

contracts will be renewed, the proposed rule will ensure payment for M&R expenses actually incurred.

Federalism

MARAD has analyzed this rulemaking in accordance with the principles and criteria contained in Executive Order 12612 and has determined that these regulations do not have sufficient Federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism assessment.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

MARAD certifies that this regulation will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Environmental Assessment

MARAD has considered the environmental impact of this rulemaking and has concluded that there is no impact and that an environmental impact statement is not required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This rulemaking contains no new or revised reporting requirements that require approval by the Office of Management and Budget pursuant to provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et. seq.). The reporting requirements in section 252.23 have received OMB approval under control numbers 2133-024 and 2133-005.

List of Subjects in 46 CFR Part 252

Grant programs—transportation, Maritime carriers, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Accordingly, MARAD proposes to amend 46 CFR part 252 as follows:

PART 252—[AMENDED]

1. The citation of authority for part 252 would be revised to read as follows:

Authority: 46 App. U.S.C. 1114(b), 1117, 1121, 1171, 1172, 1173, and 1175; 49 CFR 1.66.

§ 252.30 [Amended]

2. Section 252.30 is proposed to be amended as follows:

a. In paragraph (a), by adding to the first sentence of text before the period, the words "except for the ODS rates applicable to maintenance and repair expenses, as described separately in § 252.32".

b. In paragraph (a), by adding in the third sentence, after "ODSA", the parenthetical "(with the exception of ODS rates applicable to maintenance and repair expenses)".

§ 252.32 [Amended]

3. Section 252.32 is proposed to be amended as follows:

a. In paragraph (a), by revising the heading "*Basis for subsidy.*" to read "*Subsidy items.*"; and by removing the entire text of the paragraph after "46 CFR part 272," and adding in its place the words "incurred by the operator during the calendar year."

b. In paragraph (b), by revising the heading and introductory text to read as set forth below.

c. In paragraph (b)(3), by removing all the sentences after the third sentence and adding in their place the sentence "If such information is unavailable, repairing practices shall be determined on the basis of the industry as a whole."

d. In paragraph (b)(4), by revising the paragraph heading, to read "*M&R subsidy rate.*"

e. In the table in paragraph (b)(4), by removing in the heading the words "U.S.-FOREIGN COST DIFFERENTIAL, 1985" and adding the words "MAINTENANCE and REPAIR SUBSIDY RATE"; and by removing in the first column the words "U.S.-foreign cost differential" and adding the words "Subsidy rate".

f. By revising paragraph (c) to read as set forth below.

§ 252.32 Maintenance (upkeep) and repairs.

(b) *Subsidy rate.* The subsidy rate for maintenance and repair shall be the U.S.-foreign cost differential determined from price estimates of representative items of maintenance and repair work and by using the repair practices of the foreign-flag competition. See paragraph (b)(4) of this section for an example calculation.

(c) *Data submission requirement.* The operator is required to submit a Subsidy Repair Summary (Form MA-140) quarterly, in accordance with 46 CFR part 272.

4. Section 252.40 is proposed to be amended by designating the existing text as paragraph (a) and adding paragraph (b) to read as follows:

§ 252.40 Payment of subsidy.

(a) * * *

(b) *Maintenance and repair subsidy.* In the case of payments for maintenance and repair subsidy only, the subsidized operator shall submit an initial voucher and include for payment in such voucher a percentage of the ODS payable for the period covered by the voucher, which percentage shall be negotiated between MARAD and the subsidized operator, but in no instance shall exceed 90

percent. Upon the completion of MARAD's determinations that the expenses are fair and reasonable, MARAD's computation of the ratio of subsidized vs. nonsubsidized days during the subsidized year, and the Office of the Inspector General's audit of subsidizable expenses, the subsidized operator shall submit a final voucher for an adjustment of the amount of subsidy paid.

Dated: October 27, 1992.

By order of the Maritime Administrator.

