

be changed in light of comments received. All comments submitted will be available for examination in the public docket both before and after the closing date for comments. A report summarizing each substantive public contact with FAA personnel concerned with this rulemaking will be filed in the docket.

#### Availability of NPRMs

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded through the internet at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

You may review the public docket containing the proposal, any comments received and any final disposition in person at the Docket Office (see **ADDRESSES** section for address and phone number) between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. An informal docket may also be examined during normal business hours at the office of the Operations Support Group, Eastern Service Center, Federal Aviation Administration, 1701 Columbia Ave., College Park, GA 30337.

#### Background

R-4403A was established by a final rule published in the **Federal Register** on March 29, 2016 (81 FR 17379) Docket No. 2017-0370, as part of the expansion of the former restricted area R-4403. R-4403A was designated to contain hazards associated with rocket engine testing. The current time of designation, "Intermittent, 1000 to 0300 local time, as activated by NOTAM at least 24 hours in advance," allows for up to 17 hours of daily use. However, NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) Core Stage test program will require activation of R-4403A for periods of 24 to 48 hours which will exceed the current time designation for the restricted area.

The current boundaries and altitudes of R-4403A are sufficient to contain the hazards from hydrogen flaring profiles associated with propulsion testing and are not affected by this proposal. Additionally, the need for on-going single rocket engine testing in R-4403A remains at approximately 20-40 times per year. On average, NASA activates R-4403A for 7 hours for each event. If technical difficulties or other conditions require, R-4403A has been activated for up to 12 hours. However, the SLS Core Stage testing program entails the simultaneous testing of four rocket engines. The flaring of hydrogen fuel will require NASA to activate R-4403A for up to 48 hours because SLS Core Stage testing cannot confine the hydrogen flare stack hazards within the existing 17-hour daily window available

for R-4403A. This requirement is expected to occur 2-3 times per year.

#### The Proposal

The FAA proposes an amendment to 14 CFR part 73 to change the time of designation for restricted area R-4403A, Stennis Space Center, MS, from "Intermittent, 1000 to 0300 local time, as activated by NOTAM at least 24 hours in advance," to "Intermittent by NOTAM at least 24 hours in advance."

This change is required to provide the additional restricted area activation time needed to accommodate NASA's SLS Core Stage engine testing program. The current boundaries and designated altitude for R-4403A remain unchanged by this proposal.

#### Regulatory Notices and Analyses

The FAA has determined that this proposed regulation only involves an established body of technical regulations for which frequent and routine amendments are necessary to keep them operationally current. It, therefore: (1) Is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866; (2) is not a "significant rule" under Department of Transportation (DOT) Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034; February 26, 1979); and (3) does not warrant preparation of a regulatory evaluation as the anticipated impact is so minimal. Since this is a routine matter that will only affect air traffic procedures and air navigation, it is certified that this proposed rule, when promulgated, will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

#### Environmental Review

This proposal will be subjected to an environmental analysis in accordance with FAA Order 1050.1F, "Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures," prior to any FAA final regulatory action.

#### List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 73

Airspace, Prohibited areas, Restricted areas.

#### The Proposed Amendment

In consideration of the foregoing, the Federal Aviation Administration proposes to amend 14 CFR part 73 as follows:

#### PART 73—SPECIAL USE AIRSPACE

■ 1. The authority citation for part 73 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 106(f), 106(g); 40103, 40113, 40120; E.O. 10854, 24 FR 9565, 3 CFR, 1959-1963 Comp., p. 389.

#### § 73.44 Mississippi [Amended]

■ 2. § 73.44 is amended as follows:

\* \* \* \* \*

#### R-4403A Stennis Space Center, MS [Amended]

By removing the words "Time of Designation. Intermittent, 1000 to 0300 local time, as activated by NOTAM at least 24 hours in advance," and adding in their place:

*Time of designation.* Intermittent by NOTAM at least 24 hours in advance.

Issued in Washington, DC, on January 8, 2018.

**Rodger A. Dean, Jr.,**

*Manager, Airspace Policy Group.*

[FR Doc. 2018-00370 Filed 1-10-18; 8:45 am]

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## POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

### 39 CFR Part 3050

[Docket No. RM2018-2; Order No. 4347]

#### Periodic Reporting Requirements

**AGENCY:** Postal Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Advance notice of proposed rulemaking.

**SUMMARY:** The Commission is noticing a recent filing requesting that the Commission initiate an informal rulemaking proceeding to consider revisions to the periodic reporting requirements codified at 39 CFR part 3050. This document informs the public of the filing, invites public comment, and takes other administrative steps.

**DATES:** *Comments are due:* March 7, 2018; *Reply Comments are due:* April 6, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments electronically via the Commission's Filing Online system at <http://www.prc.gov>. Those who cannot submit comments electronically should contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section by telephone for advice on filing alternatives.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David A. Trissell, General Counsel, at 202-789-6820.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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## I. Introduction

On December 27, 2017, the Postal Service filed a request for the Commission to consider revisions to the periodic reporting requirements codified in 39 CFR part 3050.<sup>1</sup> The Commission initiates this rulemaking to seek comments and facilitate the Commission's examination of these periodic reporting requirements.

