

ensure the safety of vessel traffic and workers during the construction of Grays Landing Lock. The need for the Regulated Navigation Area no longer exists because all construction on Grays Landing Lock has been completed and the river's width is no longer restricted in this area. Therefore, since the safety concerns that necessitated the regulation no longer exist, this rule removes the regulation establishing this Regulated Navigation Area in § 165.819.

Discussion of Comments and Changes

No comments were received.

Regulatory Evaluation

This rule is not a "significant regulatory action" under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866 and does not require an assessment of potential costs and benefits under section 6(a)(3) of that Order. The Office of Management and Budget has not reviewed it under that Order. It is not "significant" under the regulatory policies and procedures of the Department of Transportation (DOT) (44 FR 11040, February 26, 1979).

The Coast Guard expects the economic impact of this rule to be minimal therefore a full regulatory evaluation is unnecessary. The impact on routine navigation is expected to be minimal.

Small Entities

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601–612), we considered whether this rule would have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The term "small entities" comprises small businesses, not-for-profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in their fields, and governmental jurisdictions with populations of less than 50,000.

The Coast Guard certifies under 5 U.S.C. 605(b) that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Assistance for Small Entities

Under section 213(a) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104–121), we offered to assist small entities in understanding the rule so that they could better evaluate its effects on them and participate in the rulemaking process.

Small businesses may send comments on the actions of Federal employees who enforce, or otherwise determine compliance with, Federal regulations to the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and the Regional Small Business

Regulatory Fairness Boards. The Ombudsman evaluates these actions annually and rates each agency's responsiveness to small business. If you wish to comment on actions by employees of the Coast Guard, call 1–888-REG-FAIR (1–888–734–3247).

Collection of Information

This rule calls for no new collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520).

Federalism

We have analyzed this rule under Executive Order 13132 and have determined that this rule does not have implications for federalism under that Order.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531–1538) governs the issuance of Federal regulations that require unfunded mandates. An unfunded mandate is a regulation that requires a State, local, or tribal government or the private sector to incur direct costs without the Federal Government's having first provided the funds to pay those unfunded mandate costs. This rule will not impose an unfunded mandate.

Taking of Private Property

This rule will not effect a taking of private property or otherwise have taking implications under E.O. 12630, Governmental Actions and Interference with Constitutionally Protected Property Rights.

Civil Justice Reform

This rule meets applicable standards in sections 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform, to minimize litigation, eliminate ambiguity, and reduce burden.

Protection of Children

We have analyzed this rule under Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks. This rule is not an economically significant rule and does not concern an environmental risk to health or risk to safety that may disproportionately affect children.

Environment

The Coast Guard considered the environmental impact of this rule and concluded that under figure 2–1, paragraph (34)(g) of Commandant Instruction M16475.C, this rule is categorically excluded from further environmental documentation.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 165

Harbors, Marine Safety, Navigation (water), Safety measures, Vessels, Waterways.

PART 165—[AMENDED]

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard amends 33 CFR part 165 as follows:

1. The authority citation for part 165 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1231; 50 U.S.C. 191; 33 CFR 1.05–1(g), 6.04–1, 6.04–6 and 160.5; 49 CFR 1.46.

§ 165.819 [Removed]

2. Section 165.819 is removed in its entirety.

Dated: April 28, 2000.

Paul J. Pluta,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District.

[FR Doc. 00–13013 Filed 5–23–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–15–U

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 165

[CGD1–00–129]

RIN 2115–AA97

Safety Zone: Maine Yankee Steam Generator and Pressurizer Removal Wiscasset, ME

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Temporary final rule.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is establishing a temporary safety zone in a 200-yard radius from position 43°56'55"N, 069°41'53" W, the southeast corner of the Maine Yankee Barge slip. This safety zone precludes entry into the cove between Bailey's point and Foxbird Island and portions of the Eastern Shore of Bailey Cove, Wiscasset, ME. This safety zone is needed to protect persons, facilities, vessels and others in the maritime community from the safety hazards associated with the handling, loading, and transportation of four major components of the Maine Yankee Nuclear Plant which are classified as Class 7 Hazardous Waste.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This rule is effective from May 22, 2000 through July 22, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lieutenant R. V. Timme, Chief of Response and Planning, Captain of the Port, Portland at (207) 780–3251.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulatory History

As authorized by 5 U.S.C. 553, a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) was not published for this regulation. Under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for not publishing an NPRM and for making this rule effective less than 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**. Due to the complex planning and coordination involved final details for the closure were not provided to the Coast Guard until April 30, 2000, making it impossible to publish a NPRM or a final rule 30 days in advance. Any delay in implementing this rule would be contrary to the public interest since immediate action is necessary to close this section of the waterway and protect the maritime public from the hazards associated with the handling, loading and transportation of major components containing class 7 hazardous waste from a nuclear power plant onto a barge.

