This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Telecommunications and Information Administration

15 CFR Part 2301
[Docket No. 170627596–7596–01]
RIN 0660–AA34

Repeal of Regulations Governing the Public Telecommunications Facilities Program

AGENCY: National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) issues this NPRM to propose the repeal of its regulations governing the Public Telecommunications Facilities Program (PTFP). The PTFP is a competitive grant program that helps public broadcasting stations, state and local governments, Indian Tribes, and nonprofit organizations to construct public television and radio stations. As of Fiscal Year 2011, no funds have been available for PTFP grants. NTIA is proposing to repeal its regulations governing the PTFP because the regulations are unnecessary and obsolete.

DATES: Comments must be received by August 17, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

ADDRESSES: The public may submit comments identified by [170627596–7596–01] by email to ntiairegreform@ntia.doc.gov or by mail to: Office of the Chief Counsel, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Public Telecommunications Facilities Planning and Construction, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room 4713, Washington, DC 20230. The public may also submit comments through the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: http://www.regulations.gov (search using the docket number). Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

PTFP as “outdated, ineffective, or duplicative.” Accordingly, Congress appropriated no funds for PTFP in Fiscal Year 2011.

As a result of the lack of funding, NTIA began the orderly shutdown of the PTFP thereafter. NTIA has not processed applications or awarded any additional grants under the PTFP since that time. NTIA has continued to monitor PTFP grants it awarded before Fiscal Year 2011 to ensure taxpayer funds have been utilized in the most responsible and efficient manner.

II. Comments

The public may submit comments identified by [170627596–7596–01] by email to ntiairegreform@ntia.doc.gov or by mail to: Office of the Chief Counsel, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Public Telecommunications Facilities Planning and Construction, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room 4713, Washington, DC 20230. The public may also submit comments through the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: http://www.regulations.gov (search using the docket number). Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Comments submitted by email should be machine-readable and should not be copy-protected. Commenters should include the name of the person or organization filing the comment, as well as a page number on each page of their submissions. Paper submissions should include a CD or DVD with an electronic version of the comment, which should be labeled with the name and organizational affiliation of the filer. All comments received are a part of the public record and will be posted without change to the NTIA Web site (http://www.ntia.doc.gov) and the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: http://www.regulations.gov (search using the docket number).
and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act. In 2013, OMB approved NTIA’s requests to discontinue the following collections associated with the regulations governing the PTFP: OMB Control Numbers 0660–0003, 0660–0001, and 0605–0001; consequently, NTIA has no active collections associated with its regulations governing the PTFP.

III. Repeal of Regulations for the Public Telecommunications Facilities Program

Congress authorized NTIA to establish regulations “as may be necessary to carry out” the PTFP.9 Due to the lack of funding for seven years and no prospective funding for the PTFP, the regulations governing the PTFP are unnecessary and obsolete. If these regulations are not removed, it may suggest that the program is still active and may cause confusion regarding the status of the program. Accordingly, NTIA issues this NPRM to propose the repeal of its regulations governing the PTFP.

Executive Order 12866

The proposed repeal of the regulations governing the PTFP is not a significant regulatory action as defined by Executive Order 12866.

Executive Order 13132

The proposed repeal of the regulations governing the PTFP does not contain policies with federalism implications sufficient to warrant preparation of a federalism assessment under Executive Order 13132.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The proposed repeal of regulations governing the PTFP will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. NTIA estimates that the proposed repeal of the regulations governing PTFP will impact no small entities. The proposed repeal of the regulations governing the PTFP does not include reporting, recordkeeping, or other compliance requirements; therefore, no small entities will be subject to such requirements. Thus, the Chief Counsel for Regulation of the Department of Commerce is providing a certification to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration in accordance with section 605(b) of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 605(b)).

Paperwork Reduction Act

The proposed repeal of the regulations governing the PTFP contains no collections of information. Therefore, clearance by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 is not required.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this proposed rule, call or email Mr. James Moore, Project Officer, First Coast Guard District, telephone 212–514–4334, email James.M.Moore2@uscg.mil.

II. Background, Purpose and Legal Basis

The Monmouth County Highway Bridge, mile 4.0, across the Shrewsbury River at Sea Bright, New Jersey, offers one vertical clearance of 15 feet at Mean High Water and 17 feet at Mean Low Water when the span is in the closed position. Vertical clearance is unlimited when the draw is open. Horizontal clearance is 75 feet. Waterway users include recreational and a limited number of commercial vessels including tug/barge combinations.

The existing drawbridge regulation, 33 CFR 117.755, requires the draw of the Monmouth County Highway Bridge to open as follows:

The draw shall open on signal at all times; except that, from May 15 through September 30, on Saturday, Sunday and holidays, between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m., the draw need open only on the hour and half hour.

This regulation has been in effect since July 6, 2010. The owner of the bridge, the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders, requested a change to the drawbridge operating regulations given the increased volume of vehicular traffic crossing the bridge associated with the summer months. This increased vehicular traffic coupled with bridge openings for vessels on the hour as well as the half-hour has resulted in lengthy traffic jams on either side of the bridge during peak travel hours. Traffic congestion will be relieved through reduction of required bridge openings for vessels.