

longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

A. by order approve such proposed rule change, or

B. institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the NASD. All submissions should refer to the file number in the caption above and should be submitted by April 8, 1997.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁰

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-6714 Filed 3-17-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 2518]

Advisory Committee for Study of Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union; Notice of Meeting

The Department of State announces that the Advisory Committee for Study of Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union (Title VIII) will convene on April 11, 1997, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in Room 1105, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, DC.

The Advisory Committee will recommend grant recipients for the FY

1997 competition of the Program for Study of Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union in connection with the "Research and Training for Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union Act of 1983, as amended." The agenda will include opening statements by the Chairman and members of the Committee and, within the Committee, discussion, approval, and recommendation that the Department of State negotiate grant agreements with certain "national organizations with an interest and expertise in conducting research and training concerning the countries of Eastern Europe and the independent states of the former Soviet Union," based on the guidelines contained in the call for applications published in the Federal Register on October 4, 1996. Following committee deliberation, interested members of the public may make oral statements concerning the Title VIII program in general.

This meeting will be open to the public; however, attendance will be limited to the seating available. Entry into the Department of State building is controlled and must be arranged in advance of the meeting. Those planning to attend should notify Joanne Bramble, INR/RES, U.S. Department of State, (202) 736-4572, by April 8, 1997, providing their date of birth, Social Security number, and any requirements for special needs. All attendees must use the 2201 C Street, NW, entrance to the building. Visitors who arrive without prior notification and without a photo ID will not be admitted.

Dated: February 11, 1997.

Kenneth E. Roberts,

Executive Director, Advisory Committee for Study of Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union.

[FR Doc. 97-6739 Filed 3-17-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-32-M

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Trade Policy Staff Committee: Request for Comments Concerning Financial Services Negotiations Under the General Agreement on Trade in Services of the World Trade Organization

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) is soliciting public comments on the requests made to U.S. negotiating partners in the negotiations on financial services under

the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). The GATS is one of the Uruguay Round agreements administered by the World Trade Organization (WTO). Interested persons are invited to submit their comments on market-opening commitments that should be sought in the financial services sector by April 17, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Peter Collins, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Services and Investment, Office of the United States Trade Representative, (202) 395-7271 (for insurance issues and for general GATS issues), or Matthew Hennessey, Director, Office of Financial Services Negotiations, U.S. Department of the Treasury, (202) 622-0151 (for financial services other than insurance).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Negotiations on financial services were extended for six months at the end of the Uruguay Round to allow for further progress. The current interim financial services agreement of July 1995 will expire at the end of 1997, when WTO Members have a 60-day period in which to modify (or withdraw) their commitments. The negotiations will formally commence in April, at the first meeting of the WTO Committee on Trade in Financial Services, the negotiating body.

The United States is a full participant in the interim arrangement and is entitled to all market access and national treatment commitments scheduled by other participants. In its schedule of commitments, in force since June 30, 1995, the U.S. has committed to protect the existing investments of foreign financial services providers in the United States. The U.S. took an MFN exemption, and thus reserved the right to provide differing levels of treatment, with respect to expansion and new activities by these financial services providers, and or with respect to new entrants to the U.S. financial market.

The United States is in the process of preparing requests for market-opening commitments from other countries participating in the negotiations. These requests may be submitted as early as May 1997.

The U.S. objective in the negotiations is to obtain significantly improved commitments that provide financial services suppliers substantially full market access and national treatment on a non-discriminatory basis. Interested persons are invited to submit their comments on commitments the United States should seek in insurance, banking, securities, and other financial services.

¹⁰ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12) (1989).

Comments should be filed no later than April 17, 1997. Comments must be in English and provided in 20 copies to Peter Collins, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Services and Investment, Office of the United States Trade Representative, Room 301, 600 17th Street, Washington, D.C. 20508. Non-confidential information received will be available for public inspection by appointment, in the USTR Reading Room, Room 101, Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. For an appointment call Brenda Webb on 202-395-6186. Business confidential information will be subject to the requirements of 15 CFR 2003.6. Any business confidential material must be clearly marked as such on the cover letter or page and each succeeding page, and must be accompanied by a non-confidential summary thereof.