Background and Purpose

Beginning May 22 and ending July 22, 2000, Stone and Webster, the decommissioning contractor, will load and transport four major components from the Maine Yankee Nuclear Plant to a barge in the Maine Yankee barge slip in Wiscasset, Maine. This regulation establishes a temporary safety zone within 200-yard radius around the southeast corner of the Maine Yankee Barge slip located at position 43°56'55" N, 069°41'53" W. This would effectively preclude entry into the cove between Bailey's Point and Foxbird Island and portions of the Eastern Shore of Bailey Cove. This rule is necessary to protect the maritime public from hazards associated with the loading of components of a nuclear power plant, which contain class 7 hazardous waste, onto a barge.

Regulatory Evaluation

This temporary final rule is not a significant regulatory action under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866 and does not require an assessment of potential costs and benefits under section 6(a)(3) of that order. It has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget under that order. It is not significant under the regulatory policies and procedures of the Department of Transportation (DOT) (44 FR 11040; February 26, 1979). The Coast Guard expects the economic impact of this proposal to be so minimal that a full Regulatory Evaluation under paragraph 10e of the regulatory policies and procedures of DOT is unnecessary. This conclusion is based on the fact that the proposal has no significant effect on

shipping, and its impact on fishing is minimal as it removes a small portion (less than one square mile) of the available fishing grounds from active fishing.

Small Entities

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), the Coast Guard must consider whether this proposal will have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. "Small entities" may include (1) Small businesses and not-for-profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in their fields and (2) governmental jurisdictions with populations of less than 50,000.

For the reasons addressed under the Regulatory Evaluation above, the Coast Guard expects the impact of this regulation to be minimal and certifies under section 605(b) of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) that this final rule will not have a significant economic impact on substantial number of small entities.

This rule will affect the following entities, some of which may be small entities: The commercial fishing community intending to fish portions of Wiscasset restricted by the safety zone.

This safety zone will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities for the following reasons: it only affects a very small portion of the waterway and commercial fishing community will be able to utilize other areas of waterway for commercial purposes.

Collection of Information

This rule contains no collection of information requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

Federalism

The Coast Guard has analyzed this rule under the principles and criteria contained in Executive Order 13132 and have determined that this rule does not have sufficient federalism implications for Federalism under that order.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531–1538) governs the issuance of Federal regulations that require unfunded mandates. An Unfunded Mandate is a regulation that requires a state, local or tribal government or the private sector to incur costs without the Federal government's having first provided the funds to pay those costs. This rule will not impose an Unfunded Mandate.

Taking of Private Property

This rule will not effect a taking of private property or otherwise have taking implications under Executive Order 12630, Governmental Actions and Interference with Constitutionally Protected Property Rights.

Civil Justice Reform

This rule meets applicable standards in section 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform, to minimize litigation, eliminate ambiguity and reduce burden.

Protection of Children

The Coast Guard has analyzed this rule under Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks. This rule is not an economically significant rule and does not concern an environmental risk to health or risk to safety that may disproportionately affect children.

Environment

The Coast Guard has considered the environmental impact of this regulation and concluded that, under Figure 2–1, paragraph 34(g) of Commandant Instruction M16475.1C, this rule is categorically excluded from further environmental documentation. A Categorical Exclusion Determination and an Environmental Analysis Checklist is available in the docket for inspection or copying.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 165

Harbors, Marine safety, Navigation (water), Reporting and record keeping requirements, Security measures, Waterways.

Regulation

For the reasons set out in the preamble, the Coast Guard amends 33 CFR Part 165 as follows:

1. The authority citation for Part 165 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1231; 50 U.S.C. 191; 33 CFR 1.05–1(g), 6.04–1, 6.04–6 and 160.5; 49 CFR 1.46.

2. Add temporary section, 165.T01–129, to read as follows:

§ 165.T01–129 Maine Yankee Steam Generator and Pressurizer Removal Wiscasset, ME

(a) *Location.* The following area is a safety zone: All waters within a 200-yard radius around the position 43°56'55" N, 069°41'53" W.

(b) *Effective date.* This section is effective from May 22, 2000 through July 22, 2000.

(c) *Regulations.* (1) The general regulations contained in § 165.23 and § 165.20 of this part apply.

(2) All persons and vessels shall comply with the instructions of the Coast Guard Captain of the Port or designated personnel. U.S. Coast Guard representatives of the Captain of the Port include commissioned, warrant and petty officers of the Coast Guard. Upon being hailed by U.S. Coast Guard personnel or an U.S. Coast Guard vessel, via siren, radio, flashing light, or other means, those hailed shall proceed as directed.

(3) Entry or movement within this zone is prohibited unless authorized by the Captain of the Port, Portland, ME.

Dated: May 15, 2000.

R.A. Nash

Commander, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port.