James E. Saari,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 92-26725 Filed 11-5-92; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-61-M

Research and Special Programs Administration

49 CFR Parts 190, 191, 192 and 193

[Docket PS-125; Notice 1]

RIN 2137-AC28

Regulatory Review: Administrative Practices, Reporting Pipeline Incidents, Gas Pipeline Standards, and Liquefied Natural Gas Facilities Standards

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: This notice proposes to change various gas pipeline and liquefied natural gas facility reporting and operating standards to provide clarity, eliminate unnecessary or overly burdensome requirements, and foster economic growth. The proposed changes result from the regulatory review RSPA carried out in response to the President's directive on reducing the burden of government regulation. The proposed changes would reduce costs in the gas and liquefied natural gas pipeline industries without compromising safety.

DATES: RSPA invites interested persons to submit comments by December 7, 1992. Late filed comments will be considered as far as is practicable.

ADDRESSES: Send comments in duplicate to the Dockets Unit, room 8421, Research and Special Programs Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Identify the docket and notice numbers stated in the heading of this notice. All comments and docketed material will be available for inspection and copying in Room 8419 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. each business day.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

J. Willock, (202) 366-2392, regarding the subject matter of this notice, or the Dockets Unit, (202) 366-5046, regarding copies of this notice or other material that is referenced in this notice.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

In a January 28, 1992, memorandum, President Bush wrote to Department and agency heads about the need to reduce the burden of government regulation. The President was concerned that agencies were not doing enough to review and revise existing regulations to eliminate unnecessary and overly burdensome requirements. He recognized that regulations that do not keep pace with new technologies and innovations impose needless costs and impede economic growth.

The President's memorandum called for a 90-day moratorium on issuing certain proposed or final regulations. The President asked agencies to use that period to review their existing regulations to identify those that are not cost-effective and to determine which could be more goal-oriented, could include market mechanisms, and could be clearer to avoid needless litigation. Each agency was asked to propose, as soon as possible, administrative changes to correct any problems discovered during the review.

In response to the President's memorandum, DOT published a notice requesting public comment on the Department's regulatory programs (57 FR 4745; Feb. 7, 1992). Commenters were asked to identify regulations that substantially impede economic growth, may no longer be necessary, are unnecessarily burdensome, impose needless costs or red tape, or overlap or conflict with other DOT or Federal regulations. The deadline for submitting comments was March 2, 1992.

RSPA received comments from eight organizations about the pipeline safety regulations in 49 CFR parts 190, 191 and 193. Comments were from three regulated pipeline companies, three pipeline trade associations, and a state pipeline safety agency. The change proposed for part 192 was inadvertently omitted from another rulemaking (57 FR 39572, August 31, 1992). RSPA has carefully considered all comments in its review of the regulations, and these comments are available in the docket. Some comments will be considered in future rulemakings.

By memorandum of April 29, 1992, the President continued the moratorium on certain proposed and final regulations for four more months. With regard to the

review of existing regulations, he requested that agencies publish proposed changes that require public comment as soon as possible.

Proposed Changes to Part 190 Requirements

The following discussion explains the changes RSPA proposes to various standards in part 190:

Section 190.203 Inspections

Section 190.203(c) currently requires that, after an OPS inspection, an operator must respond within 30 days to a "Request for Specific Information." RSPA believes that allowing 30 days for a response from the operator may not always be sufficient time for an operator to assemble the requested information. The proposed rule would extend the time that an operator may provide this information to 45 days. This will permit the operator to provide RSPA more complete information to use in evaluating the results of an inspection. The better preparation of the information should provide a cost savings to the operator by allowing response within the normal course of business and, at times, by showing the operator's compliance with the regulations and avoiding enforcement action.

Section 190.209 Response Options

Section 190.209(c) currently allows, as an option, the submission of a check to compromise a case. RSPA proposes to delete § 190.209(c) because the pipeline safety statutes contemplate assessments of penalties only after findings of violation. RSPA does not routinely resolve cases without such findings. Furthermore, the requirement to submit a check without assurance that it will resolve the case is burdensome to the respondent.

Section 190.211 Hearing

Section 190.211(c) currently provides for a hearing to be conducted in the headquarters of the OPS Region in which the facility is located. The proposed revision would expand the location for an enforcement hearing to include a location agreed upon by all parties. It would also provide for telephone hearings for cases with small amounts at issue. This will result in cost savings to the pipeline operators by providing for enforcement hearings in more convenient locations or by telephone.

