproportionately affect children.

Environment

We considered the environmental impact of this proposed rule and concluded that, under figure 2-1, paragraph 34(g), of Commandant Instruction M16475.1C, this proposed rule is categorically excluded from further environmental documentation. This proposed rule fits paragraph 34(g) as it establishes a safety zone. A "Categorical Exclusion Determination" is available in the docket where indicated under **ADDRESSES**.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 165

Harbors, Marine safety, Navigation (water), Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Security measures, Waterways.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard proposes to amend 33 CFR part 165 as follows:

PART 165—REGULATED NAVIGATION AREAS AND LIMITED ACCESS AREAS

1. The authority citation for part 165 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1231; 50 U.S.C. 191; 33 CFR 1.05-1(g), 6.04-1, 6.04-6, 160.5; 49 CFR 1.46.

2. Add § 165.170 to read as follows:

§ 165.170 Safety Zone: Triathlon, Ulster Landing, Hudson River, NY.

(a) *Regulated area.* The following area is a safety zone: All waters of the Hudson River, in the vicinity of Ulster Landing, bound by the following points: 42°00'03.7" N 073°56'43.1" W, thence to 41°59'52.5" N 073°56'34.2" W, thence to 42°00'15.1" N 073°56'25.2" W, thence to 42°00'05.4" N 073°56'41.9" W (NAD 1983), thence along the shoreline to the point of beginning.

(b) *Effective period.* This section is in effect annually from 6 a.m. (e.s.t.) until 9 a.m. (e.s.t.) on the first Sunday after July 4th.

(c) *Regulations.* (1) The general regulations contained in 33 CFR 165.23 apply.

(2) No vessels will be allowed to transit the safety zone without the

permission of the Captain of the Port, New York.

(3) All persons and vessels shall comply with the instructions of the Coast Guard Captain of the Port or the designated on-scene patrol personnel. These personnel comprise commissioned, warrant, and petty officers of the Coast Guard. Upon being hailed by a U. S. Coast Guard vessel by siren, radio, flashing light, or other means, the operator of a vessel shall proceed as directed.

Dated: January 16, 2001.

R.E. Bennis,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port, New York.

[FR Doc. 01-5114 Filed 3-1-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 165

[CGD01-01-015]

RIN 2115-AA97

Safety Zone: Queens Millennium Concert Fireworks, East River, NY

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard proposes to establish a temporary safety zone for the Queens Millennium Concert Fireworks on the East River. This action is necessary to provide for the safety of life on navigable waters during the event. This action is intended to restrict vessel traffic in a portion of the East River.

DATES: Comments and related material must reach the Coast Guard on or before April 1, 2001.

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments and related material to Waterways Oversight Branch (CGD01-01-015), Coast Guard Activities New York, 212 Coast Guard Drive, room 204, Staten Island, New York 10305. The Waterways Oversight Branch of Coast Guard Activities New York maintains the public docket for this rulemaking. Comments and material received from the public, as well as documents indicated in this preamble as being available in the docket, will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at room 204, Coast Guard Activities New York, between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lieutenant M. Day, Waterways Oversight Branch, Coast Guard Activities New York (718) 354-4012.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Request for Comments

We encourage you to participate in this rulemaking by submitting comments and related material. If you do so, please include your name and address, identify the docket number for this rulemaking (CGD01-01-015), indicate the specific section of this document to which each comment applies, and give the reason for each comment. Please submit all comments and related material in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying. If you would like to know they reached us, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope. We will consider all comments and material received during the comment period. We may change this proposed rule in view of them.

Public Meeting

We do not now plan to hold a public meeting. But you may submit a request for a meeting by writing to the Waterways Oversight Branch at the address under **ADDRESSES** explaining why one would be beneficial. If we determine that one would aid this rulemaking, we will hold one at a time and place announced by a later notice in the **Federal Register**.

Background and Purpose

The Coast Guard proposes to establish a temporary safety zone for the Queens Millennium Concert Fireworks on the East River. The safety zone encompasses all waters of the East River, within a 180-yard radius of the fireworks barge in approximate position 40°44'43.3"N 073°57'43.2"W, about 240 yards east of Belmont Island.

