

proposes 113 ppb, any impacts to EFH species, or their critical habitats predicted from this action would be expected to be the same, as such, the consultation requirements of section 305(b)(2) of the MSFCMA do not apply to this rule.

O. Plain Language Directive

Executive Order 12866 requires each agency to write all rules in plain language. EPA has written this final rule in plain language to make this final rule easier to understand.

P. Executive Order 13158: Marine Protected Areas

Executive Order 13158 (65 FR 34909, May 31, 2000) requires EPA to “expeditiously propose new science-based regulations, as necessary, to ensure appropriate levels of protection for the marine environment.” EPA may take action to enhance or expand protection of existing marine protected areas and to establish or recommend, as appropriate, new marine protected areas. The purpose of the Executive Order is to protect the significant natural and cultural resources within the marine environment, which means “those areas of coastal and ocean waters, the Great Lakes and their connecting waters, and submerged lands thereunder, over which the United States exercises jurisdiction, consistent with international law.”

The HARS-specific PCB worm tissue criterion of 113 ppb is the non-cancer (hazard quotient of 1), and is the lower of the 282 ppb cancer (1×10^{-4}), and 329 ppb ecological PCB values (USEPA, 2000c). EPA expects that this proposed rule would afford additional protection of aquatic organisms at individual, population, community, or ecosystem levels of ecological structures, because the previous matrix value was 400 ppb. Additionally the 113 ppb HARS-specific PCB worm tissue criterion is roughly one-third lower than the 329 ppb PCB value for the protection of ecological health. EPA is promulgating the 113 ppb HARS-specific PCB worm tissue criterion as it is the lower of the human health (cancer and non-cancer) and ecological protection values. Therefore, EPA expects today’s final rule would advance the objective of the Executive Order to protect marine areas.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 228

Environmental protection, Water pollution control.

Dated: March 10, 2003.

Jane M. Kenny,

Regional Administrator, Region 2.

In consideration of the foregoing, EPA is amending part 228, Chapter I of title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

PART 228—CRITERIA FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF DISPOSAL SITES FOR OCEAN DUMPING

1. The authority citation for part 228 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1412 and 1418.

2. Section 228.15 is amended by adding paragraph (d)(6)(v) (E) to read as follows:

§ 228.15 Dumping sites designated on a final basis.

* * * * *

(d) * * *

(6) * * *

(v) * * *

(E) HARS-specific Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) Tissue Criterion: Total PCB bioaccumulation worm test results for dredged material approved for placement at the HARS as Material for Remediation shall not exceed the HARS-specific PCB tissue criterion of 113 ppb. This HARS-specific PCB tissue criterion will be applied to the arithmetic mean concentration reported for the analyses of the worm tissue replicates exposed to the tested sediments, without the use of statistical confidence limits.

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GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

41 CFR Part 300–2 and Chapter 304

[FTR Amendment 2003–02]

RIN 3090–AE19

Federal Travel Regulation; Payment of Travel Expenses From a Non-Federal Source

AGENCY: Office of Governmentwide Policy, Travel Management Policy Division, GSA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule amends the Federal Travel Regulation (FTR), Chapter 304 for payment of travel expenses from a non-Federal source. This final rule permits after-the-fact agency acceptance of some payments from a non-Federal source for travel expenses to a meeting.

DATES: This final rule is effective June 16, 2003, and applies to payment of expenses from a non-Federal source on or after June 16, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Umeki Thorne, Program Analyst, telephone (202) 208–7636 for clarification of content. For status or publication schedules, contact the Regulatory and Federal Assistance Publications Division, Room 4035 GS Building, Washington, DC 20405, at (202) 208–7312.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

A. Background

This final rule revises Interim Rule 3 published in the **Federal Register** at 56 FR 9878, March 8, 1991, and Interim Rule 4 published at 57 FR 53283, November 9, 1992.

This final rule sets forth allowable expenses authorized under 31 U.S.C. 1353 and 5 U.S.C. 5701–5709 to allow agencies the acceptance of payment from a non-Federal source for travel expenses and under the authority of 5 U.S.C. 4111(b) to accept payment for the reduction in meetings and training allowances. A proposed rule with request for comment was published in the **Federal Register** at 66 FR 22491, May 4, 2001. During the 60-day comment period, GSA received comments from eight Federal agencies. GSA carefully reviewed each comment. Changes based on comments received have been grouped by sections of the proposed rule and subject area and are discussed in the following general analysis.

Section 304–2.1 What Definitions Apply to This Chapter?

Section 304–2.1 sets the definitions of terms for this chapter. One Federal agency commented that the word “definition” should be replaced with the word “term”. GSA is not persuaded that this change is needed. Therefore, the word “definition” remains unchanged. One Federal agency commented that under the definition of “meeting(s) or similar functions” there is no distinction between events essential to an agency’s mission and those merely in furtherance of that mission’s needs. GSA has considered this comment and has added a parenthetical within this definition to adequately describe a distinction that remains fundamental to the interpretation of 31 U.S.C. 1353. Under the definition of “meeting(s) or similar functions”, this term is not intended to encompass long-term temporary duty or training travel.