Section 190.211(e) currently provides that at the outset of a hearing in response to a notice of probable violation, the material in the case file pertinent to the issues to be determined

is presented by the presiding official of the hearing. The respondent may examine and respond to or rebut this material.

RSPA proposes to revise this regulation to provide the respondent the opportunity to review material in the case file pertinent to the issues prior to any hearing. This will result in cost savings to a respondent by providing the respondent a better opportunity to prepare its defense before the hearing. It will also serve to narrow or eliminate issues, minimizing hearing time.

Section 190.215 Petitions for Reconsideration

Section 190.215(d) currently states that the filing of a petition under this section does not stay the effectiveness of the final order. The proposed revision would stay payment of any civil penalty assessed if a petition for reconsideration is filed. This will result in cost savings to the pipeline operator by delaying civil penalty payments until a decision is made on the petition for reconsideration.

Section 190.227 Payment of Penalty

Section 190.227(a) currently states that payment of a civil penalty must be made by certified check or money order payable to the "Department of Transportation." The proposed revision would continue to allow this method for a civil penalty of less than \$10,000. Under new § 190.227(b), payment of \$10,000 or more would be required to be made by wire transfer through the Federal Reserve Communications System to the account of the U.S. Treasury.

Proposed Changes to Part 191 Requirements

The following discussion explains the changes RSPA proposes to various standards in part 191:

Section 191.1 Scope

Section 191.1(b)(1) currently states that part 191 does not apply to the offshore gathering of gas upstream from the outlet flange of each facility on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) where hydrocarbons are produced or where produced hydrocarbons are first separated, dehydrated, or otherwise processed, whichever facility is farther downstream. RSPA proposes to delete the phrase "on the Outer Continental Shelf", and to apply the same exception to similar pipelines in state offshore waters.

The current regulations are not clear where the applicability of part 191 begins on offshore gathering lines in state waters. Shell Offshore, Inc.

proposed a similar change in comments to an NPRM proposing to clarify the definition of gathering lines (56 FR 48505; September 25, 1991; Docket PS-122). This change would be consistent with proposed changes to §§ 192.1 and 195.1 in other rulemakings.

This revision will clarify that part 191 does not apply to field production lines; i.e., flow lines in state offshore waters, similar to the present exception on the OCS. Part 191 regulations are currently being applied to some production lines in state offshore waters where such regulations were not intended to apply. The drug testing requirements in part 199 are also being applied to workers on some production platforms in state offshore waters where such regulations were not intended to apply. The proposed revision would make federal and state offshore rules consistent and should reduce operating expenses for the operator.

Section 191.3 Definitions

The definition of Secretary would be amended to eliminate the connotation of gender.

The proposed change would not compromise pipeline safety, because it would not alter the Department's application of the existing part 191 regulations.

Section 191.7 Addressee for Written Reports

In § 191.7, RSPA proposes to remove the expression "Office of Pipeline Safety," from the address for written reports. The proposed change would remove an office title which is no longer reflected in the agency's organizational structure.

Section 191.21 OMB Control Number Assigned to Information Collection

In § 191.21, RSPA proposes to remove the expression "Office of Pipeline Safety" from the first sentence for the same reason stated in § 191.7, above.

Proposed Change to Part 192 Requirements

The following discussion explains the change RSPA proposes to Part 192:

Section 192.513 Test Requirements for Plastic Pipelines

Paragraph (c) requires the test pressure to be at least 150 percent of the maximum operating pressure or 50 p.s.i.g., whichever is greater. However, the maximum test pressure may not be more than three times the design pressure of the pipe. Paragraph (d) requires that the temperature of thermoplastic material may not be more than 100° F. during the test. The Gas

Pipeline Technology Committee (GPTC) of AGA proposed revising the last sentence of paragraph (c) to require that the maximum test pressure may not be more than three times the design pressure, for the test temperature as calculated in accordance with § 192.121. Additionally, GPTC proposed modifying paragraph (d) to require that the pipeline shall not be tested at temperatures greater than the temperature at which the long-term hydrostatic strength has been determined for the thermoplastic material.

