

III. Proposed Amendments to the Designation Fees

The Commission is proposing to eliminate fees for contract market designation applications. Otherwise there would be an economic disincentive to submit proposed contracts for Commission approval under the existing designation procedures. As greater experience is gained with the use of the exchange certification listing procedures of Rule 5.3, the Commission may revisit this issue.

IV. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act ("RFA"), 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*, requires agencies to consider the impact of rules on small businesses. The fees involved in this release affect contract markets (also referred to as "exchanges") and registered futures associations. The Commission has previously determined that contract markets are not "small entities" for purposes of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*, 47 FR 18618 (April 30, 1982), and the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act therefore do not apply. Accordingly, the Chairman, on behalf of the Commission, certifies that the proposed rule does not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Issued in Washington, DC on November 17, 1999, by the Commission.

Jean A. Webb,

Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 99-30511 Filed 11-24-99; 8:45 am]

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RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

20 CFR Part 219

RIN 3220-AB43

Evidence Required for Payment

AGENCY: Railroad Retirement Board.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) hereby proposes to amend its regulations to permit the use of noncertified copies and facsimile copies of records or documents needed to establish eligibility for benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act. These amendments will make it easier for individuals to apply for benefits under the Act.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before January 25, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted to the Secretary to the Board,

Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas W. Sadler, Senior Attorney, (312) 751-4513, TTD (312) 751-4701.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In order to receive benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act an individual may be required to provide proof of age, marriage, divorce, or death. Section 219.6 of the Board's regulations generally requires that where a claimant must provide a record or document to establish an eligibility requirement, the original or a certified copy of such document or record must be provided. This requirement has proven burdensome for claimants. Many claimants now wish to transmit their documentary evidence electronically by use of telefax devices. Consequently, the Board proposes to amend its regulations to permit the use of uncertified copies and facsimiles of certain official records when the official custodian of such records transmits the facsimile directly to an office of the Board and the source of the transmittal is clearly identified on the facsimile. In addition, the Board proposes to permit Board employees to certify translations of foreign documents.

The Board, with the concurrence of the Office of Management and Budget, has determined that this is not a significant regulatory action under Executive Order 12866; therefore, no regulatory impact analysis is required. There are no information collections associated with this rule.

List of Subjects in 20 CFR Part 219

Pensions, Railroad employees, Railroad retirement.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, the Railroad Retirement Board proposes to amend chapter II of title 20 of the Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

PART 219—EVIDENCE REQUIRED FOR PAYMENT

1. The authority citation for part 219 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 45 U.S.C. 231f.

2. In § 219.6 the section heading and paragraphs (a) and (b) are revised, and a new paragraph (d) is added to read as follows:

§ 219.6 Records as evidence.

(a) *General.* If a claimant or an annuitant provides an original document or record as evidence to prove eligibility or continued entitlement to payments, where possible, a Board employee will make a

photocopy or transcript of these original documents or records and return the original documents to the person who furnished them. A claimant may also submit certified copies of original records as described in paragraph (c) of this section. The Board may also accept uncertified copies as described in paragraph (d) of this section.

(b) *Foreign-language documents.* If the evidence submitted is a foreign-language document, the Board may require that the record be translated. An acceptable translation includes, but is not limited to, a translation certified by a United States consular official or employee of the Department of State authorized to certify evidence, or by an employee of the Board or the Social Security Administration.

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(d) *Uncertified copies and facsimiles.* In lieu of certified paper copies of records or extracts from such official sources as listed in paragraph (c) of this section, the Board will accept facsimile copies of such records or extracts when the official custodian of such records transmits the facsimile directly to an office of the Board and the source of the transmittal is clearly identified on the facsimile.

Dated: November 18, 1999.

By Authority of the Board.

Beatrice Ezerski,

Secretary to the Board.

[FR Doc. 99-30793 Filed 11-24-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms

27 CFR Part 9

RIN 1512-AA07

[Notice No. 886; Re: Notice No. 882]

Extension of the Comment Period of the Proposed Diamond Mountain Viticultural Area (99R-223P)

AGENCY: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: This notice extends the comment period for Notice No. 882, published in the **Federal Register** on September 29, 1999, regarding the establishment of the Diamond Mountain viticultural area. ATF has received a request to extend the comment period in order to provide sufficient time for all

interested parties to respond to the notice.

DATES: Written comments must be received by January 25, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to: Chief, Regulations Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, PO Box 50221, Washington, DC 20091-0221 (Attn: Notice No. 882).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jennifer Berry, Regulations Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, 650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington DC, 20226, (202) 927-8210.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On September 29, 1999, ATF published a notice of proposed rulemaking in the **Federal Register** soliciting comments from the public and industry. The notice proposed to establish the Diamond Mountain viticultural area in Napa County, California. The comment period for Notice No. 882 closes on November 29, 1999.

