

Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA). Questions about transmitting one information collection will not necessarily impact transmission decisions on another collection unless that same comment is made and is determined to be applicable for another collection.

DATES: This interim final rule is effective November 5, 2003. However, MARAD will consider comments received not later than December 5, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to the docket number that appears on the top of this document. Written comments may be submitted to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Comments may also be submitted by electronic means via the Internet at <http://dmses.dot.gov/submit>. Note that all comments received will be posted without change including any personal information provided in the comment. All comments received will be available for examination at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Weaver, Director, Office of Management and Information Services, Maritime Administration, MAR-310, Room 7301, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590; telephone: (202) 366-2811; FAX: (202) 366-3889, or e-mail: richard.weaver@marad.dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The MARAD recognizes that information technology and the Internet are transforming the ways we communicate with our customers. Also, expanding E-Government is one of five government-wide initiatives in the President's Management Agenda and includes implementation of the Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA). Under the E-Government initiative, agencies are to offer the option for respondents to transmit by electronic means information collections that are required by those agencies whenever such transmission is practicable. Currently, some of the information collections that are prescribed in 46 CFR parts 200-499 are accepted by MARAD only in paper form or do not lend themselves to electronic transmission. Accordingly, MARAD is soliciting comments on the information collections identified in this interim final rule in order to determine which collections could be transmitted by an electronic medium.

Regulatory Analyses and Notices

Executive Order 12866 and DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures

This interim final rule is not considered a significant regulatory action under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866 and, therefore, was not reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget. This interim final rule is not likely to result in an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more. This interim final rule is also not significant under the Regulatory Policies and Procedures of the Department of Transportation (44 FR 11034, February 26, 1979). The costs and benefits associated with this rulemaking are considered to be so minimal that no further analysis is necessary. The economic impact, if any, should be minimal; therefore further regulatory evaluation is not necessary. This interim final rule is intended only to allow timely as well as fair and efficient employment of electronic transmission technologies for the information collections identified in the interim final rule.

Administrative Procedure Act

The Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553) provides an exception to the notice and comment procedures when they are unnecessary or contrary to the public interest. MARAD finds that under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(3)(B) good cause exists for not providing notice and comment since this interim final rule only implements the Government Paperwork Elimination Act and merely allows the regulated public an opportunity to submit certain required information via electronic means. However, MARAD will accept comments as indicated in the Comments section above.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

MARAD certifies that this interim final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. This interim final rule only provides the electronic option for transmitting responses to MARAD for the information collections identified in the interim final rule.

Federalism

We have analyzed this interim final rule in accordance with the principles and criteria contained in Executive Order 13132 (Federalism) and have determined that it does not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a federalism summary impact statement. These regulations have no substantial effects on the States, or on the current Federal-

State relationship, or on the current distribution of power and responsibilities among the various local officials. Therefore, consultation with State and local officials is not necessary.

Executive Order 13175

MARAD does not believe that this interim final rule will significantly or uniquely affect the communities of Indian tribal governments when analyzed under the principles and criteria contained in Executive Order 13175 (Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments). Therefore, the funding and consultation requirements of this Executive Order do not apply.

Environmental Impact Statement

We have analyzed this interim final rule for purposes of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and have concluded that under the categorical exclusions in section 4.05 of Maritime Administrative Order (MAO) 600-1, "Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts," 50 FR 11606 (March 22, 1985), the preparation of an Environmental Assessment, and an Environmental Impact Statement, or a Finding of No Significant Impact for this interim final rule is not required. This interim final rule involves administrative and procedural regulations that have no environmental impact.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995

This interim final rule does not impose an unfunded mandate under the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995. It does not result in costs of \$100 million or more, in the aggregate, to any of the following: State, local, or Native American tribal governments, or the private sector. This interim final rule is the least burdensome alternative that achieves the objective of the rule.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This interim final rule contains information collection requirements covered by OMB approval numbers identified in the interim final rule under 5 CFR part 1320, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

List of Subjects

46 CFR Part 232

Maritime Carriers, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Uniform System of Accounts.

46 CFR Part 281

Administrative practice and procedure, Grant programs—