The proposed revision of paragraph (c) clarifies that the maximum test pressure is limited, at elevated temperatures, by the reduced hydrostatic strength of the thermoplastic material. The proposed revision of paragraph (d) would benefit pipeline operators who during hot summer days have been unable to pressure test newly constructed (not yet backfilled) pipelines, because the temperature of the thermoplastic material exceeded 100° F. The proposal would permit field pressure testing up to the same temperature used to determine hydrostatic design strength in the § 192.121 design formula.

Pipeline safety would not be compromised by adopting these revisions because the proposed changes for the field test temperature are compatible with the strength of thermoplastic materials at elevated temperatures, in accordance with ASTM D 2513 and with the temperatures used to determine "S" in the design pressure formula of § 192.121.

Proposed Changes to Part 193 Requirements

The following discussion explains the changes RSPA proposes to various standards in Part 193:

Section 193.2819 Gas Detection

Under § 193.2819(f), all enclosed buildings located at an LNG plant must be continuously monitored for the presence of flammable gases and vapors. Monitoring must be done by a fixed flammable gas detection system that provides a visible or audible alarm outside the building. Plant operators must provide and maintain the systems in accordance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 59A, Storage and Handling Liquefied Natural Gas.

Currently, operators must install gas detection and alarm systems in enclosed buildings and regardless of whether the building houses a source of flammable fluid, or is connected by piping or conduit to a source of flammable fluid. For example, an enclosed tool shed or

security hut that has no flammable fluid or is not connected to a source of flammable liquid must have a permanently installed gas detection and alarm system. RSPA's review concluded that such buildings present a very low risk of fire or explosion, because the probability that flammable gas or vapor would accumulate inside the building from leaks occurring somewhere outside the building is remote. Considering the cost to provide and continuously maintain gas detection and alarm systems, RSPA believes that § 193.2819(f) is not cost effective for such buildings.

Therefore, RSPA proposes to apply § 193.2819(f) only to buildings that house, or are connected to a source of flammable fluid. The proposed rule change would save operators the cost of compliance attributable to operating and maintaining systems already installed in buildings not housing or connected to flammable sources. The change also would save the cost of installing systems in new buildings.

Section 193.2907 Protective Enclosure Construction

Paragraphs (b) (1) through (3) and (c) of this rule dictate specific material and design features of protective enclosures (i.e., fences and walls) that surround certain LNG facilities. For example, fences must be chainlink of at least No. 11 gauge wire, with at least 3 strands of barbed topping angled outward between 30° and 45° from vertical. RSPA's review concluded that such prescriptive requirements are unnecessary and overly burdensome in view of the performance standard under § 193.2907(a) governing the design and construction of protective enclosures. That standard provides that each protective enclosure must have sufficient strength and configuration to obstruct unauthorized access to the facilities enclosed. Repealing the prescriptive requirements and relying solely on the performance standard would foster economic growth by encouraging the use of innovations and enhancements in enclosure technology. Therefore, RSPA proposes to remove paragraphs (b) (1) through (3) and (c) from § 193.2907. In the proposed rule set forth below, existing paragraph (b)(4) appears as paragraph (b).

Rulemaking Analyses

Paperwork Reduction Act

Documentation for the information collection requirements for parts 191 and 193 was submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) during

the original rulemaking processes. Currently, regulations in part 191 are covered by OMB Control Numbers 2137-0522 and 2137-0578.

Regulations in part 193 are covered by OMB Control Number 2137-0048. Part 190 imposes no paperwork requirements on the pipeline industry. Regulations in part 192 are covered by OMB Control Numbers 2137-0049 and 2137-0583.

This notice proposed no additional information collection requirements. Instead, the notice proposed to relax the information collection or retention and record retention burden on pipeline operators (described above). Accordingly, there is no need to repeat those submissions with this notice of proposed rulemaking.

Executive Order 12291 and DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures

RSPA has concluded that this proposal is not a major rule under Executive Order 12291 and it is not considered significant under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034, February 26, 1979).

