

For instructions on locating the docket, see the **ADDRESSES** section of this preamble.

G. Protest Activities

The Coast Guard respects the First Amendment rights of protesters. Protesters are asked to call or email the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section to coordinate protest activities so that your message can be received without jeopardizing the safety or security of people, places, or vessels.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 165

Harbors, Marine safety, Navigation (water), Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Security measures, Waterways.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard amends 33 CFR part 165 as follows:

PART 165—REGULATED NAVIGATION AREAS AND LIMITED ACCESS AREAS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 165 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 46 U.S.C. 70034, 70051, 70124; 33 CFR 1.05–1, 6.04–1, 6.04–6, and 160.5; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 00170.1, Revision No. 01.3.

■ 2. Add § 165.T08–0138 to read as follows:

§ 165.T08–0138 Safety Zone; Gulf of Mexico, Panama City, FL.

(a) *Location.* The following area is a safety zone: All navigable waters of the Gulf of Mexico in Panama City, FL, beginning 500' from shore within the following coordinates: 30°13'17.88" N; 85°53'42.32" W, thence southeast to 30°12'16.44" N; 85°51'46.60" W, thence southwest to 30°11'55.47" N; 85°52'01.09" W, thence northwest to 30°12'56.60" N; 85°53'55.85" W.

(b) *Definitions.* As used in this section, *designated representative* means a Coast Guard Patrol Commander, including a Coast Guard coxswain, petty officer, or other officer operating a Coast Guard vessel and a Federal, State, and local officer designated by or assisting the Sector Mobile Captain of the Port (COTP) in the enforcement of the safety zone.

(c) *Regulations.* (1) Under the general safety zone regulations in subpart C of this part, you may not enter the safety zone described in paragraph (a) of this section unless authorized by the COTP or the COTP's designated representative. No person may anchor, dredge, or trawl in the safety zone unless authorized by the COTP or the COTP's designated representative.

(2) To seek permission to enter, contact the COTP or the COTP's designated representative on VHF–CH 16. Those in the safety zone must comply with all lawful orders or directions given to them by the COTP or the COTP's designated representative.

(d) *Enforcement period.* This section will be enforced May 3, 2024, through May 5, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. The enforcement period will be announced via marine broadcast, local notice to mariners, or by an on-scene oral notice as appropriate.

Dated: April 29, 2024.

U.S. Mullins,

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port Sector Mobile.

[FR Doc. 2024–09762 Filed 5–2–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110–04–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 165

[Docket Number USCG–2024–0313]

RIN 1625–AA00

Safety Zone; Pipeline 5 HAUV/ROV Survey; Straits of Mackinac, MI

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Temporary interim rule and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is establishing a temporary safety zone for navigable waters within a 500-yard radius of the vessels Ugle Duckling and Streak. The safety zone is necessary to protect vessels while a HAUV/ROV survey is conducted of the Enbridge Line 5 pipelines. Entry of vessels into this zone is prohibited unless authorized by the Captain of the Port Sector Northern Great Lakes (COTP).

DATES: This rule is effective from May 28, 2024, 5:30 a.m. through July 31, 2024, 6:30 p.m. local time. Comments and related material must be received by the Coast Guard on or before May 20, 2024.

ADDRESSES: To view documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket, go to <https://www.regulations.gov>, type USCG–2024–0313 in the search box and click “Search.” Next, in the Document Type column, select “Supporting & Related Material.”

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions about this rule, call or email LT Rebecca Simpson, Sector Northern Great Lakes Waterways

Management Division, U.S. Coast Guard; telephone 906–635–3223, email ssmprevention@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Table of Abbreviations

CFR Code of Federal Regulations
DHS Department of Homeland Security
FR Federal Register
NPRM Notice of proposed rulemaking
§ Section
U.S.C. United States Code
HAUV Hybrid Autonomous Underway Vehicle
ROV Remotely Operated Vehicle

II. Background Information and Regulatory History

The Coast Guard is issuing this temporary rule without prior notice and opportunity to comment pursuant to authority under section 4(a) of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (5 U.S.C. 553(b)). This provision authorizes an agency to issue a rule without prior notice and opportunity to comment when the agency for good cause finds that those procedures are “impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest.” Under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for not publishing a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) with respect to this rule because it is impracticable.

It is impracticable to publish an NPRM because this safety zone must be established by May 28, 2024, and we lack sufficient time to provide a reasonable comment period and then consider those comments before issuing the rule.

For the same reasons discussed in the preceding paragraph, a 30 day delay of the effective date would be contrary to public interest because action is needed to respond to the potential safety hazards associated with the HAUV/ROV survey of the Enbridge Line 5 pipelines and the potential hazard from other vessels transiting the Straits of Mackinac at the same time this project is being conducted.