The proposed safety zone is effective from 9 p.m. (e.s.t.) until 10:30 p.m. (e.s.t.) on May 19, 2001. There is no rain date for this event. The proposed safety zone prevents vessels from transiting a portion of the East River. It is needed to protect boaters from the hazards associated with fireworks launched from a barge in the area. Marine traffic will still be able to transit to the west of Belmont Island through the western 340 yards of the East River. Additionally, vessels will not be precluded from mooring at or getting underway from recreational or commercial piers in the vicinity of the zone. No vessel may enter the safety zone without permission from the Captain of the Port, New York.

This safety zone covers the minimum area needed and imposes the minimum restrictions necessary to ensure the protection of all vessels. Public notifications will be made prior to the

event via the Local Notice to Mariners and Marine Information Broadcasts. The Coast Guard is limiting the comment period for this NPRM to 30 days because the proposed safety zone is only for a one and a half hour long local event and it should have negligible impact on vessel transits. The Coast Guard expects to receive no comments on this NPRM due to the limited duration of the event and the fact that it should not interfere with vessel transits.

Discussion of Proposed Rule

The proposed safety zone is for the Queens Millennium Concert Fireworks held in the East River. This event will be held on Saturday, May 19, 2001. There is no rain date for this event. This rule is being proposed to provide for the safety of life on navigable waters during the event and to give the marine community the opportunity to comment on this event. This safety zone covers the minimum area needed and imposes the minimum restrictions necessary to ensure the protection of all vessels.

Regulatory Evaluation

This proposed rule is not a "significant regulatory action" under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866 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 Transportation (DOT) (44 FR 11040, February 26, 1979).

We expect the economic impact of this proposed rule to be so minimal that a full Regulatory Evaluation under paragraph 10e of the regulatory policies and procedures of DOT is unnecessary.

This proposed safety zone would temporarily close a portion of the East River to vessel traffic; however, the impact of this regulation is expected to be minimal for the following reasons: the limited duration of the event; that vessels are not precluded from getting underway, or mooring at, public or private facilities in the vicinity of the event, the advance advisories that will be made to the maritime community; and marine traffic may still transit to the west of the zone during the event.

Small Entities

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601–612), we considered whether this proposed 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 proposed rule would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

This proposed rule would affect the following entities, some of which might be small entities: the owners or operators of vessels intending to transit or anchor in a portion of the East River during the time this zone is activated.

This safety zone would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities for the following reasons: the limited duration of the event; that vessels are not precluded from getting underway, or mooring at, public or private facilities in the vicinity of the event, the advance advisories that will be made to the maritime community; and marine traffic may still transit to the west of the zone during the event.

If you think that your business, organization, or governmental jurisdiction qualifies as a small entity and that this rule would have a significant economic impact on it, please submit a comment (see **ADDRESSES**) explaining why you think it qualifies and how and to what degree this rule would economically affect it.

Assistance for Small Entities

Under section 213(a) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–121), we want to assist small entities in understanding this proposed rule so that they can better evaluate its effects on them and participate in the rulemaking. If the rule would affect your small business, organization, or governmental jurisdiction and you have questions concerning its provisions or options for compliance, please contact Lieutenant M. Day, Waterways Oversight Branch, Coast Guard Activities New York (718) 354–4012.

Collection of Information

This proposed rule would call for no new collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520).

Federalism

We have analyzed this proposed rule under Executive Order 13132 and have determined that this rule does not have implications for federalism under that Order.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531–1538) governs the issuance of Federal regulations that require unfunded mandates. An unfunded mandate is a regulation that requires a State, local, or tribal government or the private sector to incur direct costs without the Federal Government's having first provided the funds to pay those costs. This proposed rule would not impose an unfunded mandate.

Taking of Private Property

This proposed rule would not effect a taking of private property or otherwise have taking implications under Executive Order 12630, Governmental Actions and Interference with Constitutionally Protected Property Rights.

Civil Justice Reform

This proposed rule meets applicable standards in sections 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform, to minimize litigation, eliminate ambiguity, and reduce burden.

Protection of Children

We have analyzed this proposed rule under Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks. This rule is not an economically significant rule and does not concern an environmental risk to health or risk to safety that may disproportionately affect children.