A Regulatory Evaluation has been prepared and is available in the Docket. RSPA estimates the proposed changes to existing rules would result in an estimated savings of \$1,551,000 per year for the gas pipeline industry, without associated costs and with no adverse affect on safety. As discussed above, these savings would come largely from the elimination of unnecessary requirements.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

RSPA criteria for small companies or entities are those with less than \$1,000,000 in revenues and are independently owned and operated. Few of the companies subject to this rulemaking meet these criteria. However, RSPA seeks such impact information in response to this rulemaking. Accordingly, based on the facts available concerning the impact of this proposal, I certify under section 605 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act that this proposal would not, if adopted as final, have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Executive Order 12612

RSPA has analyzed the proposed rules under the criteria of Executive Order 12612 (52 FR 41885; October 30, 1987). We find it does not warrant preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

List of Subjects

49 CFR Part 190

Administrative practice and procedure, Penalties, and Pipeline safety.

49 CFR Part 191

Pipeline safety, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

49 CFR Part 192

Natural gas, Pipeline safety, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

49 CFR Part 193

Fire prevention, Pipeline safety, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, and Security measures.

In consideration of the foregoing, RSPA proposes to amend 49 CFR Parts 190, 191, 192, and 193 as follows:

PART 190—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 190 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 App. U.S.C. 1672, 1677, 1679a, 1679b, 1680, 1681, 1804, 2002, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010; 49 CFR 1.53.

2. In § 190.203 paragraph (c) would be revised to read as follows:

§ 190.203 Inspections.

(c) If, after an inspection, the OPS believes that further information is needed to determine appropriate action, OPS may send the owner or operator a "Request for Specific Information" to be answered within 45 days after receipt of the letter.

3. In § 190.209 paragraph (c) would be revised and (d) would be removed to read as follows:

§ 190.209 Response options.

(c) Failure of the respondent to respond in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section constitutes a waiver of the right to contest the allegations in the notice of probable violation and authorizes the Director, OPS, without further notice to the respondent, to find facts to be as alleged in the notice of probable violation and to issue a final order under § 190.213.

4. Section 190.211 would be amended by revising paragraphs (b), (c) and (e) to read as follows:

§ 190.211 Hearing.

(b) An attorney from the Office of the Chief Counsel, Research and Special Programs Administration, serves as the presiding official at the hearing.

(c) If the amount of the proposed civil penalty or the cost of proposed corrective action is less than \$10,000, the hearing is conducted by telephone conference. Otherwise, the hearing is held in the regional headquarters in which the facility is located or in any location agreed upon by the presiding official, OPS, and the respondent. The parties, by agreement, or the presiding official may vary the form or location of the hearing from that provided in this subsection for the convenience of the parties or for good cause.

(e) Upon request by respondent, and whenever practicable, the material in the case file pertinent to the issues to be determined is provided to the respondent 30 days before the hearing. The respondent may respond to or rebut this material at the hearing.

5. Section 190.215(d) would be revised to read as follows:

§ 190.215 Petitions for reconsideration.

(d) The filing of a petition under this section stays the payment of any civil penalty assessed. However, unless the Director, OPS, otherwise provides, the effectiveness of the order, including any required corrective action, is not otherwise stayed.

6. Section 190.227 would be revised to read as follows:

§ 190.227 Payment of penalty.

(a) Except for payments exceeding \$10,000, payment of a civil penalty proposed or assessed under this subpart may be made by certified check or money order payable to the "Department of Transportation" or by wire transfer, through the Federal Reserve Communications System (Fedwire), to the account of the U.S. Treasury. Payments exceeding \$10,000 must be made by wire transfer. Payments, or in the case of wire transfers, notice of payment, must be sent to the Chief, General Accounting Branch (M-86.2), Accounting Operations Division, Office of the Secretary, room 2228, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590.

(b) Payment of a civil penalty assessed in a final order issued under § 190.213 or affirmed in a decision on a petition for reconsideration must be made within 20 days after receipt of the final order or decision. Failure to do so will result in the initiation of collection action, including the accrual of interest

and penalties in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3717 and 49 CFR part 89.

PART 191—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 191 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 App. U.S.C. 1601(b) and 1608(b); §§ 191.23 and 191.25 also issued under 49 App. U.S.C. 1672(a); and 49 CFR 1.53.

2. In § 191.1, the introductory text of paragraph (b) would be republished and paragraph (b)(1) would be revised to read as follows:

§ 191.1 Scope.

