

government agencies, before promulgating rules or other regulations that require "collections of information" (i.e., recordkeeping, reporting, or third-party disclosure requirements), to obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB"), 44 U.S.C. 3502. The Commission currently has OMB clearance for the Rule's information collection requirements (OMB No. 3084-0069). The proposed amendment would not impose any new information collection requirements. To ensure that no additional burden has been overlooked, however, the Commission seeks public comment on what, if any, additional information collection burden the proposed amendment may impose.

VI. Communications by Outside Parties to Commissioners or Their Advisors

Pursuant to Rule 1.18(c) of the Commission's Rules of Practice, 16 CFR 1.18(c) (1997), communications with respect to the merits of this proceeding from any outside party to any Commissioner or Commissioner's advisor during the course of this rulemaking shall be subject to the following treatment. Written communications, including written communications from members of Congress, shall be forwarded promptly to the Secretary for placement on the public record. Oral communications, not including oral communications from members of Congress, are permitted only when such oral communications are transcribed verbatim or summarized, at the discretion of the Commissioner or Commissioner's advisor to whom such oral communications are made, and are promptly placed on the public record, together with any written communications and summaries of any oral communications relating to such oral communications. Oral communications from members of Congress shall be transcribed or summarized, at the discretion of the Commissioner or Commissioner's advisor to whom such oral communications are made, and promptly placed on the public record, together with any written communications and summaries of any oral communications relating to such oral communications.

List of Subjects in 16 CFR Part 305

Advertising, Energy conservation, Household appliances, Labeling, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 6294.

VII. Proposed Amendment

In consideration of the foregoing, the Commission proposes to amend title 16, chapter I, subchapter C of the Code of Federal Regulations, as follows:

PART 305—RULE CONCERNING DISCLOSURES REGARDING ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND WATER USE OF CERTAIN HOME APPLIANCE AND OTHER PRODUCTS REQUIRED UNDER THE ENERGY POLICY AND CONSERVATION ACT ("APPLIANCE LABELING RULE")

1. The authority for part 305 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 6294.

2. Appendix F to part 305—Clothes Washers is revised to read as follows:

Appendix F To Part 305—Clothes Washers

Range Information

"Compact" includes all household clothes washers with a tub capacity of less than 1.6 cu. ft. or 13 gallons of water.

"Standard" includes all household clothes washers with a tub capacity of 1.6 cu. ft. or 13 gallons of water or more.

Capacity	Range of Estimated Annual Energy Consumption (kWh/yr.)	
	Low	High
Compact	592	607
Standard	241	1231

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-29287 Filed 10-30-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

24 CFR Part 5

[Docket No. FR-4321-N-04]

RIN 2501-AC49

Uniform Financial Reporting Standards for HUD Housing Programs; Intent To Issue Technical Amendment

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner, HUD.

ACTION: Intent to issue technical amendment.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this document is to advise the public that within the next few weeks HUD will publish a final rule to make a technical amendment to its new regulations creating uniform

financial reporting standards, issued on September 1, 1998. The technical amendment will change for certain entities whose fiscal year ends December 31st, as described in the Supplementary Information section of this document, the annual report submission date from April 30, 1999 to June 30, 1999, only for the first year of compliance with these standards.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information contact Kenneth Hannon, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh St., SW, Room 6274, Washington, DC 20410; telephone (202) 708-0547, ext. 2599 (this is not a toll-free number). Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access that number via TTY by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8399.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 1, 1998 (63 FR 46582), HUD published a final rule that established uniform annual financial reporting standards for HUD's Public Housing, Section 8 housing, and multifamily insured housing programs. The rule provides that the financial information already required to be submitted to HUD on an annual basis under program requirements is to be submitted electronically to HUD and to be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The rule also established annual financial report filing dates for the covered entities.

The September 1, 1998 rule provides an April 30, 1999 annual report submission date (for the first year of compliance only) for (1) owners of housing assisted under Section 8 project-based housing assistance payments programs, described in § 5.801(a)(3) of the new rule, and owners of multifamily projects receiving direct or indirect assistance from HUD, or with mortgages insured, coinsured, or held by HUD, including but not limited to housing under certain HUD programs described in § 5.801(a)(4) of the new rule; and (2) which group of owners have fiscal years ending December 31, 1998. The April 30, 1999 date with its proximity to Federal income tax filing deadline makes conversion to the new reporting system and completion of the required report by April 30, 1999 burdensome for affected entities. The final rule that HUD plans to issue will change the April 30, 1999 date to June 30, 1999 for the first year of reporting only.

Dated: October 26, 1998.

