

oversight, noting that there are sufficient checks and balances in place to ensure continued adequate review by the OF board. For example, an internal audit function headed by the OF's director of internal audit and compliance performs regular reviews of the debt issuance and servicing functions, and reports to the OF board on a quarterly basis. Additionally, the OF board reviews the OF's budget-to-actual expenses quarterly, and OF senior staff regularly reports on all actions taken under a delegation of authority. The OF board further notes that "[g]iven the stable nature of the OF's operation, the number of matters that must be brought for the Board's consideration at a formal meeting are limited." By regulation, the OF board serves as the audit committee, which meets each quarter, usually by telephone, to approve the publication of the quarterly and annual financial reports. These meetings generally do not coincide with the regular meeting of the board of directors.

The proposed rule would reduce the minimum number of meetings that the OF board must hold each year from nine to six in-person meetings. The Finance Board believes that reducing the minimum number of meetings would not affect the ability of the OF board to monitor the operations of the OF, or the ability of the Finance Board to oversee the OF. Moreover, the proposed rule would be consistent with earlier actions by the Finance Board to reduce to six the minimum number of annual in-person board meetings required of the Banks. The Finance Board's experience with the reduced number of meetings for the Banks suggests that the boards of directors have been able to discharge their oversight duties notwithstanding the lesser number of meetings.

In relation to this issue, the Finance Board has conducted a survey of large financial intermediaries regarding the number of board meetings held each year. The survey included 12 bank holding companies (with total assets ranging from \$11 billion to \$99 billion), 4 thrift holding companies (with total assets ranging from \$35 billion to \$186.5 billion), and the Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (with total assets of \$575.2 billion and \$386.7 billion, respectively). The number of board meetings held each year by the boards of the bank holding companies ranged from 4 to 12 (averaging 7.33); for the thrift institution holding companies, the range was 4 to 9, (averaging 7.00) meetings annually. Fannie Mae held 8 board meetings in 1999, and Freddie Mac held five 5 meetings in that year.³ That information

tends to confirm the view that requiring at least six in-person OF board meetings annually would be consistent with the practices at institutions of comparable size and with similar responsibilities.

The Finance Board believes that setting the minimum number of in-person board meetings at six per year strikes an appropriate balance between the needs of the Finance Board as the safety and soundness regulator of the Banks and the desire of the OF board to determine the optimal number of meetings to hold each year. The Finance Board further expects that notwithstanding the proposed reduction of the minimum number of meetings to be held each year, the OF board of directors will continue to maintain its level of oversight of the OF and its operations.

III. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The proposed rule would apply only to the OF, which does not come within the meaning of small entities as defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA). See 5 U.S.C. 601(6). Therefore, in accordance with section 605(b) of the RFA, 5 U.S.C. 605(b), the Finance Board hereby certifies that this proposed rule, if promulgated as a final rule, will not have significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the RFA.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This proposed rule does not contain any collections of information pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. See 33 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.* Therefore, the Finance Board has not submitted any information to the Office of Management and Budget for review.

List of Subjects in 12 CFR Part 985

Federal Home Loan Banks.

Accordingly, the Finance Board hereby proposes to amend part 985, title 12, chapter IX, Code of Federal Regulations, as follows:

PART 985—THE OFFICE OF FINANCE

1. The authority citation for part 985 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 12 U.S.C. 1422b(a)(1).

2. Revise § 985.8(b) to read as follows:

§ 985.8 General duties of the OF board of directors.

* * * * *

(b) *Meetings and quorum.* The OF board of directors shall conduct its business by majority vote of its members at meetings convened in accordance with its bylaws, and shall hold no fewer than six in-person meetings annually. Due notice shall be given to the Finance

Board by the Chair prior to each meeting. A quorum, for purposes of meetings of the OF board of directors, shall be not less than two members.

* * * * *

Dated: February 13, 2002.

By the Board of Directors of the Federal Housing Finance Board.

John T. Korsmo,
Chairman.

[FR Doc. 02-5469 Filed 3-6-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6725-01-P

POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 111

Proposed Domestic Mail Manual Changes To Clarify the Method Used To Determine Postal Zones

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Proposed Rule.

SUMMARY: The Postal Service is proposing to amend Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) G030, Postal Zones, to clarify the language describing the method used to determine postal zones. This change also removes redundant eligibility information in G030 that is currently in the DMM eligibility standards for Parcel Post and Periodicals mail. Effective with the implementation date of the Docket No. R2001-1 omnibus rate case, the Postal Service will update zone chart coordinates for all 3-digit ZIP Code prefixes in L005, Column A, that do not match the corresponding coordinates for L005, Column B.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 8, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Mail written comments to Manager, National Customer Support Center (NCSC), ATTN: J. Stefaniak, 1735 North Lynn Street, Room 3025, Arlington VA 22201-6038 or submit via fax to 703-292-4058, ATTN: J. Stefaniak. Copies of all written comments will be available for inspection and photocopying between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, in the Library, Postal Service Headquarters, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW., Washington, DC 20260-1540.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Angie White, 901-681-4525.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Postal Service is proposing to clarify the language in DMM G030 which describes the method used to determine postal zones 1 through 8. This clarification does not propose to change the method used to calculate postal zones.

