

(b) If the examiner maintains the refusal of the affidavit or declaration, the holder may file a petition to the Director to review the examiner's action. The petition must be filed within three months of the date of issuance of the action maintaining the refusal.

(c) Unless notified otherwise in the Office action, the three-month response period designated in paragraph (b) of this section may be extended by three months up to a maximum of six months from the Office action issue date, upon timely request and payment of the fee set forth in § 7.6(a)(9). To be considered timely, a request for extension of time must be received by the Office on or before the deadline for response set forth in the Office action.

(d) If no response is filed within the time periods set forth above, the registration will be cancelled.

(e) A decision by the Director is necessary before filing an appeal or commencing a civil action in any court.

**Andrew Hirshfeld,**

*Commissioner for Patents, Performing the Functions and Duties of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.*

[FR Doc. 2021-10116 Filed 5-17-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

**FEDERAL PERMITTING  
IMPROVEMENT STEERING COUNCIL**

**40 CFR Chapter IX**

[FPISC Case 2018-001; Docket No. 2018-0008, Sequence No. 1]

**RIN 3090-AJ88**

**Fees for Governance, Oversight, and Processing of Environmental Reviews and Authorizations by the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council; Withdrawal**

**AGENCY:** Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking; withdrawal.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (Permitting Council) hereby withdraws its proposal to establish an initiation fee for project sponsors to reimburse the Permitting Council for reasonable costs associated with implementing and managing certain aspects of the program established under Title 41 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST-41). The Permitting Council will continue to assess the relative merits of collecting fees from project sponsors and various fee structures, and may

undertake a separate fees rulemaking in the future.

**DATES:** The proposed rule published on September 4, 2018 (83 FR 44846), is withdrawn on May 18, 2021.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John G. Cossa, General Counsel, Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council, 1800 G St. NW, Suite 2400, Washington, DC 20006, [john.cossa@fpisc.gov](mailto:john.cossa@fpisc.gov), or by telephone at 202-255-6936.

People who use a telecommunications device for the deaf may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact this individual during normal business hours or to leave a message at other times. FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You will receive a reply to a message during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Permitting Council administers FAST-41, 42 U.S.C. 4370m *et seq.*, which serves to improve the timeliness, predictability, and transparency of the Federal environmental review and authorization processes for "covered" infrastructure projects. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 4370m-8(a), Permitting Council member agencies may issue regulations establishing a fee structure for project sponsors to reimburse the United States for "reasonable costs" incurred in conducting environmental reviews and authorizations for FAST-41 covered projects. Reasonable costs include the cost of administering the FAST-41 program and the Permitting Council. 42 U.S.C. 4370m-8(b).

On September 4, 2018, the Permitting Council proposed to establish an initiation fee for project sponsors to reimburse the United States for reasonable costs associated with implementing certain FAST-41 provisions and operating the Permitting Council's Office of the Executive Director. 83 FR 44846. The Permitting Council continues to assess the advantages and disadvantages of: (i) Collecting fees from project sponsors; (ii) various fee structures in light of the diverse range of FAST-41 covered projects; and (iii) how such fees could be used to most effectively comply with and accomplish the goals of FAST-41. In particular, the Permitting Council is considering whether implementing fees at this time may dissuade project sponsors from seeking FAST-41 coverage because project review can span more than two years and the FAST-41 program is currently scheduled to terminate in on December 4, 2022. 42 U.S.C. 4370m-12. The Permitting Council does not anticipate completing its assessment of these and

other issues related to the fee proposal in the immediate future, and therefore is withdrawing the proposed rule. The Permitting Council may revisit a FAST-41 fees rulemaking in the future.

**Authority:** 42 U.S.C. 4370m *et seq.*

**John Cossa,**  
*General Counsel, Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**50 CFR Part 679**

**RIN 0648-BK31**

**Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Cook Inlet Salmon; Amendment 14**

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

**ACTION:** Announcement of availability of fishery management plan amendment; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) submitted Amendment 14 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Salmon Fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) Off Alaska (Salmon FMP) to the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) for review. If approved, Amendment 14 would incorporate the Cook Inlet EEZ Subarea into the Salmon FMP's West Area, thereby bringing the Cook Inlet EEZ Subarea and the commercial salmon fisheries that occur within it under Federal management by the Council and NMFS. Amendment 14 would manage the Cook Inlet EEZ Subarea by applying the prohibition on commercial salmon fishing that is currently established in the West Area to the newly added Cook Inlet EEZ Subarea. Amendment 14 is intended to promote the goals and objectives of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), the Salmon FMP, and other applicable laws.

**DATES:** Comments must be received no later than July 19, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on this document, identified by NOAA-NMFS-2021-0018, by any of the following methods:

- *Electronic Submission:* Submit all electronic public comments via the