

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 1

[CS Docket No. 97-151; DA 97-2181]

Pole Attachments

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of time.

SUMMARY: The Cable Services Bureau, released an *Order* which granted the Motion for Extension of Time filed by the United States Telephone Association ("USTA") and the Carolina Power & Light Company, Delmarva Power & Light Company, Atlantic City Electric Company, Entergy Services, Florida Power Corporation, Pacific Gas and Electric Power Company, Potomac Electric Power Company, Public Service Company of Colorado, Southern Company, Georgia Power, Alabama Power, Gulf Power, Mississippi Power, Savannah Electric, Tampa Electric Company and Virginia Power, including North Carolina Power (collectively, "Electric Utilities") in *Implementation of Section 703 (e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Amendment of Rules and Policies Governing Pole Attachments (Notice of Proposed Rulemaking)*. The Bureau found that good cause existed to grant a one week extension of time from October 14, 1997 to October 21, 1997. This extension of time is granted in order to facilitate the development of a complete record in this proceeding.

DATES: Reply comments are now due on or before October 21, 1997.¹

ADDRESSES: Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222, Washington, D.C. 20554.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Elizabeth Beaty, Cable Services Bureau, (202) 418-2294, TTY (202) 418-7172.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Cable Services Bureau's *Order*, CS Docket No. 97-151, DA 97-2181, adopted October 9, 1997 and released October 10, 1997, in *Implementation of Section 703(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Amendment of Rules and Policies Governing Pole Attachments*, 62 FR 43963 (August 18, 1997). The full text of this decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center (Room 239), 1919 M Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20554, and may be

purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, (202) 857-3800, 1231 20th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. For copies in alternative formats, such as braille, audio cassette, or large print, please contact Sheila Ray at International Transcription Service.

Synopsis of the Order

1. On August 12, 1997, the Commission commenced a rulemaking proceeding to seek comment on the implementation of a methodology to ensure just, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory maximum pole attachment rates for telecommunications carriers. Comments were due September 26, 1997, and reply comments were due October 14, 1997.

2. On October 6, 1997, the United States Telephone Association ("USTA") and the Carolina Power & Light Company, Delmarva Power & Light Company, Atlantic City Electric Company, Entergy Services, Florida Power Corporation, Pacific Gas and Electric Power Company, Potomac Electric Power Company, Public Service Company of Colorado, Southern Company, Georgia Power, Alabama Power, Gulf Power, Mississippi Power, Savannah Electric, Tampa Electric Company and Virginia Power, including North Carolina Power (collectively, "Electric Utilities") filed a Motion for Extension of Time ("Motion") to file reply comments. USTA and the Electric Utilities request that the Commission grant a two week extension of time to file reply comments, from October 14, 1997 to October 28, 1997. The USTA and Electric Utilities request an extension of time because, in addition to the complex and new issues raised by implementation of section 703(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, they allege that the issues raised in the initial comments in this proceeding are prolific and contain complex administrative and technical issues. They contend that granting an extension of time will allow the parties to confer with one another and allow representatives of the local exchange carrier and electric utility industries time to collaborate on issues that they may have in common.

3. It is the policy of the Commission that extensions of time are not routinely granted. In order to facilitate development of a complete record in this proceeding, we find that good cause exists to grant an extension of time. However, because the Telecommunications Act of 1996 has mandated that the Commission prescribe and implement the new telecommunications rate methodology within specified deadlines, we find that

a two week extension of time is not possible. Therefore, we will grant a one week extension of time in which to file reply comments. Thus, reply comments will now be due on October 21, 1997.

Ordering Clauses

4. Accordingly, *it is ordered*, pursuant to §§0.321 and 1.46 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 0.321 and 1.46, that the Motion for Extension of Time filed by the United States Telephone Association and the Carolina Power & Light Company, Delmarva Power & Light Company, Atlantic City Electric Company, Entergy Services, Florida Power Corporation, Pacific Gas and Electric Power Company, Potomac Electric Power Company, Public Service Company of Colorado, Southern Company, Georgia Power, Alabama Power, Gulf Power, Mississippi Power, Savannah Electric, Tampa Electric Company and Virginia Power, including North Carolina Power is *granted*.

5. *It is further ordered* that all interested parties may file reply comments on the matters discussed in the Commission's *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* by October 21, 1997.

Federal Communications Commission.

Meredith J. Jones,

Chief, Cable Services Bureau.

[FR Doc. 97-28091 Filed 10-22-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

49 CFR Parts 216, 223, 229, 231, 232, and 238

[FRA Docket No. PCSS-1, Notice No. 3]

RIN 2130-AA95

Passenger Equipment Safety Standards

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking; date and location of public hearing.

SUMMARY: By notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) published on September 23, 1997 (62 FR 49728), FRA proposed a rule establishing comprehensive safety standards for railroad passenger equipment. In that notice, FRA announced that it would schedule a public hearing to allow interested parties the opportunity to comment on issues addressed in the NPRM.

