

the Commission) invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection. Comments are requested concerning: whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and ways to further reduce the information collection burden on small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees. The FCC may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the PRA that does not display a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number.

DATES: Written PRA comments should be submitted on or before November 12, 2024. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Direct all PRA comments to Nicole Ongele, FCC, via email PRA@fcc.gov and to nicole.ongele@fcc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information about the information collection, contact Nicole Ongele, (202) 418-2991.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Control Number: 3060-1261.
Title: Creation of Interstitial 12.5 Kilohertz Channels in the 800 MHz Band Between 809-817/854-862 MHz.
Form Number: N/A.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents and Responses: 456 respondents; 228 responses.

Estimated Time per Response: 1 hour.
Frequency of Response: One-time reporting requirement.

Obligation to Respond: Required to obtain or retain benefits. Statutory authority for this collection is contained in 47 U.S.C. 151, 154, 301, 303, and 332 of the Communications Act of 1934.

Total Annual Burden: 456 hours.

Total Annual Cost: No Cost.

Needs and Uses: This collection will be submitted as an extension of a currently approved collection after this 60-day comment period to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in order to obtain the full three-year clearance. The purpose of requiring applicants to obtain letters of concurrence if their application causes contour overlap under a forward analysis or receives contour overlap under a reciprocal analysis is to ensure incumbents in the 800 MHz Mid-Band are aware of the contour overlap before an application is granted.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene Dortch,

Secretary, Office of the Secretary.

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FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

[Docket No. FMC-2024-0008]

Extension of Time for Decision in Investigation Into Conditions Affecting United States Carriers in Connection With Canadian Ballast Water Regulation in the United States/Canada Great Lakes Trade

AGENCY: Federal Maritime Commission.

ACTION: Notice of extension of time and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Federal Maritime Commission (Commission) has extended by 90 days the time for decision in its investigation into conditions created by the Government of Canada (Canada) in connection with regulation of ballast water management systems that may adversely affect the operation of United States carriers in the United States/Canada Great Lakes trade.

DATES: Submit comments on or before October 15, 2024.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. FMC-2024-0008, by the following method:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: Your comments must be written and in English. You may submit your comments electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov. To submit comments on that site, search for Docket No. FMC-2024-0008 and follow the instructions provided.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions regarding submitting comments or the treatment of any confidential information, contact David Eng, Secretary; Phone: (202) 523-5725; Email: Secretary@fmc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

On May 22, 2024, the Federal Maritime Commission (Commission) initiated an investigation, pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 42302, of whether conditions created by the Government of Canada (Canada) in connection with regulation of ballast water management systems adversely affect the operation of United States carriers in the United States/Canada Great Lakes trade, in particular the carriers operating vessels that may become subject to regulation in September 2024, within the meaning of 46 U.S. Code, chapter 423 (Foreign Shipping Practices) (46 U.S.C. 42301-307). Having determined that the investigation would be enhanced by gathering and reviewing additional information, the Commission now extends by 90 days, from September 19, 2024, to December 18, 2024, the time for decision under 46 U.S.C. 42302(c).

II. Summary of Status of Investigation

On May 22, 2024, the Commission on its own motion initiated a Chapter 423 investigation into Canadian ballast water management regulation in the Great Lakes. See Investigation into Conditions Affecting United States Carriers in Connection with Canadian Ballast Water Regulation in the United States/Canada Great Lakes Trade, FMC-2024-0008, 89 FR 44979 (May 22, 2024) (May 2024 Notice of Investigation). In 2020, the Commission had opened an investigation under 46 U.S. Code, chapter 421 following a petition by the Lake Carriers Association (LCA). See FMC Docket No. 20-10. The petition alleged that Canadian regulation set to take effect in September 2024 would create conditions unfavorable to shipping by requiring U.S. vessels to install new ballast water management systems. Meanwhile, it became apparent that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in its rulemaking to implement the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA), is likely to issue rules that are less restrictive than those of Canada. May 2024 Notice of Investigation, 89 FR 44979. In a February 2024 letter, the LCA had noted that only a small group of U.S. Lakers built after 2008 (five vessels) would be affected by the Canadian regulation in 2024, with about 50 older Lakers not subject to it until 2030. *Id.* The Commission's Notice of Investigation was issued on May 22, 2024 which, under the 120-day time limit set by 46 U.S.C. 42302(c), means the current deadline to complete the investigation is September 19, 2024.

