

will it 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 (64 FR 43255, August 10, 1999), because it merely proposes to approve a state rule implementing a Federal standard, and does not alter the relationship or the distribution of power and responsibilities established in the Clean Air Act. This proposed rule also is not subject to Executive Order 13045 (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997), because it is not economically significant.

In reviewing SIP submissions, EPA's role is to approve state choices, provided that they meet the criteria of the Clean Air Act. In this context, in the absence of a prior existing requirement for the State to use voluntary consensus standards (VCS), EPA has no authority to disapprove a SIP submission for failure to use VCS. It would thus be inconsistent with applicable law for EPA, when it reviews a SIP submission, to use VCS in place of a SIP submission that otherwise satisfies the provisions of the Clean Air Act. Thus, the requirements of section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (15 U.S.C. 272 note) do not apply. As required by section 3 of Executive Order 12988 (61 FR 4729, February 7, 1996), in issuing this proposed rule, EPA has taken the necessary steps to eliminate drafting errors and ambiguity, minimize potential litigation, and provide a clear legal standard for affected conduct. EPA has complied with Executive Order 12630 (53 FR 8859, March 15, 1988) by examining the takings implications of the rule in accordance with the "Attorney General's Supplemental Guidelines for the Evaluation of Risk and Avoidance of Unanticipated Takings" issued under the executive order. This proposed rule to approve Maryland's RACT regulation to control VOCs from iron and steel production installations do not impose an information collection burden under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Carbon monoxide, Hydrocarbons, Intergovernmental relations, Ozone, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*

Dated: July 20, 2001.

Thomas C. Voltaggio,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region III.

[FR Doc. 01-19046 Filed 7-30-01; 8:45 am]

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GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

41 CFR Parts 101-9 and 102-192

[FPMR Amendment A-]

RIN 3090-AH13

Mail Management

AGENCY: Office of Governmentwide Policy, GSA.

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The General Services Administration (GSA) proposed to revise the Federal Property Management Regulations (FPMR) coverage on Federal mail management and move it into the Federal Management Regulation (FMR). A cross-reference will be added to the FPMR to direct readers to the coverage in the FMR. A proposed rule was published in the **Federal Register** on May 29, 2001. GSA is extending the comment period on that proposed rule.

DATES: Your comments must reach us by September 28, 2001 to be considered in the formulation of a final rule.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to: Michael E. Hopkins, Regulatory Secretariat (MVRS), Federal Acquisition Policy Division, General Services Administration, 1800 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20405.

Send comments by e-mail to: RIN.3090-AH13@gsa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Henry Maury, Office of Transportation and Personal Property (MT), 202-208-7928 or henry.maury@gsa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The purposes of this proposed rule are to update, streamline, and clarify FPMR part 101-9, Federal Mail Management, and move that part into the Federal Management Regulation (FMR).

The proposed rule published on May 29, 2001 (66 FR 29067), gave a comment due date of July 30, 2001. Because several agencies have asked for more time, the deadline for submitting comments has been extended. Comments must be received by September 28, 2001.

Dated: July 25, 2001.

John G. Sindelar,

Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Governmentwide Policy, General Services Administration.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73

[DA 01-1736; MM Docket No. 01-159; RM-10164]

Radio Broadcasting Services; Comanche, TX

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This document requests comments on a petition for rulemaking filed by Charles Crawford, requesting the allotment of Channel 224A to Comanche, Texas, as that community's second local FM transmission service. This proposal requires a site restriction 6.4 kilometers (4.0 miles) west of the community at coordinates 31-52-55 NL and 98-40-06 WL.

DATES: Comments must be filed on or before September 10, 2001, and reply comments on or before September 25, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554. In addition to filing comments with the FCC, interested parties should serve the petitioner, as follows: Charles Crawford, 4553 Bordeaux Ave., Dallas, Texas 75205.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nancy Joyner, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, MM Docket No. 01-1736, adopted July 11, 2001, and released July 20, 2001. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC's Reference Information Center (Room CY-A257), 445 Twelfth Street, SW., Washington, DC. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, Inc., 1231 20th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20036, (202) 857-3800.

Provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to this proceeding.

Members of the public should note that from the time a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is issued until the matter is no longer subject to Commission consideration or court review, all *ex parte* contacts are prohibited in Commission proceedings, such as this one, which involve channel allotments. See 47 CFR § 1.1204(b) for rules governing permissible *ex parte* contacts.