DATES: *Public Hearing:* The date of the public hearing is Friday, November 21,

¹ This document was received by the Office of the Federal Register on October 20, 1997.

1997 at 9:00 a.m. in Washington, D.C. Any person wishing to participate in the hearing should notify the Docket Clerk by telephone (202-632-3198) or by mail at the address provided below at least five working days prior to the date of the hearing and submit three copies of the oral statement that he or she intends to make at the hearing. The notification should identify the party the person represents, and the particular subject(s) the person plans to address. The notification should also provide the Docket Clerk with the participant's mailing address. FRA reserves the right to limit participation in the hearings of persons who fail to provide such notification.

ADDRESSES: (1) *Docket Clerk:* Written notification should identify the docket number and must be submitted in triplicate to the Docket Clerk, Office of Chief Counsel, Federal Railroad Administration, RCC-10, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590.

(2) *Public Hearing:* The public hearing will be held in the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Auditorium, Third Floor, Federal Office Building 10A, 800 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20591.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Edward Pritchard, Acting Staff Director, Motive Power and Equipment Division, Office of Safety Assurance and Compliance, FRA, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Mail Stop 25, Washington, D.C. 20590 (telephone: 202-632-3362); Daniel Alpert, Trial Attorney, Office of Chief Counsel, FRA, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Mail Stop 10, Washington, D.C. (telephone: 202-632-3186); or Thomas Herrmann, Trial Attorney, Office of Chief Counsel, FRA, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Mail Stop 10, Washington, D.C. 20590 (telephone: 202-632-3167).

Issued in Washington, D.C., on October 20, 1997.

Jolene M. Molitoris,

Federal Railroad Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97-28148 Filed 10-22-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 622

[Docket No. 971009242-7242-01; I.D. 091997B]

RIN 0648-AJ14

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Amendment 15

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Proposed rule, request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues this proposed rule to implement Amendment 15 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico (FMP). This proposed rule would replace the current commercial red snapper endorsement and trip limit system with a system comprised of two classes of transferrable red snapper licenses and trip limits; starting in 1998, split the red snapper commercial fishing season into two time periods, the first commencing February 1 with two-thirds of the annual quota available and the second commencing on September 1 with the remainder of the annual quota available; open the red snapper commercial fishery at noon on the first of each month and close it at noon on the 15th of each month during the commercial season; prohibit the possession of reef fish in excess of the bag limit on a vessel that has on board, or is tending, a trap other than a fish, stone crab, or spiny lobster trap; increase the minimum size limit for vermilion snapper; close the commercial fishery for greater amberjack each year during March through May; remove sea basses, grunts, and porgies from the FMP; and remove certain species from the aggregate bag limit for reef fish. In addition, NMFS proposes to exclude certain species from the prohibition on their harvest using powerheads in the stressed area. The intended effects of this rule are to conserve and manage the reef fish resources of the Gulf of Mexico.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before December 8, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the proposed rule or on the initial regulatory flexibility analysis (IRFA) must be sent to Robert Sadler, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702.

Comments regarding the collection-of-information requirements contained in this rule should be sent to Edward E. Burgess, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702, and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, DC 20503 (Attention: NOAA Desk Officer).

Requests for copies of Amendment 15, which includes an environmental assessment, a regulatory impact review (RIR), and an IRFA, and for copies of a minority report submitted by two members of the Council, should be sent to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, Suite 1000, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Tampa, FL, 33619, phone: 813-228-2815; Fax: 813-225-7015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Sadler, 813-570-5305.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The reef fish fishery of the Gulf of Mexico is managed under the FMP. The FMP was prepared by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) and is implemented under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) by regulations at 50 CFR part 622.

Red Snapper Licenses and Trip Limits

The current commercial red snapper endorsement and trip limit system would be replaced with a "two-tier" license system consisting of Class 1 licenses, holders of which would be restricted to a red snapper trip limit of 2,000 lb (907 kg), and Class 2 licenses, holders of which would be restricted to a red snapper trip limit of 200 lb (91 kg). A Class 1 license would be issued for the vessel specified by the holder of a red snapper endorsement on March 1, 1997, and to a historical captain. The determination of status as a historical captain would be based on information collected under Amendment 9 to the FMP. The definition of historical captain in this proposed rule is unchanged from that published in the final rule to implement Amendment 9 (59 FR 39301, August 2, 1994).

A Class 2 license would be issued for a vessel specified by an owner or operator whose earned income qualified for a Gulf reef fish permit that was valid on March 1, 1997, and whose vessel had recorded a red snapper landing during the period January 1, 1990, through February 28, 1997. Eligibility for a Class 2 license would be based on information collected under Amendment 9 on red snapper landings in the 1990-1992 period. Red snapper landings for the