

noncompliance with these commitments.

#### Taiwan

In July 1996, the American Institute in Taiwan, on behalf of the Office of the United States Trade Representative, concluded an agreement with the Taiwan authorities on the licensing and provision of wireless services through the establishment of a competitive, transparent and fair wireless market in Taiwan.

Specifically, the Directorate General of Telecommunication (DGT) and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office confirmed that: the telecommunication regulatory function and telecommunications service provider function have been entirely separated: DGT would initiate procedures to remove the profit cap and draft a new formula for tariff schedules; interconnection agreements between wireless operators and Chunghwa Telecommunications Co. (CUT) would be cost-based, transparent, unbundled and non-discriminatory and that the terms of such agreements publicly available; DGT would not permit cross-subsidization between CUT's fixed-line and wireless operations; DGT would relax the debt/equity ratio for wireless bidders and not restrict a bidder from obtaining all three regional licenses, subject to the policy that an island-wide licensee is not eligible for a regional license; and DGT would remove unauthorized spectrum users. DGT also agreed to review foreign ownership limitations.

The USTR seeks information regarding any difficulties the U.S. telecommunications service providers are encountering to provide wireless services in Taiwan based on noncompliance with these commitments.

#### WTO Basic Telecommunications Agreement

On February 15, 1997, seventy parties—69 territorial entities and the EU—committed to opening up their markets for basic telecommunications services by concluding the WTO Basic Telecommunications Agreement. So far, 55 WTO member countries which are parties to the agreement have accepted the agreement and the remaining fifteen have given their assurances that they intend to complete their acceptances of the agreement as soon as possible.

The agreement encompasses commitments in three main areas: market access, investment, and pro-competitive regulatory principles. For countries making full commitments, market access commitments open the

local, long-distance and international service markets through any means of network technology, either on a facilities basis or through resale of existing network capacity. Investment commitments ensure that companies can acquire, establish or hold a significant stake in telecommunications companies. The pro-competitive regulatory principles, incorporated in WTO Members' schedules, commit members to establish a regulatory body independent of any carrier; to guarantee that former monopolies will provide interconnection to their networks at non-discriminatory, cost-oriented prices; to maintain measures to prevent anti-competitive practices such as cross-subsidization; and to mandate transparency of government regulations and licensing. Some members have staged implementation of these commitments over several years. Summaries of each member's commitments are available on the WTO web site, at [www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org).

The Basic Telecom Agreement was to enter into force on January 1, 1998. However, since fifteen signatories to the agreement have not yet offered their final acceptances, WTO members will meet in January to decide on the date of entry into force of this agreement.

The USTR seeks information on whether any parties to this agreement have not made the necessary legislative or regulatory changes to satisfy the commitments that will come into effect in 1998 under the agreement, or are permitting practices in their markets inconsistent with these commitments.

#### Public Comment: Requirements for Submissions

Comments must be in English and provided in 15 copies to: Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20508. Comments, except for business confidential information, 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 at 202-395-6186.

Business confidential information will be subject to the requirements of 15 CFR 2003.6. Any business confidential information 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. The nonconfidential

summary will be placed in the file that is open to public inspection.

#### Gordana Earp,

*Acting Assistant United States Trade Representative for Industry.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Coast Guard

[CGD 97-024]

### National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP)

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DOT.

**ACTION:** Request for comments on PREP triennial exercise schedule for 1998, 1999, and 2000.

**SUMMARY:** Coast Guard, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) and the Minerals Management Service (MMS), in concert with the states, the oil industry and concerned citizens, developed the Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP). This notice announces the PREP triennial cycle, 1998-2000, requests comments from the public, and requests industry participants to volunteer for scheduled PREP area exercises.

**DATES:** Comments are due at Coast Guard Headquarters no later than March 1, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** You may mail comments to: Ms. Karen Sahatjian, US Coast Guard, Office of Response, (G-MOR-2), 2100 2nd Street SW, Washington, DC 20593.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For general information regarding the PREP program and the schedule, contact Ms. Karen Sahatjian, Marine Safety and Environmental Protection Directorate, Office of Response, (G-MOR-2), (202) 267-2850.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following information describes how to obtain copies of documents available to the public. The PREP Area exercise schedule and exercise design manual are available on the internet at <http://www.dot.gov/dotinfo/uscg/hq/g-m/gmhome.htm> (see oil response). To obtain a hard copy of the exercise design manual, contact Ms. Melanie Barber at the Research and Special Programs Administration, Office of Pipeline Safety, at (202)366-4560. The 1994 PREP Guidelines and Training Elements are available at no cost by writing or faxing the TASC Dept Warehouse, 3341 Q 75th Avenue, Landover, MD 20785, fax: 301-386-

5394. The stock numbers of each manual are: PREP Guidelines—USCG—X0191; the Training Reference—USCG—X0188. Please indicate the quantity when ordering. Quantities are limited to 10 per order.