Environment

We considered the environmental impact of this proposed rule and concluded that, under figure 2–1, paragraph 34(g), of Commandant Instruction M16475.1C, this proposed rule is categorically excluded from further environmental documentation. This proposed rule fits paragraph 34(g) as it establishes a safety zone. A "Categorical Exclusion Determination" is available in the docket where indicated under **ADDRESSES**.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 165

Harbors, Marine safety, Navigation (water), Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Security measures, Waterways.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard proposes to amend 33 CFR part 165 as follows:

PART 165—REGULATED NAVIGATION AREAS AND LIMITED ACCESS AREAS

1. The authority citation for part 165 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1231; 50 U.S.C. 191; 33 CFR 1.05–1(g), 6.04–1, 6.04–6, 160.5; 49 CFR 1.46.

2. Add Temporary § 165.T01–015 to read as follows:

§ 165.T01–015 Safety Zone: Queens Millennium Concert Fireworks, East River, NY.

(a) *Location.* The following area is a safety zone: All waters of the East River within a 180-yard radius of the fireworks barge in approximate position 40°44'43.3"N 073°57'43.2"W (NAD 1983), about 240 yards east of Belmont Island.

(b) *Effective period.* This section is effective from 9 p.m. (e.s.t.) until 10:30 p.m. (e.s.t.) on May 19, 2001.

(c) *Regulations.* (1) The general regulations contained in 33 CFR 165.23 apply.

(2) No vessels will be allowed to transit the safety zone without the permission of the Captain of the Port, New York.

(3) All persons and vessels shall comply with the instructions of the Coast Guard Captain of the Port or the designated on-scene patrol personnel. These personnel comprise commissioned, warrant, and petty officers of the Coast Guard. Upon being hailed by a U.S. Coast Guard vessel by siren, radio, flashing light, or other means, the operator of a vessel shall proceed as directed.

Dated: February 15, 2001.

P.A. Harris,

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port, New York, Acting.

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will set forth proposed performance standards regarding the accuracy, integrity, and accessibility of electronic records that would apply to lenders, guaranty agencies, schools, and other parties administering any student financial assistance program authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA).

DATES: We must receive your comments on or before March 19, 2001. We are offering this limited comment period in order to expedite issuance of the proposed rule. Comments received by this date will be considered in the development of the proposed rule. As a consequence of the publication of this notice, and under section 107(b) of the E-Sign Act, the authority of a program participant to retain a required record in electronic form, in instances where that authority did not previously exist, will become effective on June 1, 2001, rather than on March 1, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments about this advanced notice of proposed rulemaking to: Gail McLarnon, U. S. Department of Education, 1990 K St., NW., room 8062, Washington, DC 20006–8540. If you prefer to send your comments through the Internet, use the following address: gail_mclarnon@ed.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gail McLarnon, 202/219–7048.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed in the preceding paragraph.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The E-Sign Act provides, in part, that a signature, contract, or other record relating to a transaction may not be denied legal effect, validity, or enforceability solely because it is in electronic form, or because an electronic signature or electronic record was used in its formation. By eliminating legal barriers, the E-Sign Act will allow lenders, guaranty agencies, schools, and other parties administering the Title IV, HEA student financial assistance programs to use electronic records and electronic signatures in place of records and signatures that, under the HEA and underlying regulations, must be maintained and provided in writing. Section 104(b)(3) of the E-Sign Act authorizes the Secretary to set forth general requirements regarding the

accuracy, integrity, and accessibility of electronic records, and procedures relating to the maintenance of those records. The Secretary will be issuing proposed regulations that will contain such requirements and procedures.

Invitation to Comment

We are seeking comments or suggestions on this notice. We are interested in comments on assuring approaches to assuring the accuracy, integrity, and accessibility of electronic records in the administration of the federal student aid programs. Specifically, we are interested in comments related to the maintenance of electronic records by program participants. Areas of interest include the following:

- The timeframe to implement the use and maintenance of electronic records.
- The impact of using and maintaining electronic records on the integrity of the Federal student financial aid programs.
- The comparability between electronic records and hard copy paper records.

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<http://ocfo.ed.gov/fedreg.htm>

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Note: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html>.

List of Subjects in 34 CFR Part 50

Colleges and universities, Grant programs—education, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: February 27, 2001.

Rod Paige,

Secretary of Education.

[FR Doc. 01–5161 Filed 2–27–01; 4:34 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

34 CFR Part 50

RIN 1845–AA21

Performance Standards for Retention of Electronic Records in the Student Financial Assistance Programs

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Advance notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Secretary will propose rules to implement section 101(d) of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (E-Sign Act), Public Law 106–229. These regulations