

programs and projects, in air quality nonattainment or maintenance areas stay within the motor vehicle emissions ceiling contained in the SIP. The transportation conformity SIP revision enables the State to implement and enforce the Federal transportation conformity requirements at the state level per regulations for Conformity to State or Federal Implementation Plans of Transportation Plans, Programs, and Projects Developed, Funded or Approved Under Title 23 U.S.C. of the Federal Transit Laws. This EPA approval action streamlines the conformity process to allow direct consultation among agencies at the local level.

In the Final Rules Section of this **Federal Register**, the EPA is approving the North Carolina SIP revision as a direct final rule without prior proposal because the Agency views this as a noncontroversial submittal and anticipates no adverse comments. A detailed rationale for the approval is set forth in the direct final rule. If no significant, material, and adverse comments are received in response to this rule, no further activity is contemplated. If EPA receives adverse comments, the direct final rule will be withdrawn and all public comments received will be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on this rule. The EPA will not institute a second comment period on this document. Any parties interested in commenting on this document should do so at this time.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before January 27, 2003.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be addressed to: Kelly Sheckler at the EPA, Region 4 Air Planning Branch, 61 Forsyth Street, SW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Copies of the State submittal(s) are available at the following addresses for inspection during normal business hours:

Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, Air Planning Branch, 61 Forsyth Street, SW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960. Kelly Sheckler, 404/562-9042.

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, 512 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27604.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kelly Sheckler at 404/562-9042, e-mail: Sheckler.Kelly@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For additional information see the direct final rule which is published in the Rules Section of this **Federal Register**.

Dated: October 21, 2002.

A. Stanley Meiburg,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 4.

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FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

46 CFR Part 540

[Docket No. 02-15]

Passenger Vessel Financial Responsibility

AGENCY: Federal Maritime Commission.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: Upon consideration of several requests, the Commission has determined to extend the comment period in this matter.

DATES: Comments are now due on April 8, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments concerning this proposed rule to: Bryant L. VanBrakle, Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., Room 1046, Washington, DC 20573-0001, E-mail: secretary@fmc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sandra L. Kusumoto, Director, Bureau of Consumer Complaints and Licensing; Federal Maritime Commission, 202-523-5787; E-mail sandrak@fmc.gov.

or

Ronald D. Murphy, Commission Dispute Resolution Specialist And Deputy Director, Bureau of Consumer Complaints and Licensing; (202) 523-5787; E-mail: ronaldm@fmc.gov.

or

David R. Miles, Acting General Counsel, (202) 523-5740; E-mail: davidm@fmc.gov; Federal Maritime Commission, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., Washington, DC 20573-0001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission by Notice of Proposed Rulemaking published October 31, 2002, 67 FR 66352, proposed amendments to its passenger vessel regulations at 46 CFR part 540 that would eliminate the current ceiling on required performance coverage; adjust the amount of coverage required by providing for consideration of the obligations of credit card issuers; provide for the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution ("ADR"), including the Commission's ADR program, in resolving passenger performance claims; revise the application form; and make a number of technical adjustments to the performance and casualty rules.

Royal Caribbean Cruises, Ltd.; Norwegian Cruise Line; the Travel Industry Association of America; the Florida Ports Council; Crystal Cruises; the Port of San Diego Unified Port District; Cruise the West and its Members; Congressmen Don Young, Chairman and James L. Oberstar, Ranking Democratic Member, of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives; and Disney Cruise Line are seeking an extension of time, up to 90 days beyond the current due date of January 8, 2003, to file comments. In support of this request, they argue, *inter alia*, that an extension would give the industry time to adequately evaluate the NPRM and to obtain the cost data the Commission encouraged commenters to submit. In anticipation of receiving cost and other data relevant to this NPRM, the Commission has determined to grant the parties request and is extending the comment period to April 8, 2003.

By the Commission.

Bryant L. VanBrakle,
Secretary.

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