After the May 2024 Notice of Investigation, the investigation proceeded, and the FMC received 14 comments in June 2024. The Canadian government and those representing the interests of Canadian carriers, as well as those representing environmental interests, opposed the potential imposition of sanctions. On the other hand, those representing the interests of U.S. carriers and workers were supportive of such measures. At the same time Transport Canada, the responsible Canadian agency, established a procedure for seeking exemptions that became available to affected U.S. carriers in late July 2024, although the Commission understands that a comparable process had been available to Canadian carriers much earlier. See Procedure to request an exemption to install Ballast Water Management Systems under Ballast Water Regulations for foreign-flagged vessels in Canadian waters, Transport Canada (July 25, 2024) (Exemption Procedure), available at <https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation/marine-safety-management-system-tp-13585-e-tier-ii-procedures/tier-ii-procedure-request-exemption-install-ballast-water-management-systems-under-ballast-water-regulations-foreign-flagged-vessels-canadian-waters>. The Commission also understands that the relevant Canadian rule is due to take effect as to U.S. carriers shortly, specifically on September 8, 2024.

In light of the above, the Commission now extends the time for decision in its Chapter 423 investigation by 90 days, from the current deadline of September 19, 2024, to December 18, 2024, and it establishes a new comment period to gather more information on the apparent disparity between the exemption processes available to U.S. and Canadian carriers, including the difference in when the exemption procedures became available. In particular, the Commission seeks to gather and review more information about whether the exemption processes may have themselves led to adverse conditions in violation of 46 U.S.C. 42302(a), including information about developments occurring after the end of the initial comment period in June 2024. That will help the Commission continue to investigate whether the laws, rules, policies, or practices of Canada result in conditions that “adversely affect the operations of United States carriers in United States oceanborne trade” and that “do not exist for foreign carriers of [Canada] in the United States under the laws of the United States.” 46 U.S.C. 42302(a).

If the agency concludes that the standard of section 42302(a) is met, it is authorized to take certain actions to encourage remediation of those conditions. See May 2024 Notice of Investigation, 89 FR 44979–80. Specifically, the Commission may take actions “against any foreign carrier that is a contributing cause, or whose government is a contributing cause, to those conditions.” 46 U.S.C. 42304(a). Potential actions include imposing limits and/or fees on Canadian-flagged vessels that visit U.S. ports and requesting that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Coast Guard refuse clearance and deny entry of such vessels into the U.S., or detain such vessels. See 46 U.S.C. 42304, 42305. Any such fees could be substantial, as they are authorized by law at a level up to \$2,559,636 per voyage. See 46 CFR 506.4. Before any action is taken under 46 U.S.C. 42304 or 42305, the relevant determination is submitted for Presidential review, within 10 days of receipt, under 46 U.S.C. 42306.

III. New Request for Comments

As explained above, the Commission determined that the above situation meets the threshold requirements for consideration under the relevant statutory and regulatory authority, and in May 2024, it initiated a Chapter 423 investigation into whether the situation has created conditions that adversely affect the operations of United States carriers. See 46 U.S.C. 42302; 46 CFR 555.3, 555.5, 555.6.

The Commission now finds that it would enhance its investigation to ask interested persons to submit written comments containing arguments, experiences, and/or data relevant to the options that have been available for carriers to seek an exemption from the Canadian ballast water management regulations going into effect in September 2024. In particular, the Commission seeks information about the extent to which such processes have differed based on whether the carrier is a U.S. carrier or a Canadian carrier, including but not limited to when the exemption processes became available for affected carriers in those categories; information that was unavailable when the last comment period closed in June 2024; and information about when specific carriers were granted or denied exemptions from the requirements at issue, as well as the basis for such decisions.

The Commission’s jurisdiction under 46 U.S.C. 42302 is broad, and the agency welcomes comments not only from the Government of Canada, but

also from container shipping interests, bulk cargo interests, vessel owners, individuals and groups with relevant information on commercial and environmental considerations, and anyone else with relevant information or perspectives on this matter.

As the Commission proceeds with this investigation, it may determine to request additional comment or gather information through other means as authorized under 46 U.S.C. 42303 and 46 CFR 555.5, 555.6.

By the Commission.

David Eng,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2024–20615 Filed 9–11–24; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meetings

TIME AND DATE: 2 p.m., Thursday, September 19, 2024.

PLACE: The United States Department of Labor Auditorium, Frances Perkins Building, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20210.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: The Commission will hear oral argument in the matter of *Geneva Rock Products, Inc.*, Docket No. WEST 2022–0097. (Issues include whether the Judge abused his discretion when he ordered a stay of the case for an indefinite duration because of a pending criminal matter.)

Any person attending this oral argument who requires special accessibility features and/or auxiliary aids, such as sign language interpreters, must inform the Commission in advance of those needs. Subject to 29 CFR 2706.150(a)(3) and 2706.160(d).

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Emogene Johnson (202) 434–9935/(202) 708–9300 for TDD Relay/1–800–877–8339 for toll free.

Phone Number for Listening to Meeting: 1 (866) 236–7472, Passcode: 678–100.

(Authority: 5 U.S.C. 552b)

Dated: September 9, 2024.

Sarah L. Stewart,

Deputy General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2024–20792 Filed 9–10–24; 11:15 am]

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