[FR Doc. 00-13042 Filed 5-23-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

37 CFR Part 1

[Docket No.: 99100008272-0123-02]

RIN 0651-AB07

Changes to Permit Payment of Patent and Trademark Fees by Credit Card

AGENCY: Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (Office) is amending the rules of practice to provide for the payment of any patent process or trademark process fee by credit card. The Office previously limited payment by credit card to the fees required for information products or for an electronic submission of or in a trademark application. The Office will now accept payment of any patent process fee, trademark process fee, or information product fee by credit card.

EFFECTIVE DATES: The amendment to § 1.21 is effective July 24, 2000. Section 1.23 is effective June 5, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Concerning this final rule: Robert W. Bahr, by telephone at (703) 308-6906, or by facsimile to (703) 308-6916 marked to the attention of Robert W. Bahr.

Concerning the payment of fees (by credit card or otherwise) in general: Matthew Lee, by telephone at (703) 305-8051, by e-mail at matthew.lee@uspto.gov, or by facsimile

at (703) 305-8007 marked to the attention of Matthew Lee.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: It has been the practice of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Office) to accept payment of fees for information products by credit card, but not to accept patent process fees or trademark process fees by credit card. The Office recently revised 37 CFR 1.23 to expressly permit payment of fees by credit card "in an electronically filed trademark application or electronic submission in a trademark application." *See Trademark Law Treaty Implementation Act Changes*, Final Rule, 64 FR 48989, 48917 (September 8, 1999), 1226 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* 103, 120 (September 23, 1999) (TLTIA Final Rule). As explained in the TLTIA Final Rule:

Section 1.23 is also amended to add a paragraph (b), providing that payments of money for fees in electronically filed trademark applications, or electronic submissions in trademark applications, may also be made by credit card. The Office previously limited fee payment by credit card to the fees required for information products, and will continue to accept payment of information product fees by credit card.

Section 1.23(b) will also provide that payment of a fee by credit card must specify the amount to be charged and such other information as is necessary to process the charge, and is subject to collection of the fee.

Section 1.23(b) will further provide that the Office will not accept a general authorization to charge fees to a credit card. The Office cannot accept an authorization to charge "all required fees" or "the filing fee" to a credit card, because the Office cannot determine with certainty the amount of an unspecified fee (the amount of the "required fee" or the applicable "filing fee") within the time frame for reporting a charge to the credit card company. Also, the Office cannot accept charges to credit cards that require the use of a personal identification number (PIN) (e.g., certain debit cards or check cards).

Section 1.23(b) also contains a warning that if credit card information is provided on a form or document other than a form provided by the Office for the payment of fees by credit card, the Office will not be liable if the credit card number is made public. The Office currently provides an electronic form for use when paying a fee in an electronically filed trademark application or electronic submission in a trademark application. This form will not be included in the records open to public inspection in the file of a trademark matter. However, the inclusion of credit card information on forms or documents other than the electronic form provided by the Office may result in the release of credit card information.

See Trademark Law Treaty Implementation Act Changes, 64 FR at 48906-07 (September 8, 1999), 1226 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* at 110.

The Office is now amending the rules of practice to permit payment of any patent process fee, trademark process fee, or information product fee by credit card, subject to actual collection of the fee. The Office will provide a Credit Card Payment Form (PTO-2038) for use when paying a patent process or trademark process fee (or the fee for an information product) by credit card. The Office will not require customers to use this form when paying a patent process or trademark process fee by credit card. If, however, a customer provides a credit card charge authorization in another form or document (e.g., a communication relating to the patent or trademark), the credit card information may become part of the record of an Office file that is open to public inspection. Information concerning fees in general is posted on the Office's Web site at <http://www.uspto.gov>, and information on completing the Credit Card Payment Form will be posted on the Office's Web site.

The Office will not include the Credit Card Payment Form (PTO-2038) among the records open to public inspection in the file of a patent, trademark registration, or other proceeding. The Credit Card Payment Form (PTO-2038) is the only form the Office uses to collect credit card information during a patent, trademark, or other proceeding. The Credit Card Payment Form (PTO-2038) is the only form the Office will not make available to the public as part of the file of a patent, trademark, or other proceeding. As discussed above, failure to use the Credit Card Payment Form (PTO-2038) when submitting a credit card payment may result in your credit card information becoming part of the record of an Office file that is open to public inspection. If the cardholder includes a credit card number on any form or document other than the Credit Card Payment Form, the Office will not be liable in the event that the credit card number becomes public knowledge.

35 U.S.C. 42(d) and § 1.26 (which concern refund of patent and trademark fees) also apply to requests for refund of fees paid by credit card. Any refund of a fee paid by credit card will be by a credit to the credit card account to which the fee was charged. The Office will not refund a fee paid by credit card by Treasury check, electronic funds transfer, or credit to a deposit account (§ 1.25).

Finally, any payment of a patent process or trademark process fee by credit card must be in writing (*see* § 1.2), preferably on the Credit Card Payment Form (PTO-2038). If a Credit Card Payment Form or other document authorizing the Office to charge a patent