

**Executive Order 13045 (Protection of Children)**

The FHWA will evaluate any rule that may be proposed in response to comments received here under Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks. We do not, however, anticipate that any such rule would be economically significant or would present an environmental risk to health or safety that may disproportionately affect children.

**Executive Order 12630 (Taking of Private Property)**

The FHWA will evaluate any rule that may be proposed in response to comments received here to ensure that any such 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.

**Executive Order 13132 (Federalism)**

Any action that may be initiated in response to comments received here will be analyzed in accordance with the principles and criteria contained in Executive Order 13132, dated August 4, 1999. The FHWA anticipates that such action would not have a substantial direct effect or sufficient Federalism implications on States that would limit the policymaking discretion of the States. Nor do we anticipate that such action would directly preempt any State law or regulation.

**Executive Order 12372 (Intergovernmental Review)**

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205 Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.

**Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995**

This proposal contains no collection of information requirements for purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520.

**Regulation Identification Number**

A regulation identification number (RIN) is assigned to each regulatory action listed in the Unified Agenda of Federal Regulations. The Regulatory Information Service Center publishes the Unified Agenda in April and October of each year. The RIN contained in the heading of this document can be used to cross reference this action with the Unified Agenda.

**List of Subjects in 23 CFR Part 772**

Grant programs-transportation, Highways and roads, Noise control.

**Authority:** 23 U.S.C. 109(h) and (i); 42 U.S.C. 4331, 4332; and 49 CFR 1.48(b)).

Issued on: December 21, 2000.

**Kenneth R. Wykle,**

*Federal Highway Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 00–33195 Filed 12–27–00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910–22–M**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Coast Guard****33 CFR Part 164****46 CFR Parts 25 and 27**

[USCG–2000–6931]

**Fire-Suppression Systems and Voyage Planning for Towing Vessels**

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Coast Guard will hold a public meeting to discuss proposed rules for improving the safety of towing vessels. A supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking published on November 8, 2000, would require the installation of fixed fire-extinguishing systems in towing vessels' engine rooms, and it would require owners or operators, and masters, to ensure that voyage plans are complete before their towing vessels commence trips with any barge in tow. These rules would reduce the number of uncontrolled fires in engine rooms, and other fire-related or operational mishaps on towing vessels; as a result, they would save lives, diminish property damage, and reduce the associated threats to the environment and maritime commerce.

The Coast Guard encourages interested parties to attend the meeting and submit comments for discussion during the meeting. In addition, the Coast Guard seeks written comments from any party who is unable to attend the meeting.

**DATES:** The Coast Guard will hold this public meeting on February 8, 2001, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. This meeting may close early if all business is finished. Written material for discussion during the meeting should reach the Docket Management Facility on or before February 2, 2001. Other written comments must reach the Docket Management Facility on or before March 8, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** The Coast Guard will hold this public meeting at the U.S. Department of Transportation, Nassif Building, rooms 2230 and 2232, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590–0001. The telephone number is 202–267–1181. You may mail your comments to the Docket Management Facility [USCG–2000–6931], U.S. Department of Transportation, room PL–401, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590–0001, or deliver them to room PL–401 on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building at the same address between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for Federal holidays. The telephone number is 202–366–9329.

The Docket Management Facility maintains the public docket for this notice. Comments, and documents as indicated in this notice, will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at room PL–401, on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building at the same address between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You may also access this docket on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For questions on this notice, contact Randall Eberly, P.E., Project Manager, Lifesaving and Fire Safety Division of the Office of Design and Engineering Standards (G–MSE–4), Coast Guard, telephone 202–267–1861. For questions on viewing, or submitting material to the docket, contact Dorothy Beard, Chief, Dockets, Department of Transportation, telephone 202–366–9329.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Requests for Comments**

The Coast Guard encourages interested persons to submit written data, views, or arguments. Persons submitting comments should include their names and addresses, identify this notice [USCG–2000–6931], and give the reason for each comment. Please submit all comments and attachments in an unbound format, no larger than 8 1/2 by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing to the Docket Management Facility at the address under **ADDRESSES**. Persons wanting acknowledgement of receipt of comments should enclose stamped, self-addressed postcards or envelopes.

The Coast Guard will consider all comments received during the comment period.

