

and least burdensome alternative that achieves the objectives of the rule and is consistent with statutory requirements. Section 203 requires EPA to establish a plan for informing and advising any small governments that may be significantly or uniquely impacted by the rule.

EPA has determined that this action does not include a Federal mandate that may result in estimated annual costs of \$100 million or more to either State, local, or tribal governments in the aggregate, or to the private sector. This Federal action proposes to approve pre-existing requirements under State or local law, and imposes no new requirements. Accordingly, no additional costs to State, local, or tribal governments, or to the private sector, result from this action.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Oxides of nitrogen, Ozone, Particulate matter, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Volatile organic compounds.

Dated: August 14, 1999.

Felicia Marcus,

Regional Administrator, Region IX.

Part 52, chapter I, title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

PART 52—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 52 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401–7671q.

Subpart F—California

2. Section 52.220 is amended by adding paragraph (c)(201) to read as follows:

§ 52.220 Identification of plan.

* * * * *

(c) * * *

(201) A plan for the following agency was submitted on November 7, 1994 by the Governor's designee.

(i) Incorporation by reference.

(A) California Air Resources Board.

(I) California's Opt-out Program, Executive Order G–125–145, dated November 7, 1994.

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[FR Doc. 99–22187 Filed 8–26–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

44 CFR Part 206

RIN 3067–AC82

Extensions of Application Period for Temporary Housing Assistance

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This rule expands the circumstances under which the Regional Director may extend the standard 60-day application period for assistance provided under the Disaster Housing Program. This rule also retains FEMA's authority to accept an individual application made after the application period has closed when the applicant's reason for lateness is justified.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This rule is effective September 27, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Laurence W. Zensinger, Response and Recovery Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street SW., Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646–3642, (facsimile) 202–646–2730, or (e-mail) laurence.zensinger@fema.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 6, 1998, we published a proposed rule in the **Federal Register** at 63 FR 25010 and invited comments for 60 days ending on July 6, 1998. We received one set of comments from a legal assistance attorney. While most of the submitted comments addressed issues beyond the scope of the proposed rule, those comments that did address the proposed rule were in favor of placing the flexibility for an extension to the application period in regulation. The attorney asked for additional information on two points: (1) What circumstances may warrant an extension; and (2) what would be sufficient justification for a late application to be accepted. We will issue a policy to provide guidance on these points once the final rule is in effect. We are publishing the final rule with no substantive changes from what we published as a proposed rule.

National Environmental Policy Act

This rule is categorically excluded from the requirements of 44 CFR Part 10, Environmental Consideration. We have not prepared an environmental impact assessment.

Executive Order 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review

This rule is not a significant regulatory action within the meaning of section 2(f) of Executive Order 12866 of September 30, 1993, 58 FR 51735. To the extent possible, this rule adheres to the regulatory principles set forth in Executive Order 12866. The Office of Management and Budget has not reviewed it under the provisions of Executive Order 12866.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule does not contain a collection of information requirement as described in section 3504(h) of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Executive Order 12612, Federalism

This rule does not involve any policies that have federalism implications under Executive Order 12612, Federalism, dated October 26, 1987.

Executive Order 12778, Civil Justice Reform

This rule meets the applicable standards of section 2(b)(2) of Executive Order 12778.

Congressional Review of Agency Rulemaking

We have submitted this final rule to the Congress and to the General Accounting Office under the Congressional Review of Agency Rulemaking Act, Public Law 104–121. The rule is not a “major rule” within the meaning of that Act. It is an administrative action in support of normal day-to-day activities. It does not result in nor is it likely to result in an annual effect on the economy of \$100,000,000 or more; it will not result in a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, or local government agencies, or geographic regions; and it will not have “significant adverse effects” on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or on the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises.

This final rule is exempt (1) from the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, and (2) from the Paperwork Reduction Act. The rule is not an unfunded Federal mandate within the meaning of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995, Public Law 104–4. It does not meet the \$100,000,000 threshold of that Act, and any enforceable duties are imposed as a condition of Federal assistance or a duty arising from participation in a voluntary Federal program.