However, ATF received a request from Diamond Mountain Vineyard, a winery in Calistoga, California, to extend the comment period an additional 60 days. Diamond Mountain Vineyard is located within both Napa and Sonoma Counties, partially within the proposed boundaries of the Diamond Mountain viticultural area. According to the winery, it had been unable to get timely and complete information on the specifics of the proposal and therefore it needs additional time to prepare its comments.

In consideration of the above, ATF finds that an extension of the comment period is warranted and is extending the comment period until January 28, 2000.

Disclosure

Copies of Notice 882 and written comments will be available for public inspection during normal business hours at: ATF Reference Library, Liaison and Public Information, Room 6480, 650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.

Drafting Information: The author of this document is Jennifer Berry, Regulations Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

List of Subjects in 27 CFR Part 9

Administrative practices and procedures, Consumer protection, Viticultural areas, and Wine.

Authority and Issuance

This notice extending the comment period for the Diamond Mountain

viticultural area is issued under the authority of 27 U.S.C. 205.

Signed: November 22, 1999.

John W. Magaw,

Director.

[FR Doc. 99-30745 Filed 11-24-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 147

[CGD08-99-023]

RIN 2115-AF93

Safety Zone; Outer Continental Shelf Platforms in the Gulf of Mexico

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard proposes to establish safety zones around seven high-production, manned oil and natural gas platforms in the Outer Continental Shelf in the Gulf of Mexico. The seven platforms need to be protected from vessels operating outside the normal shipping channels and fairways. Placing safety zones around the platforms will significantly reduce the threat of allisions, oil spills and releases of natural gas. The proposed regulation prevents all vessels from entering or remaining in specified areas around the platforms except for the following: An attending vessel; a vessel under 100 feet in length overall not engaged in towing; or a vessel authorized by the Eighth District Commander. The proposed safety zones are necessary to protect the safety of life, property and environment.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before January 25, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments can be mailed to Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District (m), Hale Boggs Federal Bldg., 501 Magazine Street, New Orleans LA 70130, or may be delivered to Room 1341 at the same address between 8 A.M. and 3:30 P.M., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. The telephone number is (504) 589-6271. Comments will become a part of the public docket and will be available for copying and inspection at the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: LCDR Roderick Walker, Project Manager for Eighth District Commander, telephone (504) 589-3043.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Request for Comments

We encourage you to participate in this rulemaking by submitting comments and related material. If you do so, please include your name and address, identify the docket number for this rulemaking (CGD08-99-023), indicate the specific section of this document to which each comment applies, and give the reason for each comment. Please submit all comments and related material in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying. If you would like to know they reached us, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope. We will consider all comments and material received during the comment period. We may change this proposed rule in view of them.

Public Meeting

We do not now plan to hold a public meeting. But you may submit a request for a meeting by writing to Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District (m) at the address under **ADDRESSES** explaining why one would be beneficial. If we determine that one would aid this rulemaking, we will hold one at a time and place announced by a later notice in the **Federal Register**.

Background and Purpose

Shell Offshore, Inc. requested that the Coast Guard establish safety zones around the following Shell platforms in the Gulf of Mexico: Boxer located at position 27-56-48N, 90-59-48W; Bullwinkle Platform located at position 27-53-01N, 90-54-04W; Ursa Tension Leg Platform (Ursa TLP) located at position 28-09-14.497N, 89-06-12.790W; West Delta 143 Platform located at position 28-39-42N, 89-33-05W; Mars Tension Leg Platform (Mars TLP) located at position 28-10-10.290N, 89-13-22.35W with two supply boat mooring buoys at positions 28-10-18.12N, 89-12-52.08W (Northeast) and 28-9-49.62N, 89-12-57.48W (Southeast); Ram-Powell Tension Leg Platform (Ram-Powell TLP) located at position 29-03-52.2N, 88-05-30W with two supply boat mooring buoys at positions 29-03-52.2N, 88-05-12.6W (Northeast) and 29-03-28.2N, 88-05-10.2W (Southeast); and Auger Tension Leg Platform (Auger TLP) located at position 27-32-45.4N, 92-26-35.09W with two supply boat mooring buoys at positions 27-32-38.1N, 92-26-.048W (East Buoy) and 27-32-58.14N, 92-27-4.92W (West Buoy).

The request for the safety zones was made due to the high level of shipping activity around the platforms and the