

presentation at a meeting, please notify the Designated Federal Officer and submit written material. If you would like a copy of your material distributed to each member of the Committee in advance of a meeting, please submit 25 copies to the Designated Federal Officer (see ADDRESSES and DATES).

#### Information on Services for Individuals With Disabilities

For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities, or to request special assistance at the meeting, telephone the Designated Federal Officer as soon as possible.

Dated: December 17, 2003.

Nancy J. Wong,

Designated Federal Officer for NIAC.

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## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### Coast Guard

[USCG-2003-16730]

#### Recreational Boating Safety Projects, Programs and Activities Funded Under Provisions of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century; Accounting of

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice.

**SUMMARY:** For each of 5 fiscal years starting in 1999, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century has made \$5 million available to the Secretary of Transportation for payments of Coast Guard expenses for personnel and activities directly related to coordinating and carrying out the national recreational boating safety program. This notice is being published to satisfy a requirement of the Act that a detailed accounting of the projects, programs, and activities funded under the national recreational boating safety program provision of the Act be published annually in the **Federal Register**. In this notice, we have specified the amount of monies the Coast Guard has committed, obligated or expended as of September 30, 2003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Captain Scott Evans, USCG, Chief, Office of Boating Safety, telephone 202-267-1077, fax 202-267-4285, or Mr. Jeffrey N. Hoedt, Chief, Program Management Division, telephone 202-267-0950, fax 202-267-4285.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st

Century became law on June 9, 1998 (Pub. L. 105-178; 112 Stat. 107). The Act required that of the \$5 million made available to carry out the national recreational boating safety program each year, \$2 million shall be available only to ensure compliance with Chapter 43 of title 46, U.S. Code—Recreational Vessels. The responsibility to administer these funds was delegated to the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard. With the transfer of the Coast Guard to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), this authority in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century has been transferred to the Secretary of the DHS from the Secretary of the Department of Transportation (Sec. 888 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002), and redelegated to the Coast Guard (Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 0170.1.).

Subsection (c) of sec. 7405 of the Act directs that no funds available to the Secretary under this subsection may be used to replace funding traditionally provided through general appropriations, nor for any purposes except those purposes authorized; namely, for personnel and activities directly related to coordinating and carrying out the national recreational boating safety program. Amounts made available each fiscal year 1999 through 2003 shall remain available until expended.

Use of these funds requires compliance with standard Federal contracting rules with associated lead and processing times resulting in a lag time between available funds and spending. The following activities have been initiated using fiscal year 1999 through 2003 funds transferred to the Coast Guard from the Aquatic Resources (Wallop-Breaux) Trust Fund. The total amount of fiscal year 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003 funding committed, obligated and/or expended for each activity is shown.

**Factory Visit Program:** An initial contract was awarded to establish a national recreational boat factory visit program using contractor personnel. The contract included the development of a plan of action and an 18-month pilot program to validate the elements of the plan and the concept of the program. The pilot program commenced in the summer of 2000. "Compliance associates" (inspectors) were trained and formal factory visits were initiated in January 2001. The factory visit program currently allows contractor personnel, acting on behalf of the Coast Guard, to visit approximately 2,000 recreational boat manufacturers each

year to inspect for compliance with the Federal regulations, communicate with the manufacturers as to why they need to comply with the Federal regulations, and educate them, as necessary, on how to comply with the Federal regulations. (\$6,284,665)

**Boat Compliance Testing:** Funding is provided for expansion of the boat compliance testing program whereby new manually propelled and outboard recreational boats are purchased in the open market and tested for compliance with the Federal flotation standards. The expanded program includes inboard/sterndrive boats and used boats. (\$651,381)

**Associated Equipment Compliance Testing:** A contract was awarded to buy recreational boat "associated equipment" (e.g., starters, alternators, fuel pumps, and bilge pumps) and test this equipment for compliance with Federal safety regulations. This new initiative complements the boat compliance testing program. (\$426,220)

**Compliance Associated Travel:** Travel by employees of the Office of Boating Safety is being performed to carry out additional compliance actions and to gather background and planning information for new compliance initiatives. (\$108,395)

**New Boat Manufacturer Outreach Package:** A contract was awarded to design and develop a comprehensive and user-friendly outreach package for distribution to new recreational boat manufacturers. Included in the package are a brochure and video that outline the many facets of the recreational boat manufacturing business, including Federal regulations, voluntary standards, self-certification, financial aspects, insurance concerns, liability issues, points of contact and the steps necessary to become a new recreational boat manufacturer. The package also includes plain language guidelines that help clarify Federal requirements. The outreach package is aimed at increasing the level of new recreational boat manufacturer compliance with applicable Federal regulations. (\$433,995)

**National Recreational Boating Survey:** The national recreational boating survey was completed on November 30, 2003. The purpose of this project was to obtain up-to-date statistical estimates on recreational boating. Over 25,000 surveys were completed with individuals who boated between September 2001 and September 2002. Survey findings were extrapolated to produce national, regional and State estimates of boat use as well as the characteristics of boat operators, passengers, boats, safety equipment, and