William C. Apgar,

*Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal
Housing Commissioner.*

[FR Doc. 98-29280 Filed 10-28-98; 3:35 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[CGD05-98-090]

RIN 2115-AE47

Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Elizabeth River, Eastern Branch, Norfolk, Virginia

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: At the request of Norfolk Southern Corporation, the Coast Guard is proposing to change the regulations that govern the operation of the Norfolk and Western Railroad drawbridge across the Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River, mile 2.7, at Norfolk, Virginia. The proposed rule would reduce the hours when on-demand openings of the bridge are required during the boating season, and openings at all other times would require three-hours advance notice. This change is intended to reduce on-demand openings at times when there is minimal use of the bridge while still providing for the reasonable needs of navigation.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before January 4, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to Commander (Aowb), Fifth Coast Guard District, Federal Building, 4th Floor, 431 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, Virginia 23704-5004, or may be hand delivered to the same address between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is (757) 398-6222. Comments will become a part of this docket and will be available for inspection and copying at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ann B. Deaton, Bridge Administrator, Fifth Coast Guard District, at (757) 398-6222.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Request for Comments

The Coast Guard encourages interested parties to participate in this rulemaking by submitting written data, views, or arguments. Persons submitting comments should include their names and addresses, identify this rulemaking

(CGD05-98-090) and the specific section of this proposal to which each comment applies, and give the reason for each comment. The Coast Guard requests that all comments and attachments be submitted in an unbound format suitable for copying and electronic filing. If not practical, a second copy of any bound material is requested. Persons wanting acknowledgement of receipt of comments should enclose a stamped self-addressed postcard or envelope.

The Coast Guard will consider all comments received during the comment period. It may change this proposal in view of the comments.

The Coast Guard plans no public hearing. Persons may request a public hearing by writing to the Commander, Fifth Coast Guard District, at the address under **ADDRESSES**. The request should include reasons why a hearing would be beneficial. If it determines that the opportunity for oral presentations will aid in this proposed rulemaking, the Coast Guard will hold a public hearing at a time and place announced by a later notice in the **Federal Register**.

Background and Purpose

33 CFR 117.1007(a) currently requires the Norfolk and Western Railroad Bridge, mile 2.7, across the Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River, to open on signal from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week, year round. At all other times, the bridge only opens with at least a three-hour advance notice.

The Norfolk Southern Corporation has requested that the Coast Guard change the operating schedule of the Norfolk and Western Railroad bridge by reducing the hours when on-demand openings are provided during the boating season and requiring three-hours advance notice for openings outside of the boating season. Specifically, Norfolk Southern Corporation has requested that the drawbridge open on demand from April 15 to September 30, Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Friday through Sunday from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. At all other times, the drawbridge would only open with at least a three-hour advance notice.

The Norfolk Southern Corporation has based their request on data obtained from the 1996 and 1997 drawlogs. The logs revealed that from April to October during the weekdays (Monday through Thursday) from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and during the weekends (Friday through Sunday) from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., the waterway traffic was at its peak. From 6 p.m. to 10 a.m. weekdays, and from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. weekends during these same months, waterway traffic

decreased sufficiently to request placing the bridge in advance-notice status. Norfolk Southern Corporation has also requested that from October to April, all bridge openings be provided only with a three-hour advance notice.

A Coast Guard review of the drawlogs revealed that waterway traffic, particularly recreational, remains active through October and November. From December to mid-April, recreational waterway traffic decreases by 80% while commercial waterway traffic remains steady. The majority of bridge openings during the weekends from April through November were a result of recreational boaters. Additional information provided by Norfolk Southern Corporation showed that during October and November 1996, the number of draw openings were 86 and 73, respectively. During October and November 1997, the number of openings were 88 and 59, respectively. During the months of June, July and August of 1996, the number of openings were 180, 106, and 137. In 1997 during the same months, the number of openings were 155, 107, and 148. Even though draw openings are lower from October through November than during the peak summer months, it is apparent the need exists to extend the boating season to the end of November to meet the needs of navigation.

Located upstream of the railroad bridge are commercial businesses that depend on this waterway for their livelihood and numerous property owners who own boats and frequent the river during the boating season. The Coast Guard's goal is to provide practical and feasible scheduled opening times for drawbridges during seasons of the year, and during times of the day, when scheduled openings would benefit users and owners of the bridge as well as users of the waterway. Even though Norfolk Southern Corporation has requested that the boating season begin in mid-April and end in September, the Coast Guard feels it is necessary to extend the boating season to the end of November based on information acquired from the drawlogs and local knowledge of the Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River. It is also felt that, since this railroad bridge currently opens on-demand year round from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., extending the boating season by two months is a reasonable compromise between the waterway users and the railroad. The Coast Guard believes that this proposed rule would reduce the need for providing a bridgetender for on-demand bridge openings at times of the year when there is minimal need for one