For information regarding proper filing procedures for comments, see 47 CFR §§ 1.415 and 1.420.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73

Radio broadcasting.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Federal Communications Commission proposes to amend 47 CFR part 73 as follows:

PART 73—RADIO BROADCAST SERVICES

1. The authority citation for part 73 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 47 U.S.C. 154, 303, 334 and 336.

§ 73.202 [Amended]

2. Section 73.202(b), the Table of FM Allotments under Texas, is amended by adding Channel 224A at Comanche.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Chief, Allocations Branch, Policy and Rules Division, Mass Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. 01-18988 Filed 7-30-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Parts 222 and 223

[I.D. 072301C]

Sea Turtle Conservation; Activities Related to Fishing

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); request for written comments.

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces its intent to prepare an EIS to assess the potential impacts on the human environment of sea turtle interactions with fishing activities in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. NMFS is responsible for promoting sea turtle conservation and for ensuring that priority tasks identified in Endangered

Species Act (ESA) recovery plans are implemented.

DATES: Written comments on fisheries/sea turtle interactions or other information that NMFS should consider in preparing the EIS are requested and must be received on or before August 30, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the proposal to prepare an EIS and request for copies of the NMFS Strategy for Sea Turtle Conservation & Recovery in Relation to Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico Fisheries (Strategy) should be sent to: Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Comments may also be sent via fax to 301-713-0376. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the Internet. Notice of public meetings will be announced at a later date through notice in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara A. Schroeder (ph. 301-713-1401, fax 301-713-0376, e-mail Barbara.Schroeder@noaa.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

All sea turtles that occur in U.S. waters are listed as either endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempi*), leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), and hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) are listed as endangered. Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) and green (*Chelonia mydas*) turtles are listed as threatened, except for populations of green turtles in Florida and on the Pacific coast of Mexico, which are listed as endangered.

Under the ESA and its implementing regulations, taking sea turtles—even incidentally—is prohibited, with exceptions identified in 50 CFR 223.206. Reduction of the incidental capture of sea turtles as a result of fishery operations has been identified as a priority task in all (ESA) sea turtle recovery plans for the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean.

NMFS has implemented numerous recovery actions under the provisions of the ESA to recover sea turtles but has been criticized for lacking a comprehensive approach and ordered strategy for addressing incidental take in fisheries, which in many cases is not authorized under the ESA. As a more comprehensive step, NMFS developed a Strategy aimed at addressing the incidental capture of turtles in commercial and recreational fisheries (see **ADDRESSES**). The goals of the

Strategy are to: (1) conserve and recover sea turtles, (2) authorize fishery takes consistent with ESA mandates, (3) increase effectiveness in management, and (4) prioritize fishery interaction concerns. Steps to achieve the goals include improving stock assessments and bycatch estimations, evaluating the significance of bycatch by gear type; and convening specialist groups to prepare plans for reducing take for gear types with significant take levels. NMFS is proposing to consider the environmental impacts of the Strategy through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Based on comments received through this notification, NMFS intends to schedule scoping meetings by December 2001 that would support preparation of an EIS.

Numerous fisheries have been implicated in the incidental capture of marine turtles along the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts. Both state and federally managed fisheries are involved as are fisheries operating outside of any state or Federal management plan. Several states have already been addressing incidental take of sea turtles in various fisheries and gear types, including Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Texas, and Virginia. However, data available on the magnitude of the problem varies by fishery and area. NMFS believes the issue is not so much a specific target fishery problem but a gear problem. Certain types of gear are more prone to incidentally capturing turtles than others, depending on the way the gear is fished and the time and area fished.

NMFS is seeking input from the fishing industry, sea turtle experts, non-governmental organizations (NGOS), academia, state representatives, and the public on a gear-based assessment and management approach for the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico fisheries and is requesting information on fisheries interactions with sea turtles as well as the identification of missing data and recommendations for further research. The purpose of this notice is to: (1) inform the interested public of the intent to prepare this EIS, and (2) request public participation and comments. Any consideration of gear modifications and/or changes to fishing practices in those fisheries of concern will be done through rulemaking or permitting according to the ESA or Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Administrative Procedures Act.