## II. Background

The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA) granted the Commission enhanced information gathering and reporting responsibilities. See 39 U.S.C. 3652(e)(1). The PAEA provides that the Commission shall prescribe the content and form of the public reports the Postal Service files with the Commission under section 3652. In Docket No. RM2008–4, the Commission approved its current periodic reporting requirements.<sup>2</sup>

On December 27, 2017, the Postal Service filed a request for the Commission to consider revisions to the periodic reporting requirements. First, the Postal Service requests that the Commission adjust the deadlines for the quarterly Revenue, Pieces, and Weight (RPW) report; the Quarterly Statistics Report (QSR); the quarterly Billing Determinants report, and the monthly National Consolidated Trial Balance and the Revenue and Expense Summary (Trial Balance) report, to align the deadlines with other financial reporting deadlines. Petition at 1. The Postal Service states that revising the regulations so these deadlines align with other financial reporting deadlines will avoid potential restatements of the earlier filed reports once the data for the later filed reports are finalized. *Id.* at 3.

Specifically, the Postal Service wants to move the deadline for the RPW and QSR reports so that the quarterly and year-end report deadlines are the same as the Form 10–Q and Form 10–K report due dates. *Id.* at 2–3. In addition, the Postal Service requests that the deadlines for the quarterly Billing Determinants reports be extended to 60 days after the end of Quarters 1, 2, and 3, and 90 days after the year-end for Quarter 4.<sup>3</sup> The Postal Service also

requests that the Commission revise the periodic reporting rules so that the Trial Balance reports and the Monthly Summary Financial reports have the same deadline. *Id.* at 5–6.

Second, the Postal Service requests that the Commission modify the format of the Monthly Summary Financial Report to make the report more consistent with the Postal Service's quarterly and annual financial reports. *Id.* at 1. The Postal Service states that the term “Operating Revenue” as it is used in Tables 1 and 2 of the Monthly Summary Financial Report does not correspond with its usage in its Form 10–K statements. *Id.* at 7. The Postal Service requests revisions to Tables 1 and 2 of the Monthly Summary Financial Report so that the items and amounts reported for total operating revenue reconcile on both tables and the breakdown for revenue more closely aligns with the format in its other financial reports.<sup>4</sup>

Third, the Postal Service requests that the Commission consider eliminating or modifying any reporting requirements that have become unnecessary or irrelevant since the current periodic reporting rules were first implemented in 2009. Petition at 1. The Postal Service requests that the Commission consider eliminating or modifying these requirements to avoid imposing “unnecessary or unwarranted administrative effort and expense” on the Postal Service. *Id.* (citing 39 U.S.C. 3652(e)(1)).

## III. Invitation To Comment

Interested persons are invited to provide written comments to facilitate the Commission's examination of the periodic reporting requirements. In addition to the specific revisions requested in the Postal Service's petition, the Commission also invites comments on whether specific periodic reporting requirements should be eliminated or modified or whether updates or enhancements to the requirements should be made.

Comments are due no later than March 7, 2018. Reply comments are due no later than April 6, 2018. All comments and suggestions received will be available for review on the Commission's website, <http://www.prc.gov>.

Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505, Lauren A. D'Agostino is appointed to serve as an officer of the Commission (Public Representative) to represent the

more effectively allocate scarce time and resources. *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* The Postal Service also requests updating Table 2 to reflect the name change of Standard Mail to USPS Marketing Mail. *Id.* Attachment 1 at 2.

interests of the general public in the above-captioned docket.

## IV. Ordering Paragraphs

*It is ordered:*

1. The Commission establishes Docket No. RM2018–2 to consider revisions to the periodic reporting requirements.

2. Comments are due no later than March 7, 2018. Reply comments are due no later than April 6, 2018.

3. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505, the Commission appoints Lauren A. D'Agostino to serve as an officer of the Commission (Public Representative) to represent the interests of the general public in this docket.

4. The Secretary shall arrange for publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

By the Commission.

Stacy L. Ruble,  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2018–00320 Filed 1–10–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710–FW–P

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### 48 CFR Parts 812, 813, and 852

RIN 2900–AP58

### Revise and Streamline VA Acquisition Regulation To Adhere to Federal Acquisition Regulation Principles (VAAR Case 2014–V005—Parts 812, 813)

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing to amend and update its VA Acquisition Regulation (VAAR) in phased increments to revise or remove any policy superseded by changes in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), to remove procedural guidance internal to VA into the VAAM, and to incorporate any new agency specific regulations or policies. These changes seek to streamline and align the VAAR with the FAR and remove outdated and duplicative requirements and reduce burden on contractors. The VAAM incorporates portions of the removed VAAR as well as other internal agency acquisition policy. VA will rewrite certain parts of the VAAR and VAAM, and as VAAR parts are rewritten, will publish them in the **Federal Register**. To minimize the number of rules published, VA will combine related topics.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before March 12, 2018 to be considered in the formulation of the final rule.

<sup>1</sup> United States Postal Service Petition for Rulemaking on Periodic Reporting, December 27, 2017 (Petition).

<sup>2</sup> Docket No. RM2008–4, Order No. 203, Notice of Final Rule Prescribing Form and Content of Periodic Reports, April 16, 2009.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 4. The Postal Service also requests that the Quarter 4 Billing Determinants report be incorporated into the annual Billing Determinants report rather than submitted as a standalone filing. *Id.* The Postal Service states that eliminating the standalone filing would help the Postal Service