List of Subjects in 44 CFR Part 206

Administrative practice and procedure, Disaster assistance, Housing.

Accordingly, we amend 44 CFR part 206 as follows:

PART 206—FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR DISASTERS DECLARED ON OR AFTER NOVEMBER 23, 1988

1. The authority citation for part 206 continues to read as follows:

Authority: The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121 *et seq.*; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1978, 43 FR 41943, 3 CFR, 1978 Comp., p. 329; E.O. 12127, 44 FR 19367, 3 CFR, 1979 Comp., p. 376; E.O. 12148, 44 FR 43239, 3 CFR, 1979 Comp., p. 412; and E.O. 12673, 54 FR 12571, 3 CFR, 1989 Comp., p. 214.

Subpart D—Temporary Housing Assistance

2. We revise § 206.101(e)(1) to read as follows:

§ 206.101 Temporary housing assistance.

* * * * *

(e) *Applications*—(1) *Application period.* The standard FEMA application period is the 60 days following the date the President declares an incident a major disaster or an emergency. The Regional Director may, however, extend the application period, when we anticipate that we need more time to collect applications from the affected population or to establish the same application deadline for contiguous Counties or States. After the application period has ended, FEMA will accept and process applications for an additional 60 days only from persons who can provide an acceptable explanation (and documentation to substantiate their explanation) for why they were not able to contact FEMA before the application period ended.

* * * * *

Dated: August 5, 1999.

James L. Witt,

Director.

[FR Doc. 99-21960 Filed 8-26-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

49 CFR Parts 192 and 195

[Docket No. RSPA-98-3783; Amendment 192-86; 195-67]

RIN 2137-AB38

Pipeline Safety: Qualification of Pipeline Personnel

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA); Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule requires pipeline operators to develop and maintain a written qualification program for individuals performing covered tasks on pipeline facilities. The intent of this qualification rule is to ensure a qualified work force and to reduce the probability and consequence of incidents caused by human error. This final rule creates new subparts in the gas and hazardous liquid pipeline safety regulations. It establishes qualification requirements for individuals performing covered tasks, and amends certain training requirements in the hazardous liquid regulations. This final rule was developed through a negotiation process.

DATES: This final rule will be effective on October 26, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eben M. Wyman, (202) 366-0918, or by e-mail at eben.wyman@rspa.dot.gov, regarding the subject matter of this final rule; or the Dockets Unit, (202) 366-4453, for copies of this final rule or other material in the docket. All materials in this docket may be accessed electronically at <http://dms.dot.gov>. General information about the RSPA Office of Pipeline Safety can be obtained by accessing OPS's Internet home page at <http://ops.dot.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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I. Introduction

Although no regulatory program is capable of completely eliminating human error, the objective of this final rule is to reduce the risk of accidents on pipeline facilities attributable to human error. This final rule for the qualification of individuals is intended to provide an additional level of safety. This final rule does not replace existing qualification requirements in 49 CFR Part 192. However, it does remove the operations and maintenance training requirements of 195.403. The final rule does not diminish the importance of the safety requirements already in the pipeline safety regulations. These include requirements for safety design features, such as relief valves and over-pressure protection devices, to provide protection against human error and other causes of incidents and accidents.

The final rule requires operators of pipelines to develop a qualification program to evaluate an individual's ability to perform covered tasks, and to recognize and react to abnormal operating conditions that may occur while performing covered tasks.

The final rule also sets recordkeeping requirements that operators must follow to successfully demonstrate compliance, and the information that must be maintained on each individual who has been evaluated and deemed qualified to work on a pipeline facility. Finally, the final rule specifies the deadlines by which operators must develop and implement their qualification programs.

This final rule allows operators with existing programs to modify those programs if necessary to ensure compliance with the minimum requirements of this final rule. The final rule also requires operators without a qualification program to establish a program to evaluate the qualifications of individuals performing certain operation and maintenance activities on those pipeline facilities that could affect pipeline operation or integrity.

This final rule establishes a new Subpart N in 49 CFR Part 192 and a new Subpart G in 49 CFR part 195. The final rule amends the training regulations in