Frederick L. Montgomery,
Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.
[FR Doc. 97-6802 Filed 3-17-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

[CGD08-97-006]

Notice of Public Hearing on the Canadian Pacific Railroad Drawbridge Across the Upper Mississippi River, Mile 699.8, at Lacrosse, WI

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of public hearing.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Coast Guard announces a forthcoming public hearing for the presentation of views concerning the alteration of the Canadian Pacific Railroad Drawbridge, at LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

DATES: The hearing will be held at 1 p.m., April 22, 1997.

ADDRESSES: (a) The hearing will be held in the Conference Room of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Resource Center, 555 Lester Avenue, Onalaska, Wisconsin 54650.

(b) Written comments may be submitted to and will be available for examination from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, at the office of the Director Western Rivers Operations, Bridge Branch, 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2398.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Roger Wiebusch, Director Western Rivers Operations, Bridge Branch, 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2398.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Coast Guard has received numerous comments from the public indicating the bridge is unreasonably obstructive to navigation. Information available to the Coast Guard indicates there were 269 marine collisions with the bridge since 1980. These collisions have caused moderate to heavy damage to the bridge. Based on this information, the bridge appears to be a hazard to navigation. This may require increasing the horizontal clearance on the bridge to meet the needs of navigation. All interested parties shall have full opportunity to be heard and to present evidence as to whether any alteration of this bridge is needed, and if so, what alterations are needed, giving due consideration to the necessities of free and unobstructed water navigation. The necessities of rail traffic will also be considered.

Any person who wishes, may appear and be heard at this public hearing. Persons planning to appear and be heard are requested to notify the Director Western Rivers Operations, Bridge Branch, 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2398, Telephone: 314-539-3900 Ext 378, any time prior to the hearing indicating the amount of time required. Depending upon the number of scheduled statements, it may be necessary to limit the amount of time allocated to each person. Any limitations of time allocated will be announced at the beginning of the hearing. Written statements and exhibits may be submitted in place of or in addition to oral statements and will be made a part of the hearing record. Such written statements and exhibits may be delivered at the hearing or mailed in advance to the Director, Western Rivers Operations, Bridge Branch. Transcripts of the hearing will be made available for purchase upon request.

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 513; 49 CFR 1.46(c)(3).

Dated: March 6, 1997.

T.W. Josiah,
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard Commander,
Eighth Coast Guard District.

[FR Doc. 97-6736 Filed 3-17-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-14-M

[CGD 96-063]

Incineration of Solid Waste Aboard U.S. Coast Guard Cutters, Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) of marine incinerators on board its certain classes of cutters (vessels larger than 65 feet in length) for the purpose of burning shipboard solid waste to mitigate its accumulation. A notice of availability of the EA and the FONSI was placed in the Federal Register of 26 November 96 to invite comments from the public. No comments were received during the 30-day comment period. This notice announces the availability of the final EA and FONSI to concerned agencies and the public.

ADDRESSES: Requests to receive a copy of the EA and FONSI should be mailed to the Commanding Officer (ELC code 024), 2401 Hawkins Point Road, Baltimore, MD 21226-5000. The documents may also be picked up from the same address between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays, by contacting Mr. Hari Bindal at telephone (410) 762-6732, and FAX (410) 762-6868.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Hari Bindal, Environmental Protection Specialist, Engineering and Logistics Center, Equipment Management Division (ELC 024), at (410) 762-6732.

Background

U.S. Coast Guard operates a fleet of boats and cutters on the U.S. domestic and international waters to accomplish its major missions of Law Enforcement, Defense Operations, Search and Rescue, Ice Operations, Marine Science, Pollution Response, and Aids to Navigation. The cutters going long voyages (5 days and more) and having a large crew (over 50), face problems with shipboard generated solid waste (trash, garbage), and waste oil. To comply with the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) and the U.S. Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (APPS), which prohibit disposal of plastics anywhere at sea and restrict discharge of other waste to certain distances from shore, and to comply with other U.S. and international environmental laws and regulations, the Coast Guard considered several alternatives of handling the shipboard generated solid waste and waste oil. After evaluating the pro and cons of all considered alternatives, Coast Guard proposed incineration as the means to handle the shipboard solid waste and waste oil.

An environmental assessment (EA) was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of