III. Legal Authority and Need for Rule

The Coast Guard is issuing this rule under authority in 46 U.S.C. 70034. The COTP has determined that the potential hazards associated with the HAUV/ROV survey of the Enbridge Line 5 pipelines starting May 28, 2024 will be a safety concern to anyone within a 500-yard radius of the vessels Ugle Duckling and Streak. This rule is needed to protect personnel, vessels, and the marine environment in the navigable waters within the safety zone while the HAUV/ROV survey is being conducted.

IV. Discussion of the Rule

This rule establishes a safety zone from 5:30 a.m. on May 28, 2024 through 6:30 p.m. on July 31, 2024. The safety zone will cover all navigable waters within the Mackinac Regulated Navigation Area within 500 yards of vessels being used to conduct the HAUV/ROV survey of the Enbridge Line 5 pipelines. The duration of the zone is intended to protect personnel, vessels, and the marine environment in these navigable waters while the HAUV/ROV survey is being conducted. No vessel or person will be permitted to enter the safety zone without obtaining permission from the COTP or a designated representative.

V. Regulatory Analyses

We developed this rule after considering numerous statutes and Executive orders related to rulemaking. Below we summarize our analyses based on a number of these statutes and Executive orders, and we discuss First Amendment rights of protestors.

A. Regulatory Planning and Review

Executive Orders 12866 and 13563 direct agencies to assess the costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits. This rule has not been designated a “significant regulatory action,” under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866, as amended by Executive Order 14094 (Modernizing Regulatory Review). Accordingly, this rule has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

This regulatory action determination is based on the size, duration and location of the safety zone. Vessel traffic will be able to safely transit around this safety zone which would impact a small, designated area of the Straits of Mackinac. Moreover, the Coast Guard will issue a Local Notice to Mariners about the safety zone, and the rule would allow vessels to seek permission to enter the zone.

B. Impact on Small Entities

The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980, 5 U.S.C. 601–612, as amended, requires Federal agencies to consider the potential impact of regulations on small entities during rulemaking. The term “small entities” comprises small businesses, not-for-profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in their fields, and governmental jurisdictions with populations of less than 50,000. The Coast Guard certifies under 5 U.S.C. 605(b) that this rule will not have a

significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

While some owners or operators of vessels intending to transit the safety zone may be small entities, for the reasons stated in section V.A above, this rule will not have a significant economic impact on any vessel owner or operator.

Under section 213(a) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104–121), we want to assist small entities in understanding this rule. If the rule would affect your small business, organization, or governmental jurisdiction and you have questions concerning its provisions or options for compliance, please call or email the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

Small businesses may send comments on the actions of Federal employees who enforce, or otherwise determine compliance with, Federal regulations to the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and the Regional Small Business Regulatory Fairness Boards. The Ombudsman evaluates these actions annually and rates each agency’s responsiveness to small business. If you wish to comment on actions by employees of the Coast Guard, call 1–888–REG–FAIR (1–888–734–3247). The Coast Guard will not retaliate against small entities that question or complain about this rule or any policy or action of the Coast Guard.

C. Collection of Information

This rule will not call for a new collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520).

D. Federalism and Indian Tribal Governments

A rule has implications for federalism under Executive Order 13132, Federalism, if it has a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the National Government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. We have analyzed this rule under that Order and have determined that it is consistent with the fundamental federalism principles and preemption requirements described in Executive Order 13132.

Also, this rule does not have tribal implications under Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, because it does not have a substantial direct effect on one or more Indian tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribes,

or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian tribes.

E. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531–1538) requires Federal agencies to assess the effects of their discretionary regulatory actions. In particular, the Act addresses actions that may result in the expenditure by a State, local, or tribal government, in the aggregate, or by the private sector of \$100,000,000 (adjusted for inflation) or more in any one year. Though this rule will not result in such an expenditure, we do discuss the effects of this rule elsewhere in this preamble.

F. Environment

We have analyzed this rule under Department of Homeland Security Directive 023–01, Rev. 1, associated implementing instructions, and Environmental Planning COMDTINST 5090.1 (series), which guide the Coast Guard in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321–4370f), and have determined that this action is one of a category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. This rule involves a safety zone to cover all navigable waters within the Mackinac Regulated Navigation Area within 500 yards of vessels being used to conduct a HAUV/ROV survey of the Enbridge Line 5 pipelines. It is categorically excluded from further review under paragraph L60a of Appendix A, Table 1 of DHS Instruction Manual 023–01–001–01, Rev. 1. We seek any comments or information that may lead to the discovery of a significant environmental impact from this proposed rule.

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For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard amends 33 CFR part 165 as follows:

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■ 1. The authority citation for part 165 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 46 U.S.C. 70034, 70051, 70124; 33 CFR 1.05–1, 6.04–1, 6.04–6, and 160.5; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 00170.1, Revision No. 01.3.

■ 2. Add § 165.T09–0313 to read as follows:

§ 165.T09–0313 Safety Zone; Vessels Ugle Duckling and Streak operating in the Straits of Mackinac, MI

(a) *Location.* The following area is a safety zone: All navigable waters within 500 yards of the vessels Ugle Duckling and Streak while conducting a HAUV/ROV survey of the Enbridge Line 5 pipelines.