On August 6–7, 1997, the USCG, EPA, MMS, and OPS conducted a public workshop to review the PREP. The summary of the public workshop was mailed to all the participants. The summary is available on the internet at <http://www.dot.gov/dotinfo/uscg/hq/gm/gmhome/htm>. Although numerous issues were discussed, the workshop participants suggested the federal agencies not revise the PREP Guidelines, August 1994. The workshop participants did agree that the guidelines should be reviewed in 12–18 months during another public workshop.

#### Background Information

The Coast Guard, EPA, RSPA and MMS developed the National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) to provide guidelines for compliance with the Oil Pollution

Act of 1990 (OPA 90) pollution response exercise requirements (33 U.S.C. 1321(j)). OPA 90 requires periodic unannounced drills. See 33 U.S.C. 1321(j)(7). However, the working group (comprised of Coast Guard, EPA, RSPA, MMS, state representatives, and industry representatives) determined that the PREP Guidelines should also include announced drills. See 33 CFR 1055(a)(5) and 155.1060(c), and 40 CFR 112. The guiding principles for PREP distinguish between internal and external exercises. Internal exercises are conducted within the plan holder's organization. External exercises extend beyond the plan holder's organization to involve other members of the response community. External exercises are separated into two categories: (1) Area exercises, and (2) Government-initiated unannounced exercises. These exercises are designed to evaluate the entire response mechanism in a given area to ensure adequate pollution response preparedness.

Since 1994, the USCG, EPA, MMS, and OPS have published a triennial schedule of Area exercises. In short, the

Area exercises involve the entire response community (Federal, State, local, and industry participants) and therefore, require more extensive planning than other oil spill response exercises. The PREP Guidelines describe all of these exercises in more detail. This notice announces the next triennial schedule of Area Exercises. Some exercises are scheduled with industry participants, but where participants have not been listed, the USCG and DPA request volunteers.

If a company wants to volunteer for an Area exercise, a company representative may call either the Coast Guard or EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) where the exercise is scheduled. Alternatively, if a company is interested in participating in an exercise where Coast Guard is the OSC, a representative may call Ms. Karen Sahatjian and she can facilitate scheduling the volunteer. Although either method will provide the same result, contact at the local level, with the OSC, is preferred.

The following is the revised PREP schedule for calendar years 1998, 1999, and 2000.

#### PREP SCHEDULE GOVERNMENT-LED AREA EXERCISES

Area	Agency	Date/Qtr <sup>1</sup>	Participant
<b>1998</b>			
Guam Area (MSO Guam OSC) .....	CG .....	2/10–12	Shell
San Diego, CA Area (MSO San Diego OSC) .....	CG .....	4/14–16	J&S
Morgan City Area (MSO Morgan City OSC) .....	CG w/MMS .....	6/3–5	
EPA Region VII Area (EPA OSC) .....	EPA .....	8/18–20	
Long Island Sound Area (COTP Long Island Sound) .....	CG .....	9/23–24	
Savannah Area (MSO Savannah) .....	CG .....	12/15–17	
<b>1999</b>			
LA/LB North Area, (MSO LA/LB OSC) .....	CG w/OPS .....	2/8–12	
Boston Area (MSO Boston OSC) .....	CG .....	4/5–9	
Providence Area (MSO Providence OSC) .....	CG .....	6/7–11	
EPA Region VI (EPA OSC) .....	EPA .....	8/2–6	
Buffalo, NY Area (MSO Buffalo OSC) .....	CG .....	9/20–24	
Virginia Coastal Area (MSO Hampton Rds OSC) .....	CG .....	12/6–10	
<b>2000</b>			
North Coast Area (MSO San Francisco OSC) .....	CG .....	2/7–11	
Florida Panhandle Area (MSO Mobile OSC) .....	CG .....	4/10–14	
Houston/Galveston Area (MSO Houston OSC) .....	CG .....	6/12–16	
EPA Region IX (EPA OSC) .....	EPA .....	8/14–18	
Western Lake Erie Area (MSO Toledo OSC) .....	CG .....	9/18–22	
NE North Carolina Area (MSO Hampton Roads OSC) .....	CG .....	12/8–11	

#### PREP SCHEDULE—INDUSTRY-LED EXERCISES

Area	Ind	Date/Qtr	Lead
New York, NY Area (COTP NY OSC) .....	v .....	.....	OMI Corp
Southern Coastal NC Area (MSO Wilmington OSC) .....	v .....	.....	
San Francisco Bay & Delta Region Area (MSO San Francisco OSC) .....	f(mtr) .....	.....	
Cleveland, OH Area (MSO Cleveland OSC) .....	f(mtr) .....	.....	
EPA Region V Area (EPA OSC) .....	p .....	.....	
Saulte Ste. Marie, MI Area (COTP Saulte Ste. Marie OSC) .....	f(mtr) .....	.....	
South Texas Coastal Zone Area (MSO Corpus Christi OSC) .....	f(mtr) .....	.....	