(b) This part does not apply to—

(1) Offshore gathering of gas upstream from the outlet flange of each facility where hydrocarbons are produced or where produced hydrocarbons are first separated, dehydrated, or otherwise processed, whichever facility is farther downstream; or

3. In § 191.3, the introductory text would be republished, and the definition of Secretary would be revised as follows:

§ 191.3 Definitions.

As used in this part and the RSPA Forms referenced in this part—

Secretary means the Secretary of Transportation or any person to whom the Secretary has delegated authority in the matter concerned.

4. The first sentence of § 191.7 would be revised to read as follows:

§ 191.7 Addressee for written reports.

Each written report required by this part must be made to the Information Resources Manager, Research and Special Programs Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, room 8417, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590. * * *

5. The first sentence of § 191.21 would be revised to read as follows:

§ 191.21 OMB control number assigned to information collection.

This section displays the control number assigned by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to the gas pipeline information collection requirements of this part pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Public Law 96-511. * * *

PART 192—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 192 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 App. U.S.C. 1672 and 1604; 49 CFR 1.53.

2. Section 192.513 would be amended by revising paragraphs (c) and (d) to read as follows:

§ 192.513 Test requirements for plastic pipelines.

(c) The test pressure must be at least 150 percent of the maximum operating pressure or 50 p.s.i.g. whichever is greater. However, the maximum test pressure may not be more than three times the pressure determined under § 192.121 at a temperature not less than the pipe temperature during the test.

(d) During the test, the temperature of thermoplastic material may not be more than the temperature at which the material's long-term hydrostatic strength has been determined under the listed specification.

PART 193—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 193 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 App. U.S.C. 1671 et seq.; and 49 CFR 1.53.

2. Section 193.2819(f) would be revised to read as follows:

§ 193.2819 Gas detection.

(f) All enclosed buildings that house a flammable fluid or that are connected by piping or conduit to a source of flammable fluid must be continuously monitored for the presence of flammable gases and vapors with a fixed flammable gas detection system that provides a visible or audible alarm outside the enclosed building. The systems must be provided and maintained according to the applicable requirements of ANSI/NFPA 59A.

3. Section 193.2907 would be revised to read as follows:

§ 193.2907 Protective enclosure construction.

(a) Each protective enclosure must have sufficient strength and configuration to obstruct unauthorized access to the facilities enclosed.

(b) Openings in or under protective enclosures must be secured by grates, doors or covers of construction and fastening of sufficient strength such that the integrity of the protective enclosure is not reduced by any opening.

George W. Tenley, Jr.,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 92-26938 Filed 11-5-92; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-M

Federal Highway Administration

49 CFR Chapter III

[FHWA Docket No. MC-92-33]

Zero-Base Review of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations; Additional Public Outreach Sessions

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of public outreach sessions; request for comments; closing of public docket.

SUMMARY: In September 1992, the FHWA successfully completed an initial series of four public outreach sessions in St. Paul, Minnesota; Portland, Oregon; San Antonio, Texas; and Los Angeles, California. Pursuant to the notice published in the Federal Register on August 18, 1992 (57 FR 37392), the FHWA announces six additional public outreach sessions to obtain comments and recommendations for improvement of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) as they relate to the commercial motor carrier industry. The outreach sessions are an essential part of FHWA's zero-base regulatory review project. The zero-base review is intended to develop a performance-based regulatory system that will best enhance commercial motor vehicle safety. These sessions will be held to obtain information, views, and opinions from representatives of the motor carrier industry and other interested persons. The FHWA will continue to accept comments on the zero-base program until April 1, 1993. After the comment period has closed and the comments have been analyzed, the FHWA will continue the rulemaking process with the goal of developing a regulatory structure that is more performance-oriented.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 1, 1993. The outreach sessions will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., local time, on each of the following dates:

Session 5: November 19, 1992
Session 6: December 2, 1992
Session 7: December 7, 1992
Session 8: December 10, 1992
Session 9: December 14, 1992
Session 10: January 28, 1993

ADDRESSES: Submit written, signed comments to FHWA Docket MC-92-33, room 4232, HCC-10, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Highway Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. All comments received will be available for examination at the above address from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., e.t., Monday