Postal rates for certain subclasses of mail are based on the weight of the

³ See 66 FR 24263, 24264 (May 14, 2001).

individual piece and the distance that the piece travels from origin to destination (i.e., the number of postal zones crossed). For the administration of the system of postal zones, the sphere of the earth is geometrically divided into units of area 30 minutes square, identical with a quarter of the area formed by the intersecting parallels of latitude and meridians of longitude. Postal zones are based on the distance between these units of area. The distance is measured from the center of the unit of area containing the sectional center facility (SCF) serving the origin post office to the SCF serving the destination post office. The SCF's serving the origin and destination post offices are determined by the appropriate SCF in L005, Column B.

Effective with the implementation of the Docket No. R2001-1 omnibus rate case, the longitude and latitude of 130 3-digit ZIP Code prefixes for SCF coordinates in L005, Column A, will be updated to reflect the parent SCF in L005, Column B. This update will align the 3-digit ZIP Code prefixes with current postal processing and distribution networks.

DMM G030.3.0 will be deleted because it repeats eligibility information for intra-BMC, inter-BMC, SCF, and delivery unit rates contained in other portions of the DMM.

The Postal Service Official National Zone Chart Data Program is administered from the National Customer Support Center (NCSC) in Memphis, TN. Single-page zone charts for originating mail are available online through Postal Explorer at <http://pe.usps.gov>. Zone chart data for the entire nation can be purchased in two formats: printed (about 500 pages) and electronic (3.5-inch diskettes). For more information, or to purchase zone charts, call the Zone Chart Program Administrator at 800-238-3150. The single-page zone chart program available online through Postal Explorer has been updated with a link to the updated zone chart data that would be effective, if this proposed rule is adopted, with the implementation date of the Docket No. R2001-1 omnibus rate case.

Comments are solicited on the proposed implementation date for this revision. The method of determining postal zones and the data coordinates for the SCFs are outside the scope of this rulemaking.

Although exempt from the notice and comment requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act (5 U.S.C. 553(b), (c)) regarding proposed rulemaking by 39 U.S.C. 410(a), the Postal Service invites comments on the

following proposed revisions of the DMM, incorporated by reference into the Code of Federal Regulations. (See 39 CFR part 111.)

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 111

Postal Service.

PART 111—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for 39 CFR part 111 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 552(a); 39 U.S.C. 101, 401, 403, 404, 414, 3001-3011, 3201-3219, 3403-3406, 3621, 3626, 5001.

2. Amend the following sections of the Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) as set forth below:

G General Information

G000 The USPS and Mailing Standards

* * * * *

G030 Postal Zones

Summary

[Amend Summary text by removing the references to BMCs, SCF, and delivery unit zones to read as follows:]

G030 describes how postal zones are used to compute postage for zoned mail. It also defines local and nonlocal zones.

1.0 BASIC INFORMATION

[Amend 1.0 by removing the last sentence and adding the following two sentences to read as follows:]

* * * The distance is measured from the center of the unit of area containing the SCF serving the origin post office to the SCF serving the destination post office. The SCFs serving the origin and destination post offices are determined by using L005, Column B.

* * * * *

2.0 SPECIFIC ZONES

* * * * *

2.2 Nonlocal Zones

Nonlocal zones are defined as follows:

[Amend item 2.2a to read as follows:]

a. The zone 1 rate applies to pieces not eligible for the local zone in 2.1 that are mailed between two post offices with the same 3-digit ZIP Code prefix identified in L005, Column A. Zone 1 includes all units of area outside the local zone lying in whole or in part within a radius of about 50 miles from the center of a given unit of area.

[Remove 3.0 in its entirety.]

* * * * *

An appropriate amendment to 39 CFR part 111 to reflect these changes will be published if the proposal is adopted.

Stanley F. Mires,

Chief Counsel, Legislative.

[FR Doc. 02-5486 Filed 3-6-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710-12-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 261

[SW-FRL-7153-3]

Hazardous Waste Management System; Proposed Exclusions for Identifying and Listing Hazardous Waste

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rules and request for comment.

SUMMARY: The EPA (also, "the Agency" or "we" in this preamble) is proposing to exclude (or "delist") wastewater treatment plant sludge (from conversion coating on aluminum) generated by 11 automobile assembly facilities in the State of Michigan from the lists of hazardous wastes. The facilities include three plants owned and operated by General Motors Corporation (GM)(Pontiac East-Pontiac, Hamtramck-Detroit, Flint Truck-Flint), one plant owned and operated by GM with an onsite wastewater treatment plant owned by the City of Lansing and operated by Trigen/Cinergy-USFOS of Lansing LLC (Lansing Grand River-Lansing), three plants owned and operated by Ford Motor Company (Wixom Assembly Plant-Wixom, Michigan Truck/Wayne Integrated Stamping and Assembly Plant-Wayne, Dearborn Assembly-Dearborn), one plant owned and operated by Auto Alliance International Inc. (AAI), a Ford/Mazda joint venture company (Auto Alliance International Inc.-Flat Rock), and three plants owned and operated by DaimlerChrysler Corporation (Sterling Heights Assembly Plant-Sterling Heights, Warren Truck Plant-Warren, Jefferson North Assembly Plant-Jefferson).

The Agency is proposing to use an expedited process to evaluate these wastes under a pilot project developed with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). EPA requests comments on the pilot project. Each of these 11 facilities voluntarily requested to participate in the pilot project. Based on its evaluation of historical data, the Agency has