## PREP SCHEDULE—INDUSTRY-LED EXERCISES—Continued

Area	Ind	Date/Qtr	Lead
Maryland Coastal Area (COTP Baltimore OSC) .....	v .....	.....	
SW Louisiana/SE Texas Area (MSO Port Arthur OSC) .....	v .....	.....	
Puget Sound Area (MSO Puget Sound) .....	f .....	.....	
EPA Region I Area (EPA OSC) .....	p .....	.....	
LA/LB South Area (MSO LA/LB OSC) .....	v .....	.....	
Chicago Area (MSO Chicago OSC) .....	f(mtr) .....	.....	
<b>1999</b>			
Alabama/Mississippi Area (MSO Mobile OSC) .....	p. ....		
South Florida Area (MSO Miami OSC) .....	p. ....		
Portland, OR Area (MSO Portland OSC) .....	v. ....		
EPA Region VIII (EPA OSC) .....	f(nonmtr). ....		
Hawaii/Samoa Area (MSO Honolulu OSC) .....	v .....	.....	
Central Coast Area (MSO San Francisco OSC) .....	v. ....		
Eastern Wisconsin Area (MSO Milwaukee Area) .....	f(mtr). ....		
EPA Region Oceania Area (EPA OSC) .....	f(nonmtr). ....		
Maine & New Hampshire Area (MSO Portland OSC) .....	v. ....		
EPA Region II Area (EPA Caribbean OSC) .....	f(nonmtr) .....	.....	
Prince William Sound Area (MSO Valdez OSC) .....	f .....	.....	
Western Alaska Area (MSO Anchorage OSC) .....	v .....	.....	
Tampa, FL Area (MSO Tampa OSC) .....	v .....	.....	
<b>2000</b>			
Caribbean Area (MSO San Juan OSC) .....	v .....	.....	
EPA Region III Area (EPA OSC) .....	f(nonmtr) .....	.....	
Duluth-Superior Area (MSO Duluth OSC) .....	f .....	.....	
Jacksonville Area (MSO Jacksonville OSC) .....	v .....	.....	
EPA Region IX Oceania (EPA OSC) .....	f(nonmtr) .....	.....	
New Orleans Area (MSO New Orleans OSC) .....	p .....	.....	
Commonwealth of N. Mariannas Islands Area (MSO Guam OSC) .....	v .....	.....	
EPA Alaska Area (EPA OSC) .....	f(nonmtr) .....	.....	
EPA Region IV Area (EPA OSC) .....	f(nonmtr) .....	.....	
Detroit Area (MSO Detroit OSC) .....	f(mtr) .....	.....	
EPA Region IX Area (EPA OSC) .....	p .....	.....	
Southeast Alaska Area (MSO Juneau OSC) .....	v .....	.....	
Philadelphia Area (MSO Philadelphia OSC) .....	f(mtr) .....	.....	
Charleston Area (MSO Charleston OSC) .....	f(mtr) .....	.....	
EPA Region II (EPA OSC) .....	f(nonmtr) .....	.....	

<sup>1</sup> Quarters: 1 (Jan–March); 2 (April–June); 3 (July–Sept); 4 (Oct–Dec).

<sup>2</sup> Industry: v-vessel; f(mtr)-marine transportation-related facility; f(nonmtr)-nonmarine transportation-related facility; p-pipeline.

Dated: December 23, 1997.

**Joseph J. Angelo,**

*Acting Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety and Environmental Protection.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

[Summary Notice No. PE–97–65]

#### Petitions for Exemption: Summary of Petitions Received and Dispositions of Petitions Issued

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of petitions for exemption received and of dispositions of prior petitions.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to FAA's rulemaking provisions governing the application,

processing, and disposition of petitions for exemption (14 CFR Part 11), this notice contains a summary of certain petitions seeking relief from specified requirements of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR Chapter I), dispositions of certain petitions previously received, and corrections. The purpose of this notice is to improve the public's awareness of, and participation in, this aspect of FAA's regulatory activities. Neither publication of this Notice nor the inclusion or omission of information in the summary is intended to affect the legal status of any petition of its final disposition.

**DATES:** Comments or petitions received must identify the petition docket number involved and must be received on or before January 28, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments on any petition in triplicate to: Federal Aviation Administration, Office of the Chief Counsel, Attn: Rule Docket (AGC–

200), Petition Docket No.

\_\_\_\_\_, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20591.

Comments may also be sent electronically to the following internet address: 9–NPRM–CMNTS@faa.dot.gov.

The petition, any comments received, and a copy of any final disposition are filed in the assigned regulatory docket and are available for examination in the Rules Docket (AGC–200), Room 915G, FAA Headquarters Building (FOB 10A), 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20591; telephone (202) 267–3132.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Heather Thorson (202) 267–7470 or Angela Anderson (202) 267–9681 Office of Rulemaking (ARM–1), Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591.

This notice is published pursuant to paragraphs (c), (e), and (g) of § 11.27 of