**Information on Service for Individuals With Disabilities**

For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities

or to request special assistance at the meeting, contact Mr. Eberly at the address or phone number under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** as soon as possible.

**Background Information**

The U.S. Coast Guard's supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking (SNPRM) on "Fire-Suppression Systems and Voyage Planning for Towing Vessels" [USCG-2000-6931] was published in the **Federal Register** November 8, 2000 [65 FR 66941]. The SNPRM proposes the installation of fixed fire-extinguishing systems in the engine rooms of towing vessels, and it proposes that owners or operators, and masters, ensure that voyage planning is conducted before vessels towing barges get underway on trips or voyages of at least 12 hours. Towing vessels that engage only in assistance towing, pollution response, or fleeting duties in limited geographical areas would be exempt from the measures in this SNPRM. The SNPRM stems from the incident on January 19, 1996, off the coast of Rhode Island when the tugboat SCANDIA, with the tank barge NORTH CAPE in tow, caught fire five miles off the coast. Crewmembers could not control the fire and, without power, they were unable to prevent the barge carrying 4 million gallons of oil from grounding and spilling about a quarter of its contents into the coastal waters. The spill led Congress to amend the law to permit the Secretary of

Transportation—"in consultation with the Towing Safety Advisory Committee" (TSAC)—to require fire-suppression and other measures on all towing vessels. The measures outlined in the SNPRM would likely decrease the number and severity of injuries to crews, prevent damage to vessels, structures and other property, and protect the environment.

**Public Meeting**

This meeting is open to the public. Please note that the meeting may close early if all business is finished. Members of the public may make oral presentations during the meeting. If you would like to make an oral presentation at the meeting, please notify the Coast Guard point of contact listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** no later than February 2, 2001.

Dated: December 19, 2000.

**Joseph J. Angelo,**

*Director of Standards, Marine Safety and Environmental Protection.*

[FR Doc. 00-33079 Filed 12-27-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-15-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Coast Guard**

**33 CFR Part 401**

[USCG-2000-8569]

**Great Lakes Pilotage Regulations**

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Coast Guard's Office of Great Lakes Pilotage will hold a public meeting. This meeting is in response to the marine industry's request for a comprehensive review of the Great Lakes Pilotage System. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss options for improving the safety, reliability, and efficiency of the Great Lakes Pilotage System. We encourage interested parties to attend the meeting and submit comments for discussion during the meeting. We also seek written comments from any party who is unable to attend the meeting.

**DATES:** Public Meeting: We will hold the meeting on January 30, 2001, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Written Comments: The Docket Management Facility must receive your comments on or before January 22, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Public Meeting: We will hold the meeting in room B1, The Federal Building, 1240 East 9th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44199.

Written Comments: Look in the first column of the table to select *one* of the four methods to send your comments. Then, use the address or fax number in the second column to submit your comments:

If you are using this method	Please use this address or fax number
(1) By mail .....	Docket Management Facility, (USCG-2000-8569), U.S. Department of Transportation, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001.
(2) In Person .....	Room PL-401. On the plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC. • <i>Hours:</i> 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Closed on Federal holidays. • <i>Telephone number:</i> 202-366-9329.
(3) Internet .....	<a href="http://dms.dot.gov">http://dms.dot.gov</a> .
(4) Fax .....	Docket Management Facility: 202-493-2251.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information concerning this notice or the public meeting, contact Tom Lawler, Chief Economist, Office of Great Lakes Pilotage (G-MW), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590, telephone 202-267-6164. For questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket contact Dorothy Beard, Chief, Dockets, Department of Transportation, telephone 202-366-9329.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**How Do I Participate in This Action?**

The Coast Guard encourages you to participate by submitting comments and related material, and by attending the public meeting. If you submit written comments, please include—

- Your name and address;
- The docket number for this notice (USCG-2000-8569);
- The specific section of this notice to which each comment applies; and
- The reason for each comment.

You may mail, deliver, fax, or electronically submit your comments and attachments to the Docket

Management Facility, using an address or fax number listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. Please do not submit the same comment or attachment by more than one method. If you mail or deliver your comments, they must be on 8½ by 11 inch paper and the quality of the copy should be clear enough for copying and scanning. If you mail your comments, and you would like to know if the Docket Management Facility received them, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope. We will consider all