

minimal hardships that may be experienced by persons or vessels, as a result of this rule, are necessary to the national interest in protecting the public, vessels, and vessel crews from the devastating consequences of acts of terrorism, and from sabotage or other subversive acts, accidents, or other causes of a similar nature.

Small Entities

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601–612), we have considered whether this rule will have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The term “small entities” comprises small businesses, not-for-profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in their fields, and governmental jurisdictions with populations of less than 50,000.

The Coast Guard certifies under 5 U.S.C. 605(b) that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. This rule will affect the following entities, some of which may be small entities: Towing vessel operators and fleeting area managers responsible for CDCs barges on inland waterways within the Eighth Coast Guard District. This RNA will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities because this rule does not require any alteration of barge operations or transits. The operational communications required by this RNA do not require towing vessel operators or fleeting area managers to obtain new equipment and can be made toll free to the IRVMC.

If you are a small business entity and are significantly affected by the regulation, please contact CDR Jerry Torok or LT Kevin Lynn, Project Managers for the Eighth Coast Guard District Commander, Hale Boggs Federal Bldg, 501 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, telephone (504) 589–6271.

Assistance for Small Entities

Under section 213(a) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104–121), we offered to assist small entities in understanding this rule so that they can better evaluate its effects on them and participate in the rulemaking process. Small businesses may send comments on the actions of Federal employees who enforce, or otherwise determine compliance with, Federal regulations to the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and the Regional Small Business Regulatory Fairness Boards. The Ombudsman evaluates these actions

annually and rates each agency’s responsiveness to small business. If you wish to comment on actions by employees of the Coast Guard, call 1–888–REG–FAIR (1–888–734–3247)

Collection of Information

This rule calls for a collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520). As defined in 5 CFR 1320.3(c), “collection of information” comprises reporting, recordkeeping, monitoring, posting, labeling, and other, similar actions. The title and description of the information collection, a description of those who must collect the information, and an estimate of the total annual burden follow. The estimate covers the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing sources of data, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection.

This rule revises an existing OMB-approved collection of information (1625–0105). The new collection of information estimate is based on data gathered as a result of the information collected under the temporary rule and is based on actual reports received by the IRVMC, as well as actual observation and tracking, for April 2003 and May 2003.

Title: Regulated Navigation Areas; Reporting Requirements for Barges Loaded with Certain Dangerous Cargoes, Inland Rivers, Eighth Coast Guard District and the Illinois Waterway, Ninth Coast Guard District.

OMB Control Number: 1625–0105.

Summary of the Collection of Information: The Coast Guard requires position and intended movement reporting, and fleeting operations reporting, from barges carrying CDCs in the inland rivers within the Eighth and Ninth Coast Guard Districts. This rule amends 33 CFR part 165 to require:

Towing vessel operators and fleeting area managers responsible for CDC barges must report the following information via toll free telephone, toll free fax, or e-mail:

- a. Name of barge and towing vessel;
- b. Name of fleeting area and facility;
- c. Estimated time of arrival (ETA) at fleeting area and facility;
- d. Estimated time of departure (ETD) from fleeting area and facility;
- e. Upon entry into the covered geographical area;
- f. Four hours prior to originating a voyage with a CDC within the RNA, except if (a) the evolution of making up a tow with a CDC barge will take less than four hours before originating a voyage, and (b) the towing vessel operator did not receive the order to

make up a tow with a CDC barge in advance of four hours before originating the voyage with one or more CDC barges, in which case towing vessel operator shall submit the required report to the IRVMC as soon as possible after receiving orders to make up a tow with one or more CDC barges;

g. Upon picking up an additional CDC barge from a fleeting area or facility;

h. Upon dropping off a CDC barge at a fleeting area or facility;

i. Upon moving a CDC barge within a fleeting area by a fleet tow boat;

j. Once daily, all CDC barges within a fleeting area;

k. ETA at approximately 90 designated reporting points within the covered geographical area;

l. At any time the ETA to a reporting point varies by 6 hours from the previously reported ETA;

m. Any significant deviation from previously reported information;

n. Upon departing the covered geographical area; and

o. When directed by the IRVMC.

A company representative or dispatcher may report to the IRVMC on behalf of the fleeting area manager.

Need for Information: To ensure port safety and security and to ensure the uninterrupted flow of commerce, the Coast Guard is issuing regulations requiring position and intended movement reporting and fleeting operations reporting from barges carrying CDCs in the inland rivers within the Eighth and Ninth Coast Guard Districts.

Use of Information: The information is required to enhance maritime security, protect ports and facilities and high-density population centers (metropolitan areas), control vessel traffic, develop contingency plans, and enforce regulations. The Coast Guard will use the information to maintain continuous maritime domain awareness on the inland rivers so that we may respond as appropriate to an actual or threatened terrorist action and enhance maritime security by boarding and/or escorting CDC barges in the vicinity of high-density population areas.

Description of the Respondents: The respondents are owners, agents, masters, towing vessel operators, or persons in charge of barges loaded with CDCs or having CDC residue operating on the inland rivers located within the Eighth and Ninth Coast Guard Districts.

Number of Respondents: The existing OMB-approved collection number of respondents is 3,505. This rule will decrease the number of respondents by 3,328 to a total of 177.

Frequency of Response: Towing vessel operators moving barges carrying CDCs