(b) *Definitions.* As used in this section, *designated representative* means a Coast Guard Patrol Commander, including a Coast Guard coxswain, petty officer, or other officer operating a Coast Guard vessel and a Federal, State, and local officer designated by or assisting the Captain of the Port Northern Great Lakes (COTP) in the enforcement of the safety zone.

(c) *Regulations.* (1) Under the general safety zone regulations in subpart C of this part, you may not enter the safety zone described in paragraph (a) of this section unless authorized by the COTP or the COTP's designated representative.

(2) To seek permission to enter, contact the COTP or the COTP's representative by VHF Channel 16 or telephone at (906) 635–3233. Those in the safety zone must comply with all lawful orders or directions given to them by the COTP or the COTP's designated representative.

(d) *Enforcement periods.* This section will be enforced from 5:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. each day from May 28, 2024, through July 31, 2024.

Dated: April 29, 2024.

J.R. Bendle,

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port Sector Northern Great Lakes.

[FR Doc. 2024–09611 Filed 5–2–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**Patent and Trademark Office****37 CFR Part 1**

[Docket No. PTO–P–2024–0018]

RIN 0651–AD80

Adoption of Updated WIPO Standard ST.26; Revision to Incorporation by Reference

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is adopting version 1.7 of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Standard ST.26, which was approved December 8, 2023, for incorporation by reference into the USPTO's regulations addressing application disclosures containing nucleotide and/or amino acid sequences. Among other enhancements, version 1.7 of ST.26 provides technical terminology consistency and improves descriptions.

The USPTO first amended its rules in 2022 to incorporate by reference certain provisions of WIPO Standard ST.26. In addition to simplifying the process for applicants filing in multiple countries, the ST.26 requirement to submit a single sequence listing in eXtensible Markup Language (XML) format provides better preservation, accessibility, and sorting of the submitted sequence data for the public.

DATES: This final rule is effective on July 1, 2024. The incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in this rule is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of July 1, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ali Salimi, Senior Legal Advisor, at 571–272–0909; or Raul Tamayo, Senior Legal Advisor, at 571–272–7728, both of the Office of Patent Legal Administration; or to PatentPractice@uspto.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The “WIPO Handbook on Intellectual Property Information and Documentation” sets forth standards for the presentation of data in many contexts. One such standard is WIPO Standard ST.26, which is titled “RECOMMENDED STANDARD FOR THE PRESENTATION OF NUCLEOTIDE AND AMINO ACID SEQUENCE LISTINGS USING XML (EXTENSIBLE MARKUP LANGUAGE).” WIPO Standard ST.26 defines the disclosures of nucleotide and/or amino acid sequences in patent applications that must be presented in a sequence

listing in XML format in the manner specified in the standard.

In a final rule published May 20, 2022, at 87 FR 30806, the USPTO created new rules 37 CFR 1.831–1.839 that incorporate by reference WIPO Standard ST.26. 37 CFR 1.839(b)(1) specifically identifies the version of WIPO Standard ST.26 that has been incorporated by reference. In a final rule published May 26, 2023, 88 FR 34089, the USPTO updated 37 CFR 1.839(b)(1) to reflect version 1.6 of WIPO Standard ST.26. On December 8, 2023, WIPO adopted a new version (version 1.7) of WIPO Standard ST.26. As a result, the USPTO is again updating 37 CFR 1.839(b)(1).

WIPO provides free online public access to view copies of its standards, including version 1.7 of WIPO Standard ST.26, on its website at www.wipo.int/standards/en/part_03_standards.html. WIPO Standard ST.26 is also available on the USPTO's Sequence Listing Resource Center at www.uspto.gov/patents/apply/sequence-listing-resource-center.

WIPO Standard ST.26 is comprised of eight documents: the main body of the standard, a first annex (Annex I) setting forth the controlled vocabulary for use with the main body, Annex II setting forth the Document Type Definition (DTD) for the Sequence Listing, Annex III containing a sequence listing specimen (XML file), Annex IV setting forth the character subset from the Unicode Basic Latin Code Table, Annex V setting forth additional data exchange requirements for IPOs, Annex VI containing a guidance document with illustrated examples, and Annex VII setting forth recommendations for the transformation of a sequence listing from WIPO Standard ST.25 format to WIPO Standard ST.26 format, including guidance on how to avoid adding or deleting subject matter.

Revisions to WIPO Standard ST.26 under version 1.7 affect the main body and Annex VI. The changes to the main body improve the consistency of technical terminology. In paragraph 3(f), all instances of “3'-monophosphate” were changed to “5'-monophosphate” to be consistent with paragraph 3(g) and standard nucleotide naming conventions.

Similarly, the changes to Annex VI improve consistency and clarity of terminology and correct technical errors. All instances of “3'-monophosphate” were changed to “5'-monophosphate” to be consistent with the changes made to the main body. In Examples 14–1 and 30–2, scientific and grammatical corrections were made to clarify the example disclosures. In